



# 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 18, 2019, 5:30 p.m., at the Gaston County Schools Central 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, the public has an opportunity to address the Board.
  - Consider approval of minutes of the February 18, 2019 meeting.
  - Receive the following Good News for March 2019:
1. The following educators were chosen as finalists for Gaston County New Teacher of the Year 2019-2020: **Woodrow Boyles, Highland School of Technology; Rachel Helms, York Chester Middle; Ashley Hicks, Warlick Academy; Victoria Freeman, Catawba Heights Elementary; and Amanda Matz, North Belmont Elementary.**
  2. The following educators were chosen as finalists for Gaston County Teacher Assistant of the Year 2019-2020: **Victoria Brown, Chapel Grove Elementary; Lisa Byrd, Lingerfeldt Elementary; Timmy Fleming, W.B. Beam Intermediate; Alice Krawczyk, Lowell Elementary; Stephanie Meeks, Webb Street School; and Kelli Traywick, Catawba Heights Elementary.**
  3. **Gaston County Schools** celebrated “Read Across America Day” on March 1, which coincided with Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Elementary schools welcomed local celebrities to serve as guest readers, including Board of Education member **Lee Dedmon**, who portrayed “The Cat in the Hat.”
  4. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for January were **Jenna Vaughan, Rankin Elementary; Josie Houchard, Belmont Middle School; and Jalin Peoples, Stuart W. Cramer High School.** The program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
  5. A group of middle school and high school students earned honors in the Mid-Carolina Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. **Asia Spinks** of **Ashbrook High School, Olivia Hedrick** and **Hannah Permenter** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School,** and **Ethan Villada** of **Highland School of Technology** won a gold key; **Addie McCraw** and **Vania Norman** of **Cramerton Middle School, Jordan Truss** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School, Ava Weiss** of **Forestview High School** and **Megan Addington** of **North Gaston High School** won a silver key; and **Maddie Allran** of **East Gaston High School** received an honorable mention.
  6. The following **East Gaston High School** students were winners in the Scholastic Writing Awards competition for their work in the creative writing category: **Heaven Bumgardner** (Silver Key), **Jonathan Elam** (Honorable Mention), and **Sydni Humphery** (Honorable Mention).
  7. The **Mount Holly Middle School** boys’ team and the **Southwest Middle School** girls’ team won the county basketball championship.
  8. **Sarah Little** of **Belmont Middle School** was named the Gaston County School Counselor of the Year.
  9. **Belmont Central Elementary** and **Belmont Middle** were the overall winners in the annual RoboGASTON competition. Other school winners were **Bessemer City Middle**, middle school runner-up; **Bessemer City Central Elementary**, elementary school runner-up; **Chavis Middle**, middle school first place robot performance; **Tryon Elementary**, elementary school first place robot performance; **W.B. Beam Intermediate**, elementary school second place robot performance; **Holbrook Middle**, middle school first place project presentation; **Woodhill Elementary**, elementary school first place project presentation; **North Belmont Elementary**, elementary school second place project presentation; **Grier Middle**, middle school first place teamwork; **W.A. Bess Elementary**, elementary school first place teamwork; **Sherwood Elementary**, elementary school second place teamwork; **Southwest Middle**, judges award; **Pinewood Elementary**, gracious professionalism award, and **Gardner Park Elementary**, spirit award.
  10. **Belmont Middle** sixth grader **James Dover** won the Gaston Gazette Spelling Bee. He will compete in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.
  11. **Bessemer City Central Elementary** principal **Caroline Black** was chosen to present a workshop at the Western Carolina University Teaching Conference in June. The session will highlight the calming classroom initiative and alternatives to suspension program.
  12. **Haley Martin** of **H.H. Beam Elementary** was named the Gaston County School Nurse of the Year.
  13. **Carr Elementary** is offering an after-school STEM club that gives students in grades 3-5 an opportunity to explore topics related to science, technology, engineering, and math. The students participate in the following activities: Lego Mindstorms, Lego Engineering, coding, drones, deconstruction/electronics, Inventors’ Challenge, 3D printing, K’nex Builds, art, paper mache, makerspace, and Sphero robots.
  14. **Carr Elementary** hosted a science night program that gave students and their families an opportunity to participate in hands-on science activities. In addition, the school held a family reading night that featured various reading activities for students and parents.
  15. **Carr Elementary** students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up like they were 100 years old. Additionally, the students and staff participated in The Great Kindness Challenge.
  16. **Carr Elementary** hosted a visit by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who spoke to first grade classes and gave a presentation about George Washington and the history of the American flag. They provided a small American flag for each student.
  17. **Carr Elementary** celebrated Read Across America Week with guest readers and fun activities that focused on reading. As part of the celebration, the school cafeteria served green eggs and ham for lunch.
  18. The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** Odyssey of the Mind team placed second at the central regional tournament held at Wingate University. The team will compete in the state competition in April.
  19. **Gardner Park Elementary** held its annual Cinderella Ball for kindergarten classes. The students came to school dressed as princes and princesses and walked the red carpet to meet the king (school custodian **Stevie Anderson**) and queen (principal **Jaime Wallace**).
  20. Two **Southwest Middle School** students were recognized at the North Carolina Technology Student Association regional conference at Appalachian State University. **Aurora Atherton** placed third in middle school coding, and **Jennifer Uribe** placed third in promotional marketing of 3D printers.
  21. **Mount Holly Middle School** participated in the “Polar Plunge” competition sponsored by Gaston County Special Olympics. The students, staff, and parents collected more than \$3,600 for Special Olympics.
  22. **Highland School of Technology** students **Daniel Friday** and **Christiana Daniel** won the Park Scholarship from North Carolina State University. The Park Scholarship is among the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship programs in the United States.
  23. **Highland School of Technology** senior **Quaid Lawler** received the East Carolina University Honors College Scholarship. Senior **Katelynne Haynie** was named a 2019 Horatio Alger Scholarship winner, and senior **Teresa Purello** received the North Carolina State University Goodnight Scholarship. She plans to study environmental science.

24. **Highland School of Technology** senior **Abigail Hester** is a finalist for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program.
25. **W.A. Bess Elementary** has been selected as an A+ School by the North Carolina Arts Council. Through the A+ School program, the arts are integrated across the curriculum. The school will host a ceremony in early August to kick off the A+ School program.
26. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** students and staff dressed in orange to welcome a student who has been battling leukemia back to school. Students and staff lined the halls and presented the student with balloons and gifts as the school band played music.
27. Sixth grade students in **Kaitlin Bumgarner's** and **Jill Hendrix's** classes at **Stanley Middle School** created artwork for the school's first student art auction.
28. To celebrate Read Across America Day, **Sherwood Elementary** students participated in a reading buddies activity that involved the third, fourth, and fifth graders reading to students in kindergarten, first, and second grades.
29. **Sherwood Elementary's** PTO and the neighborhood community watch contributed funds to refurbish the school sign.
30. **Webb Street School** received a donation of \$600 from the Knights of Columbus to support the Unique Learning System program.
31. **Webb Street School** held its fourth annual "Art of Fashion" show that gave students an opportunity to get dressed up and shine on the runway in front of a cheering audience. Board of Education member **Dot Cherry** and Gaston County Sheriff Alan Cloninger emceed the program and introduced the students/models on the red carpet. The event was a fundraiser for the school's gymnasium renovation project.
32. **Webb Street School** employees **Angela Neal, Erin Wallace, Ashley Brafford, Jennifer Besser, Jackie Davis, Meagan Ulep, Holly Ackerman, and Celeste Blanton** participated in the "Polar Plunge" for Gaston County Special Olympics and raised \$255.
33. **Webb Street School** teachers **Talia Wucherer** and **Christine Tileston** were selected to present a workshop titled "Aquaponics: Bringing Science and Learning to Life" at the North Carolina Transition Conference in Greensboro.
34. **Rankin Elementary's** fourth annual Camp Read-A-Thon raised more than \$12,000. In addition, principal **Donna Kelly** and assistant principal **Charlotte Friday** spent a day on the roof after students read more than 500,000 minutes in one week. The school celebrated the end of its read-a-thon week with a book character parade and had special guest readers including **Gaston County Schools** assistant superintendent **Cindee Matson**, Mount Holly mayor Bryan Hough and members of the city council, athletes from Belmont Abbey College, and sports mascots "Sir Purr" and "Homer the Dragon."
35. **Sadler Elementary** conducted a Junior Achievement Day program that involved community/business leaders and volunteers leading lessons and activities for students related to business, finance, and entrepreneurship. Tony Powell of Firestone as well as other local businesses and organizations partnered with the school to make the program possible.
36. As part of the "Big 50 Anniversary" celebration for **Gaston County Schools**, the Gaston County Museum in Dallas hosted an exhibit titled "Gaston County Schools: Our Sports History and More." The exhibit featured trophies, pictures, jerseys, and other memorabilia that highlighted the sports history of junior high, middle school, and high school teams, players, and coaches over the past 50 years.
37. For the sixth consecutive year, **Gaston County Schools** is partnering with Kia of Gastonia to present the Kia Outstanding Educator Awards program. Each school and the central office will nominate an employee who is considered to be an "unsung hero." The 55 nominees will be honored on April 17 during a ceremony at Stuart W. Cramer High School, and one nominee will be chosen in a random drawing to win a new car from Kia of Gastonia.

- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the Gaston Early College High School Calendar 2019-2020.
- Receive information regarding Technology Resources.
- Receive information regarding Summer Student Offerings.
- Receive information regarding Student Promotion and Accountability – Policy 3420.
- Receive information regarding Instructional Resources.
- Receive information regarding the Superintendent's 2019-2020 Budget Request.
- Consider the 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.
  - Construction/Repair Change Orders.
  - End-of-Grade/End-of-Course Summer School.
  - Contracts:
    - Roof Replacement, Southwest Middle School.
    - Roof Replacement, South Point High School.
    - The Leader in Me.
    - Public Consulting Group (PCG) Renewal.
    - Golden Leaf Advanced Manufacturing Equipment Purchase Renewal.
    - Curriculum Associates Renewal.
    - Award RFP for Voice Services.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel and Consultation with Attorney.

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