



# 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 on Monday, March 21, 2016, 5:30 p.m., at the Gaston County Schools Central Administrative Office, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia. 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 January 11, 2016, February 15, 2016, and February 16, 2016 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for March 2016:
1. **Bessemer City High School** won the first-ever Beta Bowl, a county-wide competition to collect canned goods for nonprofit organizations. The contest collected a total of 6,455 items. **Forestview** and **North Gaston** also participated in the competition.
  2. The **Bessemer City High School** Student Leadership Academy hosted a Breakfast Talk that featured former Gastonia mayor Jennie Stultz as the guest speaker. Students learned about the leadership qualities important for a career in an elected office. The Leadership Academy is a group of students who meet weekly and serve as class representatives to discuss student-related matters and school events.
  3. **Ashbrook High School’s** annual “Mr. Ashbrook” charity event raised \$3,500 for Cancer Services of Gaston County. Participants also collected 475 cans of chicken noodle soup and bottles of Gatorade and \$350 for the Levine Pediatric Cancer Center.
  4. **Ashbrook** senior **Caroline Bowyer** won the Gastonia Noon Optimist Club’s essay contest and will advance to the district competition. Her essay focused on the theme, “Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction.”
  5. **Ashbrook** student **Tyson Fortenberry** won the 3-A state title in shot put at the North Carolina indoor track and field championship.
  6. **Ethan Boyd**, a seventh grade student at **Belmont Middle School**, qualified to compete in the 2016 National Geographic State Bee.
  7. **Susan Clark (Gardner Park Elementary and Holbrook Middle)** was named the Gaston County School Nurse of the Year, and **Marsha Beattie (Bessemer City High School)** was named the Gaston County School Social Worker of the Year.
  8. The following students won top awards at the UNC-Charlotte Regional Science and Engineering Fair and qualified for the state competition: **Kayla Batchelor** and **Journey Brittain, Lowell; Jordan Abernathy, Belmont Middle; Mallory Alman, Mac Gallman and Cynthia Medina, Ashbrook; Kyle Rhodes, East Gaston; and Autumn Allen, Makayle Gentry, Amjad Hasan, Kaitlyn Marcengill and Rebecca Nixon, Stuart W. Cramer High School.** Other award winners were **Emmily Mobley, Belmont Middle, and Mackenzie Styles, East Gaston.**
  9. Two students won individual championships at the state high school wrestling tournament: **Dalton Jenkins** of **Hunter Huss** in the heavyweight class and **Lathan Bumgarner** of **North Gaston** in the 220-pound class.
  10. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** Kindness and Compassion Club held fundraisers to assist members of the school family who are facing medical issues. In December, the students collected \$800.28 to assist two family members of the Bess faculty. In February, the club partnered with the school’s PTO and collected \$1,763.14 for two parents. **Renea Walker**, school counselor, and **Jennifer Crooks**, fourth grade teacher, sponsor the club.
  11. **W. A. Bess Elementary** held its annual Valentine’s Day book dedication program with 231 books donated to the school library. Media specialist **Julie Shatterly** coordinated this year’s program, which in 22 years has added more than 4,700 books to the school library.
  12. **W.A. Bess Elementary** submitted 19 entries from fourth and fifth graders for the Heart Society of Gaston County’s Art for Heart 2016 contest. Art teacher **Laura Farmer** coordinated the entries.
  13. Eighth graders at **John Chavis Middle School** participated in the fourth annual “I Love Dodgeball” challenge. Students collected Valentine cards and candy for **Cherryville Elementary School** students to show how much “Chavis CARES.” Then, they played the annual “teachers versus students” dodgeball tournament.
  14. The **Cherryville High School** junior varsity cheerleading team won a state championship in the small non-tumbling category at the N.C. Cheerleading Coaches Association competition.
  15. **Cramerton Middle School** honored **Debbie Hall** as the February Teacher of the Month and **Carmen Wallace** as the Staff Member of the Month.
  16. **Cramerton Middle** eighth grader **Chris Schiavoni** was selected as the third chair saxophone player in the all-state band. In addition, the sixth and seventh grade choruses received four superior and two excellent ratings at the N.C. Solo and Small Ensemble Contest.
  17. For the first time in school history, **East Gaston High School** was represented by multiple divers in the state championship. Students **Jordan Helms** and **Jacob Hawkins** finished fifth and sixth in the boys’ competition, and **Kyndal Knight** won a silver medal in the girls’ competition.
  18. **East Gaston High School** was selected to participate in the Google Expeditions Pioneer Program. Representatives from Google visited the school and brought the “Google Cardboard” virtual reality viewers to 20 different classes. Students at **Mount Holly Middle School** also participated in the program.
  19. **W.C. Friday Middle School’s** small ensemble members **Davis Pasour** and **Lauren Ruff** received a superior rating at the N.C. Solo and Small Ensemble Contest.
  20. **Forestview High School** had 37 students to attend the German Day program at UNC-Chapel Hill. The students were involved in various competitions related to the German language and culture. More than 550 students participated in the program, and the Forestview students won eight awards. Their teacher is **Sabine Schmid-Rankin.**
  21. **Gardner Park Elementary** held its annual Cinderella Ball for the kindergarten classes. Students came dressed as princes and princesses, danced and walked the red carpet to meet the queens (principal **Jaime Wallace** and assistant principal **Caroline Black**) and king (custodian **Clarence Patterson**).
  22. Several student officers from the **Highland School of Technology** Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) club visited Rosewood Assisting Living in Gastonia to deliver Valentine’s care packages to the residents.
  23. **Highland** senior **Collin Hill** earned merit scholarships from the following colleges and universities: Anderson College, Wofford, Wingate, Washington College, Campbell, Western Carolina, University of Tulsa, University of Alabama-Huntsville, Roanoke College, Queens University, Presbyterian College, Guilford College, and Furman University.
  24. **Highland** student **Lauren Jerzak** received scholarships from Mars Hill University and Johnson and Wales University.

25. Students at **Holbrook Middle School** and **Belmont Middle School** participated in National No One Eats Alone Day, a lunchtime school event which seeks to reverse the trends of social isolation by asking students to engage in a simple act of kindness - making sure that no one is eating alone.
26. **Holbrook Middle School** hosted more than 40 individuals from local businesses to talk with students about their jobs during the school's Career Day program.
27. **New Hope Elementary** hosted a "Wax Museum" program that featured fifth grade students dressed up as historical characters.
28. **North Gaston High School** junior **Hope Ramsey** was selected to participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. She was chosen from the Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation and will join 1,600 students from across the country for a week-long summer enrichment experience in the nation's capital.
29. **North Gaston High School** had 10 of its 11 fall and winter sports teams qualify for the Scholar-Athlete Team recognition presented by the N.C. High School Athletic Association. The teams maintained a minimum 3.1 combined grade point average to receive the award. In addition, the conference champion volleyball team had all 10 athletes to qualify as individual scholar-athletes with a team grade point average of 3.925.
30. **Pinewood Elementary** hosted a school-wide assembly that featured "Hugo the Hornet" with the Lowe's Book Bus and the "Hugo's House of Reading" presentation.
31. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** media specialist **Ann Davis** coordinated the school's first-ever Valentine's Day book dedication program, which added 17 new books to the school library.
32. The **South Point High School** varsity and junior varsity concert bands were invited by the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra to attend an open rehearsal at Belk Theater. The students received a backstage tour as well as instruction and coaching from the Orchestra's professional musicians. School band director **Tim Hamilton** coordinated the visit.
33. The **Southwest Middle School** Beta Club sponsored a "Pennies for Pasta" campaign and collected \$937.14 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Teachers **Christal Hollingsworth** and **Sara White** are the club sponsors.
34. The **Springfield Elementary** January character education award winners for showing good judgment were **Aubree Parrott, Alex Rodriguez, Julia Riley, Bella Scott, Madison Poplin, Taylor Colvard, Sarah White, Sean McAulay, Victoria McLaughlin, Robert Scruggs, Brayden Usher, Aaron Zepeda, Dylan Hendrix, Payton Willis, Trace Thomas, Anala Garland, Caney Powell, Cadance Beam, Elijah Chavis, Jayce Martin, Holden Shook, Hannah Payne, Brianna Keovongsa, Adrian Lambert, Kamryn Quill, Theresa Williams, Ian Litaker, Erin Dove, Devin Trite, Haverly Kohl, Isaiah Peeler, Jonathan Sigmon, Harrison Smith, Dillon Auten, Makayla Featherstone, Addie McCaw, Robert Curtis, Harley Chastain, Jayse Flood, Brianna Justice, Jaxson Marler, Jocelyn Hawkins, Alexis Lunsford, Noah Peeler, Joy Lynch, Grantlee Freeman, Blake Burgess** and **Thomas Dillow**.
35. **Stanley Middle** students **Nate Medici** and **Levi Summey** placed first in the technology competition at the N.C. Junior Beta Convention in Greensboro. This is their second consecutive win at the state convention.
36. **Stanley Middle** students and staff collected \$3,606.57 during the "Pennies for Patients" campaign for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In five years, the school has raised \$22,922 for the organization.
37. **Stanley Middle** collected 7,361 items for the food pantry at First United Methodist Church of Stanley. The school also donated more than 700 bags of candy to the Stanley Total Living Center for residents to hand out at Halloween.
38. **Crocker Barker** and **Nick Valego**, members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) club at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**, were awarded an \$882 grant to provide food for students through the Backpack Weekend Food Program. Teens Changing Gaston County, a student-run philanthropy program, partnered with the Community Foundation of Gaston County and the YMCA to secure the grant.
39. The February "Do the Right Thing" award winners were **Trinity Rochester**, third grade, **Carr Elementary**; **Emily Beatty**, sixth grade, **Bessemer City Middle**; and **Jaylen McCree**, eleventh grade, **Forestview High School**.

- A Classroom Moment.
- Consider the Middle School Resources.
- Receive information regarding the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Receive information regarding the Operations Committee Report.
- Consider the 2015-2016 Inclement Weather Makeup Plan.
- Receive information regarding the Presentation of Superintendent's Budget Request 2016-2017.
- 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 Revision
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Consultation with Attorney and Personnel.

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