



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 on Monday, May 20, 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 April 15, 2019 meeting.
 - Receive the following Good News for May 2019:
1. **Gaston County Schools** presented its most prestigious awards during the annual Evening of Excellence ceremony on May 6. Wells Fargo Bank sponsored the program. The winners were Teacher of the Year **Kody Kubbs, South Point High School**; Principal of the Year **Laura Dixon, W.A. Bess Elementary**; Assistant Principal of the Year **Dan Barber, Gardner Park Elementary**; and Central Office Administrator of the Year **Rebekka Powers**, chief accountability officer.
 2. **Bessemer City High School’s Kathleen Macdonald** was chosen in a random drawing as the Kia Outstanding Educator for 2018-2019. She won a new Kia Soul from Kia of Gastonia. Now in its sixth year, the recognition program honors employees from each school and the central office who are seen as “unsung heroes.”
 3. **South Point High School** senior **Claire Mitchell** won a \$1,000 scholarship in the “Best and Brightest” recognition program sponsored by The Gaston Gazette. **Christiana Daniel** of **Highland School of Technology** and **Daniel Friday** of **Highland School of Technology** each won a \$500 scholarship. Other high school students honored as part of the program were **Lauren Schultz, Ashbrook High School**; **LaDameion Butler, Bessemer City High School**; **Jace Brittain, Cherryville High School**; **Payton Dyksterhouse, Stuart W. Cramer High School**; **Shaina Hinds, East Gaston High School**; **Kyra Rhyne, Gaston Early College High School**; **Rebecca Cloninger, Forestview High School**; **Marcus Mauney, Hunter Huss High School**; and **Grace Simmons, North Gaston High School**.
 4. **Luiz Baldizon Montejo** of **Hunter Huss High School** and **Mariah Jones** of **Highland School of Technology** were chosen as the recipients of the James Buie Scholarship, which provides full tuition to study criminal justice at Belmont Abbey College. The scholarship is presented by the Gaston County Police Department.
 5. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for April were **Camden Kanupp, Costner Elementary**; **Tayvion Phillips, Grier Middle School**; and **Xander Miller, Highland School of Technology**. The program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
 6. A group of seventh grade students from **Cramerton Middle School** won awards in the Air Quality AQ-IQ regional contest. The following students placed in their category: **Abigail Armstrong** for Pollution Disaster; **Katherine White** for Transportation - Stop Motion; and **Ellie Shine, Erin Bradshaw, Eliana Phadke, and Bri McGinnis** for Air Quality - Forest Fires.
 7. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** earned seven nominations in the prestigious Blumey Awards program, which recognizes outstanding student achievement in theater arts. The nominations were for best set construction, best costume creation, best choreography execution, best ensemble, and best overall direction. In addition, **Alex Manley**, who portrayed “Schroeder,” was nominated for best supporting actor.
 8. Four students were chosen as finalists for the best actor and best actress award nominations in the prestigious Blumey Awards program, which recognizes outstanding student achievement in theater arts. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** students **Jacob Hooks**, who portrayed “Charlie Brown,” and **Marissa Garrison**, who portrayed “Sally,” in the school’s production of “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown” were among 20 male and 20 female students vying for the best actor and best actress award nominations. Additionally, **Forestview High School** students **Landon “Scout” Stamey**, who portrayed “Curly,” and **Grace Miller**, who portrayed “Ado Annie,” in the school production of “Oklahoma!” were among the finalists for the best actor and best actress nominations.
 9. **Gaston Early College** students **Genevieve Starr** and **Reed Martin** earned a perfect score on the reading portion of the ACT.
 10. **Jeff Bowers** of **Lingerfeldt Elementary** and **Jamie Sciba** of **Hunter Huss High School** were honored as the School Custodians of the Year during the Keep Gastonia Beautiful awards luncheon. **Amber Litfin** of **Robinson Elementary** was named the Green Teacher of the Year, **Garey Coke** of **Grier Middle School** was named the Green Coordinator of the Year, and **Aliya Wilson** of **Hunter Huss High School** was named the Green Student of the Year for efforts to keep their school and community “clean and green” by promoting environmentally friendly activities. Additionally, **Grier Middle School** was chosen as the Green Middle School of the Year, and **Forestview High School** won the Green High School of the Year recognition.
 11. **Belmont Central Elementary** collected pennies for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In two weeks, the students collected \$7,093.31. **Beverly Mellette’s** fourth grade class had the highest classroom total of \$672.68.
 12. **Ashbrook High School** senior **Annalise Froehlich** is the first student in a **Gaston County Schools** traditional high school to earn an Associate of Arts degree from Gaston College. She successfully completed 60 semester hours of college credit during her junior and senior years of high school through the Career and College Promise program. She will be able to transfer the credit to a four-year university and begin her studies as a junior.
 13. **Brookside Elementary** received a gift card to purchase \$1,500 worth of new gym equipment from Academy Sports+Outdoors. In addition, each staff member at the school received a \$25 gift card.
 14. **Carr Elementary** had approximately 35 families to participate in the school’s first “Bike to School Day.” The event was a partnership between the school, Town of Dallas, and Gaston County Health and Human Services Department to promote bicycle safety and healthy living.
 15. **Carr Elementary** held a Code Night program that involved students showing their parents and grandparents how to code. Additionally, the school’s walk-a-thon raised \$2,100 to purchase new playground equipment.
 16. **Highland School of Technology** junior **Urael Mussie** was one of 100 students from across the nation to be accepted into the Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA) Scholars summer program at Princeton University. The prestigious program provides classes in leadership, writing, and SAT/ACT practice, travel opportunities to other Ivy League schools, and sessions to learn about the college application process and more.
 17. **Highland School of Technology** had one of only five student teams from across North Carolina to compete in the U.S. Army’s High School Drone/Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) competition in Raleigh. The STEM initiative involved aeronautics/avionics. The students were given a drone kit with a flight controller, Arduino, and GPS flight system, and they were challenged to build and program the UAV. The students gave presentations to representatives of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, N.C. Department of Transportation, the Army Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program, and several Army officers. Students participating in the program included **Arjun Deva, Daniel Friday, Steven Murphy, and Kevin Ballesteros**. Teachers **Nancy Taliaferro** and **Kevin Ingram** served as the students’ advisers.
 18. **Highland School of Technology** had 58 students to attend the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Leadership Conference in Greensboro. The students earned top ten placements in the competitive event categories for outstanding performance in business education, communications, networking concepts, cyber security, and other categories. The school also received the Gold Star Chapter of Merit distinction for the seventh consecutive year. The award honors the students for their commitment to community service, leadership training, and FBLA activities.

19. **Bessemer City High School** collected more than 3,000 canned goods and other food items to donate to the Bessemer City Crisis Center. In addition, the school raised \$510 to donate to Relay for Life. The school's Beta Club participated in the event.
20. The **Holbrook Middle School** special adaptive curriculum class completed a school beautification project. Upchurch's Garden Center in Cherryville donated mulch, soil, and shrubs.
21. **W.A. Bess Elementary** parents Nathan and Chelsea Davis secured a CarMax Foundation grant for \$1,000 and donated it to the school in honor of their son, Eli.
22. **Kiser Elementary** invited the Carolina Panthers mascot "Sir Purr" to perform his "Sack the EOGs" program to help inspire students to succeed on the end-of-grade tests. Students were encouraged to R.E.A.C.H. their goals through rest, exercise, asking questions, confidence, and healthy eating.
23. **Kiser Elementary** fifth graders spent two days enjoying science-related lessons and activities at YMCA Camp Cherokee. The students attended fire ecology, water ecology, predator and prey, and habitat classes.
24. **North Gaston High School's** Math Olympiad team took sixth place overall and received 11 medals in the regional tournament. One of the teams placed first and qualified to attend a state level tournament at N.C. State University. In addition, the school's Envirothon team placed fourth and advanced to the N.C. State University Envirothon competition.
25. **Pinewood Elementary** students, staff, and parents collected more than \$25,000 to use toward the purchase of Chromebooks so each student at the school will have a computer to use.
26. **Pinewood Elementary** fifth graders raised trout from eggs and released them into a stream at South Mountain State Park. The project taught the students about ecosystems, life cycles, and water chemistry.
27. **Pinewood Elementary** adopted the "One School, One Book" family reading initiative, which is designed to get everyone at the school reading together.
28. **Sadler Elementary** third grader Madeleine Hendrix won the "Proudest Kid in Gaston County" essay contest sponsored by Gaston Together, Gaston County Schools, and the Gaston County Education Foundation.
29. **Warlick Academy** honored 17 students with a trip to Carowinds for their leadership, hard work, and excellence in academics.
30. **Warlick Academy** hosted a Parent Night program that gave families an opportunity to learn about graduation requirements, transition information, and the school's partnership with Communities in Schools, which provides services and resources to students.
31. **Warlick Academy** teachers **Marlo Wilson** and **Donna Hancock** organized a career fair and invited business representatives to speak with students, set up interviews, and talk about their organizations. The teachers prepped the students before the career fair by reviewing interview skills and resume writing. As a result of the event, several students were offered a job.
32. The **Hunter Huss High School** cafeteria staff earned a 100 percent sanitation grade.
33. **Hunter Huss High School** student **Jesse Clary** earned first place in the Community Emergency Response Team category at the Skills USA state competition. In addition, **Matt Williams** placed third in Medical Math competition.
34. The **Sadler Elementary** students in the ESL (English as a Second Language) classes wrote a book titled "Places for Kids to Visit in Gastonia, North Carolina." The book was published by Student Treasures, and it includes pictures drawn by the students and information about the Schiele Museum, Gaston County Museum, Gaston County Public Library, City of Gastonia Military Museum, and Crowders Mountain State Park.
35. Students in **Jackie Strycula's** special adaptive curriculum class at **Sherwood Elementary** participated in the Special Olympics. Students, teachers, and staff lined the hallways and sidewalks, holding signs and cheering on the students as they left for the competition. In addition, the Laurel East Community Watch group conducted a beautification day at the school.
36. The **Stanley Middle School** choirs presented the play, "Willy Wonka, Jr." Each grade level had its own cast and all choir members participated either on-stage, in the choir, or as part of the set design team. Teacher **Sarah Vancil** directed the performances.
37. **Woodhill Elementary** raised \$2,325.21 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society during the school's "Pennies for Patients" campaign.
38. The **Belmont Middle School** Science Olympiad team participated in the state competition, which was held at N.C. State University. The annual competition included 24 categories including Potions and Poisons, Anatomy and Physiology, Herpetology, Thermodynamics, Solar Systems, Meteorology, Battery Buggy, Boomilever, and more. Science teachers **Elizabeth Frawley** and **Karan Barber** are the team advisers.
39. Three **East Gaston High School** students received honorable mentions in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Arbor Day poster contest. **Erica Huggins**, **Jenna Cordero**, and **Malorie Abernathy** were presented certificates by Gastonia mayor Walker Reid during the Arbor Day celebration at Martha Rivers Park.
40. The following **East Gaston High School** students were winners in the annual "Through an Artist's Eyes" exhibit: **Mallori Mull**, second place in printmaking; **Madison Allran**, second place in crafts; **Rebecca Watts**, third place in color drawing and honorable mention in sculpture; **Carissa Potter**, second place in sculpture; **Makayla Bristol**, third place in sculpture; and **Malorie Abernathy**, honorable mention in mixed media.
41. **Forestview High School** senior **Emily Faust** was awarded the \$1,000 Jon H. Poteat Scholarship from the National Technical Honor Society. She is a member of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and interns at **W.A. Bess Elementary** as part of the Early Childhood Education II class. She plans to attend Western Carolina University to major in elementary education with a concentration in English. She was one of only 250 students to earn the scholarship.
42. **Forestview High School** senior **Rogan Smith** completed the state's pre-apprenticeship program in bricklaying for high school students. He was featured in a video segment on the "Carolina Impact" show, which airs on WTVI - PBS Charlotte.

- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the School Nutrition 2019-2020 Bids.
- Receive information regarding the Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment.
- Receive information regarding the Board Policy Updates.
- 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.
 - Naming of East Gaston Health Sciences Academy.
 - Replacement of Classroom Technology.
 - New Hope Elementary Window Replacement.
 - New Hope Elementary Parking Lot Repaving.
 - Hunter Huss Concrete and Canopy Replacement.
 - Grier Middle School Parking Lot Repaving.
 - Contracts: Sole Source Vendor Approval – Camp Invention; Sole Source Provider Request – Seating Safety; Cellular Telephone Contract.
- 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.