



GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS Board Briefs

Gaston County Board of Education ■ Communication Department ■ 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
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The Gaston County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, February 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m., at the Linda I. Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton. At that time, the Board will . . .

- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Consider formal adoption of the Board Agenda as required by **Robert's Rules of Order** (revised edition).
 - Recognize Students and Employees.
 - Provide an opportunity for Public Expression. At each Board meeting, an opportunity will be provided for the public to address the Board regarding an agenda item. If you would like to speak to the Board, please contact the Superintendent's Office.
 - Consider approval of minutes of the November 2, 2015, November 16, 2015 and December 7, 2015 meetings.
 - Receive the following Good News for January/February 2016:
1. **Stephen Moore**, a student at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**, and **Hayes Cloninger** of **Forestview High School** were appointed to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy.
 2. More than 2,000 students in **Gaston County Schools** wrote their first line of computer code during "Hour of Code," an international event that introduces children to computer programming.
 3. **Rankin Elementary** and **Hawks Nest Intermediate** participated in the First Lego League regional robotics competition and qualified to represent **Gaston County Schools** in the state competition. **Kiser Elementary** and **McAdenville Elementary** also participated in the regional competition.
 4. **North Gaston**, **Cherryville** and **Bessemer City** won awards at the N.C. High School Athletic Association's Invitational Cheerleading Championship. North Gaston earned first place in the Division I Small Varsity (Non-Tumble) category. Cherryville captured first in Division II Small Varsity, and Bessemer City took second in Division II Small Varsity (Non-Tumble).
 5. The following students were selected as the January "Do The Right Thing" award winners: **Jake Washam**, **Rankin Elementary**; **Chloe Hayes**, **John Chavis Middle School**; **Dalton Morgan**, **Gaston Early College High School**; and **Gavin Morgan**, **Holbrook Middle School**.
 6. Students from **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**, **Southwest Middle** and **York Chester Middle** who are involved in the **Gaston County Schools** LEAP program had an opportunity to spend time with guest speaker Robert Kirton. Dr. Kirton discussed character building and brotherhood and encouraged the students to become mentors and leaders in the community.
 7. **Ashbrook High School** English teacher **Ashley Rimmer** had an article selected for publication in "RISE: A Children's Literacy Journal." Her review of "Locomotive," a children's book, was printed in the journal's fall edition.
 8. **Ashbrook High** senior **Caroline Greene** and **Forestview High** senior **Whitney Marr** received Gold Key awards at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Greene was honored for her short story titled "Song of the Sea," and Marr received an award for her work, "Marr-Whitney Reflecting Fashion."
 9. The **Ashbrook High School** concert choir was selected to serve as the featured group at the National Youth Choir Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City. This is the tenth time in 20 years that chorus director **Trip McGill** has had a group selected for the event.
 10. The following **Ashbrook** chorus students were selected for college choral festivals by individual audition: **Molly Burns**, **Tonia Marquez**, **Gracie Bennett**, **Victoria Flake**, **Robert Rutherford**, **Lathan Flake**, **Steven Gates**, **Zach Leech**, **Leah Hart**, **Caroline Bowyer**, **Kyla Grigg**, **Julia Towner**, **Destiny Crawford**, **Madeline Swann**, **Alessandro Della Corte**, **Spenser Jones**, **Cameron Fagala** and **Rodney McElhaney**. They participated in events at Furman University, Wingate University and Mars Hill University.
 11. **Ethan Boyd**, a seventh grader at **Belmont Middle**, won the school competition of the National Geographic Bee and advanced to the next level of the competition. **Sarah Giang**, a seventh grader, took second place and **Nicholas Oplinger**, a sixth grader, finished third.
 12. The **Bessemer City High School** Beta Club organized a canned food drive and collected more than 2,800 cans for the Bessemer City Crisis Center.
 13. **Carr Elementary** third grade teacher **Diane Osborne** wrote a DonorsChoose.org fundraising request and received \$350 to buy two Chromebooks for her classroom.
 14. **Chapel Grove Elementary** received a new American flag from N.C. Senator Kathy Harrington. She presented the flag to the student council and flag-raising students and talked to them about her role as a state lawmaker.
 15. The **John Chavis Middle School** student council and Chavis CARES Group participated in the Operation Christmas Child collection and donated 120 shoeboxes and \$280.55 to the program.
 16. The **John Chavis Middle** Beta Club sponsored its annual canned food drive and collected 782 items for the Cherryville Area Ministries.
 17. The **John Chavis Middle** November Students of the Month were **Raegan Nowowiecki**, **Ja'Narius Hopper**, **Lydia Bennett**, **Addie Seate**, **Lizbet Castillo**, **Hunter Goodman**, **Juliana Vollmer**, **Madison Hedgpeth** and **Andrew Beam**. The November Teacher of the Month was **Scott Pervine**. The December Students of the Month were **Addie Eaker**, **Ashton Ward**, **Tanner Tillman**, **Sam Kostiuk**, **Riley Huffman**, **Lindsay Lingerfelt**, **Victoria Pruett**, **Luv Shah** and **Mallory England**. The December Teacher of the Month was **Ashley Beam**.
 18. The following **John Chavis Middle** students were chosen for the all-county chorus: **Tabor Elmore**, **Cassidy Byers**, **Kristina Campbell**, **Ashlyn Beattie**, **Allie McCloskey**, **Andrey Goretoy**, **Noah Abernethy**, **Chase McNeill**, **Chloe Tate**, **Dawson Moore**, **Becca Knowles** and **Katie Branch**. **Ashton Ward** and **Grace Mull** were selected as alternates.
 19. The **Cramerton Middle School** student council collected more than 2,000 cans of food for distribution throughout the Cramerton community during the holiday season.
 20. The following **Cramerton Middle** students were selected for the all-county band: **Macy Long**, **Peyton Gillespie**, **Brooke Iman**, **Mayeth Martin**, **Mercy Le**, **Maggie Newton**, **Kendra McMahon**, **Sydney Dyer**, **David-John Major**, **Christopher Schiovani**, **Kevin Giang**, **Emmanuel Ninyeh**, **Mia Gunn**, **Megan Kinstler**, **Michael Bame**, **Caleb Davis**, **Brooke Cox**, **Daniel Farquharson** and **Matthew Trotter**.
 21. **Cramerton Middle** students **Darby Parker**, **Anna Smith**, **Seirra Crockett**, **Natalie Vargas**, **Scout Stamey** and **Holt Cloninger** were chosen to participate in the Wingate University Middle School Honors Chorus.
 22. **East Gaston High School** received the original handwritten score of its Alma Mater from the family of Bob Black, the school's first band director. The Black family also donated its original score of the school's Fight Song. Both songs were composed by Matt Wingard.
 23. The **East Gaston** Beta Club and National Honor Society raised \$190 for The Gazette Empty Stocking Fund, which helps families in need. The donation was given in memory of Rusty McAbee and Cindy Cloninger.
 24. The **East Gaston** automotive program received a \$10,000 grant from Ingersoll Rand. Automotive technology teacher **Shane Hawkins** won the "Real Tools for Schools" grant to fund improvements to the automotive classroom and curriculum.

25. **East Gaston** student **Logan McGurit** was named the Time Warner Cable Scholar Athlete of the Week.
26. **Forest Heights Elementary** welcomed **Board of Education** member **Dot Cherry** to one of their fourth grade classrooms where she observed students working on Chromebooks. Ms. Cherry also spoke to students at the **Gardner Park Elementary** honors assembly.
27. The broadcasting class at **Forestview High School** was the only student group in North Carolina selected to participate in the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs (SRL). The nationwide program connects middle and high school students to local PBS stations and news professionals to produce original, student-generated video reports. The students' first video assignment about a student from **North Gaston High School** was featured on the PBS website. Additionally, class advisers **Melissa Heilig** and **Sally Griffin** were selected as SRL's Connected Educators of the Month for January.
28. The **W.C. Friday Middle** December Students of the Month were **Brianna Clark, Jonathan Gonzalez, Emilie Welch, Sydney Crain, Vince Smoot, Cassadi Bullock, Justus Schism, Vanaisja Cloud, Madison Friday, Lee Ann Christopher, McKenzie Glover** and **Stephen Laws**. The January Students of the Month were **Julian McLean, Maddie Routhier, Emma Murray, Nic Cooper, Sydney Farnsworth, Mallory Canup, Dylan Arms, Valerie Fuentes, Earl Withers, Jahden Gettys, Matthew Torres, Jackson Finger** and **Andrew Rhyne**.
29. The following **W.C. Friday Middle** students were selected for the all-county band: **Andrew Bell, Elizabeth Cable, Blake Click, Patrick Gibson, Pablo Lopez, James Lowery, Sanitiago Ormanza, Haley Peninger, Ruben Pelayo-Quazada** and **Joshua Thomas**. **Dalton Hawkins** and **Colby Pasour** were designated as the first chair player for their respective instrument.
30. **Gardner Park Elementary** held a "Cans for Kids" drive and collected 2,014 food items for the Salvation Army.
31. Fourth and fifth grade students at **Gardner Park Elementary** enjoyed a field trip to UNC-Charlotte that included a tour of the campus and attending a women's basketball game.
32. Students from **Highland School of Technology** competed in the District 6 Regional HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) competition. All 18 students placed in the top 10 in their events. The top performers will advance to the HOSA state leadership conference.
33. The following **Highland** students were awarded merit scholarships: **Max Miranda**, Mercer University; **Maria Araujo**, Furman University; **Manali Dhanak**, Lenoir-Rhyne University; **Corbin Bumeter**, Savannah College of Art and Design; **Alexis Brogden**, Wingate University; **Jeff Adams**, Mars Hill College and Gardner-Webb University; **Rozhance Cornwell**, Johnson and Wales University; **Bryant Baucom**, Brevard College; **Logan Runyan**, Queens University; and **Madison Brooks**, Lees McRae College.
34. **Highland** student **Cameron Nanagas** was selected to participate in a special scholarship competition sponsored by Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund and associated with the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.
35. **Highland** won the Stock Market Game Fall Challenge with a total equity score of \$123,182.17. Teacher **Dan Froehlich** is the team adviser. **East Gaston** had teams place second and third in the Challenge. Teacher **Tammy Travis** is their adviser.
36. **Highland** student **Matt Noles** earned perfect scores on the College Board World History and U.S. History subject tests.
37. Students in the **Highland** FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) club sent 52 gift boxes to troops from the Charlotte area who are stationed in the United Arab Emirates.
38. The following **North Gaston High School** students were selected for the all-county band: **Martin Chan, Cecilia Chan, Grace Wall, Derek Pelayo-Quezada, Andrew Tucker, Madison Greene, Alondra Martinez, Ricky Tanner, Elijah Davis, Alex Wilson, Sarah Large, Devin Wright, Keion Kennedy, Aramis Byrd** and **Nathan Linkous**.
39. Students at **Page Primary** sponsored a canned food drive and collected more than 1,200 cans for local families in need.
40. **Pinewood Elementary's** Girls on the Run team sponsored a food drive and donated 577 pounds of food to the Community Relief Organization of Mount Holly.
41. The **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** second grade classes held a month-long "Kindness Campaign." Students sold candy-grams and raised \$230 for a local charity. The students also handed out notes acknowledging random acts of kindness.
42. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** sponsored a "Pasta for Pennies" fundraiser and collected \$1,400 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
43. **Robinson Elementary** received a \$2,500 grant from Wal-Mart to purchase five iPads. Now, teachers will be able to have a class set to check out from the library.
44. **Robinson Elementary** received a \$300 grant from Keep Gastonia Beautiful for work on the school gardens.
45. **Sadler Elementary** students are enjoying their first-ever book club thanks to teachers **Troy Winder** and **Jessica Ellison**. The teachers purchased books for the club with the help of a Ron L. Ensley grant from the Gaston County Education Foundation.
46. **Warlick Academy** students enjoyed a field trip to Gaston College and had the opportunity to learn about college programs and job training.
47. **South Point High School** collected \$2,143.47 for the Belmont Community Organization and South Point Helping Hands. The National Honor Society and Beta Club organized the fundraiser.
48. **South Point** student **Grace Russell** made her first presentation as senior student adviser to the North Carolina Board of Education on Wednesday, January 6. She is one of two students selected to serve on the state board.
49. The **South Point** marching band was selected to perform at the Russell Athletic Bowl game in Orlando, Florida. The band performed with marching bands from across the country during the halftime show finale.
50. **Sherwood Elementary** received a donation from Aetna of Gastonia. The company delivered 40 bags of holiday gifts, food, gloves, and blankets for students who participate in the weekend backpack program.
51. The **Sherwood Elementary** November Citizens of the Month were **Javian Fauntleroy, Wesley McPherson, Zion Clark, Aaron Bolton, Aiden Lodholtz, Aramis Points, Jason Roberts, Lexie Dawson, Nataly Lopez Martinez, Sara Mygatt, Brianna Cunningham, Rameses Garcia-Luna, Claire Sheehan, Lizzie Branton, Yareli Perez, Maddox Paige, Sevariah Gingles, Jazlyn Harrell, Rihanna Dorsey, Zach Turner, Brayden Auten, Emely Laverde, Delaney Gibson, Kaylee Wilbanks, Nicole Herrera, Camryn Tuttle, Madalyn Carhoff, Jaenay Sims, Candy Gomez, Karson Sloop, Katie Hovis, Sarah Layton Shiflet** and **Martin Wykle**.

- Consider the Storage Area Network (SAN) Equipment and Services Purchase.
- Consider the Gaston Early College Calendar Revision Request.
- Consider Consent Agenda. The Board previously authorized the use of a Consent Agenda for routine items. The following items will be considered under the Consent Agenda:
 - Recommended Personnel
 - Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers
 - Proposed Board Policy Updates and Adoptions
 - Selection of Auditor for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2018
- Superintendent's Comments.

For more information, please contact the Communications/Public Information Department, Todd Hagans, 704-866-6118.