



# 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, November 20, 2017, 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 September 11, 2017 meeting.
  - Receive the following Good News for November 2017:
1. **Highland School of Technology** was honored during the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School ceremony in Washington, D.C. Principal **Denise McLean**, teacher **Jamee Webb**, and Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker** attended the ceremony to accept the award from the U.S. Department of Education.
  2. The following high schools have student artwork on display at *Arts on Main* in Gastonia during November: **Ashbrook**, **Bessemer City**, **East Gaston**, **Forestview**, and **North Gaston**. *Arts on Main* is sponsored by the Gaston County Art Guild, which supports the efforts of art teachers in **Gaston County Schools** and students interested in art.
  3. Students from **Gaston County Schools** participated in the annual Veterans Day parade in downtown Gastonia. The high school JROTC groups from **Ashbrook** and **Hunter Huss** marched in the parade along with the all-county marching band that included students from all high schools.
  4. **Gaston County Schools** in partnership with The Shelter of Gaston County and the Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services introduced a new anti-bullying and self-empowerment program called “STAND UP Gaston.” Shaun Golden, a former standout college basketball player for the University of Georgia, spoke to middle and high school students in October during National Bullying Prevention Month.
  5. The **Stanley Middle School** student council and yearbook club wrote letters to soldiers and veterans to thank them for their military service.
  6. **Stanley Middle School** held a reception for current and former faculty and staff, alumni, friends, and community members to tour the school and reminisce about the building, which has served the Stanley community for six decades.
  7. **Alexander Helton**, a seventh grader at **Stanley Middle School**, performed the national anthem on the trumpet during the North Carolina Championship Walking Horse Show in Fletcher. He performed in front of an audience that included people from across the Southeast.
  8. Students at **W.A. Bess Elementary**, **Chapel Grove Elementary**, and **Lowell Elementary** sampled a variety of apples as part of the “NC Crunch” program, which promotes locally-grown produce in school cafeterias.
  9. **Cherryville Elementary** held an open house and luncheon to show off its renovated library/media center. Because of outstanding school and community support, the library now has new books, lights, furniture, carpet, technology, and more. The space is conducive for interactive and small-group learning and serves as the heart of the school.
  10. **Hunter Huss High School** junior **Symanthia Bryson** was selected for the North Carolina DECA Diamond Student of the Month distinction. Club adviser **Shelby Gilmore** submitted the nomination to recognize her hard work and dedication to the school’s DECA program.
  11. The following **Hunter Huss High School** students were selected to participate in the UNC-Charlotte Invitational Honor Band: **Kathleen Huffsmith** (tuba); **Kaylie Crawford** (flute); **Marquise Brown** (euphonium); **Raven Anderson** (flute); **Keinoria Foster** (flute); **Rafael Villafuerte** (tuba); **Ayauna Rivas** (trumpet); and **Tyron McCullough** (percussion). **Heather Watson-Weary** is the band director.
  12. 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.
  13. **H.H. Beam Elementary** first grade students were treated to a science demonstration by employees of LanXESS, one of the school’s business partners. Teacher **Hope McMillan** organized the program.
  14. **Rankin Elementary** fourth grader **Alex Taylor** won the “Time with a Police Officer” basket during the school’s fall festival. The prize gave him an opportunity to spend time with officers from the Mount Holly Police Department, eating lunch with them and visiting Queen Bee Bakery for a treat. He also received a T-shirt and a ride in the department’s all-terrain vehicle.
  15. The Leadership Academy at **Bessemer City High School** sponsored a silver change collection to benefit children affected by the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico and the wildfires in California. A total of \$362.15 was collected and donated to the “Save the Children” charity. The Leadership Academy advisers are teachers **Bethany Britton**, **Wanda Huffstetler**, **Katie Kates**, and **Becca Martin** and principal **Judy Moore**.

16. The **Highland School of Technology** cross country team finished eighth in the 1-A state meet. **Richard Lauer** finished eighth in the boys race and made the all-state team. **Victoria Perez** ran a personal best time and represented the school well in the girls race.
17. The girls golf team at **Highland School of Technology** won their conference championship and placed second in the regional tournament. Student **Ashley Lowry** was named Conference Player of the Year.
18. **York Chester Middle School** students and staff brought jazz, blues, folk and gospel music to the community during the annual York Chester International Music and Arts Festival. For more than 10 years, the school has provided entertainment, games, food, and fun for the York Chester neighborhood through this annual celebration.
19. **Carr Elementary** was chosen to receive a Duke Energy Science Night kit to participate in the 2018 North Carolina Science Festival. The kit provides activity guides for 10 hands-on science activities and materials for 200 participants. The Duke Energy Science Night will take place in the spring.
20. **Tryon Elementary** organized a canned food drive and collected 552 items to help local ministries in the Tryon community. **Ashley Lackey's** class collected the most items (111 cans).
21. **North Gaston High School** soccer players **Seth Scoggins** and **Carter Rushing** received all-conference awards. Carter was named the Big South Conference Player of the Year and Seth was named the Big South Conference Offensive Player of the Year.
22. **Page Primary** conducted a school beautification day program. Volunteers planted flowers and cleaned up the school grounds. Additionally, the school enjoyed a visit by State Representative Dana Bumgardner, who donated two books to the library.
23. Once again, the cafeteria staff at **Page Primary** received a 100 percent sanitation rating.
24. **Page Primary** students attended a program about energy conservation and enjoyed entertainment by the National Theater for Children. Duke Energy sponsored the activities.
25. **Page Primary** conducted a dance-a-thon and raised \$10,800 for classroom libraries. Additionally, the school staff received a bag of freshly-picked apples from Stepp Farm courtesy of East Belmont Baptist Church. The school also received a donation of school supplies from the Walmart in Belmont.
26. Students at **Page Primary** enjoyed a visit by the Belmont Fire Department as part of the school's fire safety program. The students got an up-close look at a fire truck and enjoyed talking to the firefighters about their work.

- Classroom Moment.
- Consider the K-3 Class Size Waiver.
- Consider the Career and Technical Education Business Advisory Council Policy.
- Consider the Policy Revisions – Policy 7100 and Policy 7105.
- Receive information regarding the Board Policy Updates.
- 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/Repair Change Orders.
  - Energy Conservation – Policy 9250.
  - School Improvement Plans for Low-Performing Schools.
  - Contracts:
    - Firewall Replacement with Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)
    - Cisco Smartnet Renewal
    - Architect
    - New York Teacher College
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Consultation with Attorney, Property, Personnel, and School Safety Plans.

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