



# Board Briefs

Gaston County Board of Education ■ Communication Department ■ 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054  
 Telephone: (704) 866-6118 or 866-6117 ■ Fax: (704) 866-6175 ■ Internet: www.gaston.k12.nc.us

The Gaston County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016, 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 October 3, 2016 and October 17, 2016 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for November 2016:
1. The **Highland School of Technology** and **Stuart W. Cramer High School** were honored in Raleigh by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction for earning an outstanding graduation rate. Highland achieved a 100 percent rate and Stuart W. Cramer had a 98.7 percent rate for the Class of 2016. Additionally, **Forestview High School** received a letter of recognition for its 95.7 percent rate.
  2. **Gaston County Schools’ Bobbie Cavnar**, the 2016-2017 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, was a guest on the “Education Matters” program produced by WRAL-TV.
  3. **Hunter Huss High School** teacher **Jerry Swift** arranged to have a medevac helicopter visit the school. The helicopter came from CaroMont Regional Medical Center and landed on the football field. Students from the fire, EMT (emergency medical technician), and health science classes were given tours from the flight crew and were able to learn about careers involving medevac (medical evacuation).
  4. The Firefighter Academy at **Hunter Huss High School** received a retired fire engine from the Crowders Mountain Fire and Rescue Department. Now in its fourth year, the Firefighter Academy gives students hands-on experience and professional credit as they learn what it takes to become a firefighter.
  5. Students in the **Hunter Huss High School** Beta Club hosted the annual “Haunted Huss” trick-or-treat event for the community. Students decorated classroom doors and handed out candy to children.
  6. **Belmont Middle School** seventh grade science classes are monitoring air quality on campus through a partnership with Clean Air Carolina. The classes are part of the organization’s Clean Air Zones Monitoring Project, and students are taking steps to protect the community from air pollution.
  7. **Deb Elmore’s** advisory class at **Belmont Middle School** held a school supplies collection for students affected by Hurricane Matthew. The supplies were donated to L. Gilbert Carroll Middle School in Lumberton.
  8. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fifth grade teachers **Faith Dibble**, **Donna Griffith**, **Sue Bell** and **Amanda Currier** organized a coat drive for Keep Gastonia Beautiful’s Make a Difference Day. The school collected more than 90 items including coats, hats, gloves, socks, and scarves for the local homeless shelter.
  9. Many schools held mock elections to teach students about the voting process, including **W.A. Bess Elementary**, **York Chester Middle**, **Gardner Park Elementary**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** and **Mount Holly Middle School**.
  10. **Bessemer City High School** students and staff collected more than \$1,000 worth of food and cleaning supplies to donate to residents of eastern North Carolina affected by Hurricane Matthew. School social worker **Marsha Beattie** organized the effort and delivered the donations.
  11. **Bessemer City High School** teacher **Susie Parker**, a two-year breast cancer survivor, raised \$775 for Cancer Services of Gaston County by organizing a t-shirt fundraiser for students and staff. Staff members wore the t-shirts for cancer awareness in October.
  12. **Bessemer City Middle School** hosted a Veterans Tribute event to honor local men and women who served in the military. The band and chorus performed and the art club had work on display.
  13. Students in **Callie Hahn’s** art classes at **John Chavis Middle School** earned awards in Keep Gastonia Beautiful’s recycled art contest. **Christian Hahn** earned first place, and **Gracie Holland** and **Tanner Tillman** received honorable mention.
  14. **Sam Kostiuk**, a seventh grade student at **John Chavis Middle School**, was named a student ambassador for the North Carolina Library Association. He is one of only six students chosen for the prestigious recognition.
  15. The **Cherryville High School** marching band participated in a competition at Enka High School. The color guard placed second in its class, and drum majors **Sarah Leetham** and **Mary Dobbins** also took second place.
  16. **South Point High School** sponsored its “Dig Pink” volleyball fundraiser and collected more than \$5,000 for breast cancer awareness and research.
  17. **Forestview High School** students **John Diveris**, **Jared Carter** and **Tremayne Booker** were featured in the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs’ “Letters to the President” segment. They were interviewed and shared what they would like the nation’s next president to know. School library media coordinator **Melissa Heilig** coordinated the students’ participation. The segment was produced by **Miranda Crowley**, **Brandon Revis**, **Kyle Ring**, **Ellen Smykowski** and **Ashley Sparrow**.

18. **Forestview** students in **Sabine Schmid-Rankin's** German classes made 110 Schultüten and delivered them to kindergarten students at **W.A. Bess Elementary**. A Schultüte is a decorated, cone-shaped container made of cardboard and filled with goodies; it is a tradition in German-speaking countries. The high school students also taught the kindergartners about German songs and traditions during their visit.
19. **Gardner Park Elementary** received a donation of more than 100 new books from Tindol Subaru. Natalie Tindol, dealership owner and a Gardner Park alumna, helped to deliver the books.
20. **Highland School of Technology** students in **Anna Ballard's** Advanced Placement (AP) Government class volunteered with the Gaston County Board of Elections to conduct voter surveys at polling places around the county.
21. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** school social worker **Nohra Nunez** coordinated a school-wide collection of supplies for flood victims in eastern North Carolina. The students donated food, cleaning supplies and baby items for communities affected by Hurricane Matthew.
22. **Lauren Fox**, a fifth grader at **Rankin Elementary**, built flower bed planters for residents at Stanley Total Living Center. The planters are raised and wheelchair accessible.
23. **Southwest Middle School** teacher **Susan Adams** received the Outstanding Secondary Teacher Award from the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics.
24. **Sadler Elementary School** held a Family Reading Night for the Hispanic community. The staff used bilingual books and discussed how to read with children and ask good comprehension questions. The 46 parents and children who attended the program had an opportunity to practice with the new books, which are now available for checkout in the classroom libraries.
25. **Sherwood Elementary** is hosting "Lunch and Learns" to showcase student work and grade level curriculum when parents visit for lunch. Kindergarten, first, second, and fourth grades completed their "Lunch and Learns" in October with 304 parents attending.
26. **Stanley Middle School** held a week-long candy drive and collected 1,026 bags of candy for Stanley Total Living Center. **Emily Mullins'** sixth grade class donated the most candy and took a field trip to deliver it to the residents, who handed it out to trick-or-treaters.
27. **Tryon Elementary** hosted a Family Fun Math Night program at Food Lion in Cherryville to give students a way to apply their math lessons to real-world experiences. Students in pre-kindergarten through the fifth grade participated with their parents in a grade-specific math scavenger hunt in the store. Food Lion provided refreshments, gift bags, and the opportunity to win \$10 gift cards.
28. **Tryon Elementary** was selected to receive a Duke Energy Science Night kit as part of the 2017 North Carolina Science Festival. This science kit includes 12 hands-on science activities for 200 students. **Dawn Whitworth**, the school's instructional facilitator, coordinated the project.
29. **Webb Street School** held a garden party for parents and community members to celebrate the opening of the school's new sensory garden. The garden is designed to provide sensory experiences that can either stimulate or calm students depending on their needs as well as provide learning opportunities.
30. The October "Do the Right Thing" winners were **Brittany Bello Ramirez, Hunter Huss High School; Jayson LaFurge, John Chavis Middle School; and Camryn Tuttle, Sherwood Elementary**. The awards program is sponsored by *The Gaston Gazette* and recognizes students for acts of kindness and "doing the right thing."

- "Nickels 4 Neighbors" Update.
- Consider the American Education Week Proclamation.
- Classroom Moment.
- Career and Technical Education Update.
- Receive information regarding the School Improvement Grant (SIG) for York Chester Middle School.
- Receive information regarding Special Education Services.
- Consider the School Improvement Plans (SIP) for Low-Performing Schools.
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Operations Committee Report.
- 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 Transfers.
  - Construction and Repair – Change Orders.
  - Contracts – Wrap Around Services for Students.
  - Purchases – E-Rate Internal Connections Purchase.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Recognition of Outgoing Board of Education Members.
- Closed Session – Property, Personnel, and School Safety Plans.

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