

# 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 Monday, October 20, 2014, 7:00 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 September 2, 2014 and September 15, 2014 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News:
1. **Rosalind White** of **Cherryville High School** was named the 2014 Southwest Region School Social Worker of the Year. As the regional winner, she moves on to compete for the Gary L. Shaffer North Carolina School Social Worker of the Year recognition.
  2. The following students were selected for *The Broadway Experience* program sponsored by the N.C. Blumenthal Performing Arts Center: **Wesley Billings** and **Brandon Miller, East Gaston; Carter Frady, Stuart W. Cramer; and Charity Warren, Hunter Huss**. The Broadway Experience is an all-expense paid weekend trip to New York City for 12 students from high schools in the Charlotte region. While in New York, the students will attend Broadway shows, enjoy backstage tours, and visit various tourist attractions.
  3. Students in the **Hunter Huss High School** Interact Club participated in North Carolina Big Sweep, a statewide waterway cleanup program. Students collected 200 pounds of trash and debris from a creek near the Phillips Center in Gastonia. **Melissa Fonseca** is the Interact Club sponsor.
  4. For the second consecutive year, **East Gaston High School** student **Gabe Hutson** was selected for the N.C. High School Honors Chorus, which is the most prestigious high school choir in the state. He will perform with other outstanding student vocalists at the N.C. Music Educators Convention in Winston-Salem.
  5. Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker** and N.C. Representative **John Torbett** visited **Forest Heights Elementary** to spend time with the children in the school's pre-kindergarten program.
  6. **Forestview High School** student **Kassi Dibert** was named a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. The distinction recognizes Dibert for exceptional academic promise.
  7. The following schools were recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for having no player ejections during the 2013-2014 year: **Ashbrook, East Gaston, Forestview** and **Stuart W. Cramer**. Only 127 schools in the state were honored for outstanding sportsmanship.
  8. **Gaston County Schools** received a donation of school supplies from Gastonia Nissan. The dealership sponsored its first-ever "Fill the Frontier" school supply drive and collected pens, pencils, paper, backpacks, tissues, notebooks, and other items.
  9. The **Sadler Elementary** PTO raised money to purchase an alligator mascot costume for the school.
  10. The **Cramerton Middle** September Students of the Month were **Hunter Hogue, Amelia May Tuttle, Karsyn Armstrong, Emma Brown, Kelly Inman, Adrian Mistry, Chase McCaskill, Jacob Landis, Krissy Adams** and **Aden Smith**.
  11. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** hosted its eighth annual grandparents' luncheon with more than 100 grandparents taking time to eat with the children.
  12. Football players and cheerleaders from **Cherryville High School** visited **W.B. Beam Intermediate School** for Falcon Pride Day to welcome the younger students as they arrived at school.
  13. The **Cherryville High School** Ironmen Anglers fishing team participated in a tournament at Lake Norman. The first place team was **Ryan Pence** and **Preston Lingerfelt** with boat driver **Ben Stanton**. The second place team was **Logan Scates** and **Caden Scates** with boat driver **Shane Scates**, and the third place team was **Trevor Harrill** and **Will Lewis** with boat driver **Bruce Blalock**. The big bass winner was **Logan Scates**. The Cherryville Bass Club sponsored the event.
  14. Thirteen teachers at **W. Blaine Beam Intermediate** each received a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart of Cherryville to purchase classroom supplies. The contribution is part of Wal-Mart's Teacher Rewards program.
  15. **Belmont Central Elementary** held its annual Fall Carnival and Family Fun Night fundraiser, which was sponsored by the PTO.
  16. **Holbrook Middle School** mentor **David Landrum** was awarded the 2014 Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service in recognition of eight faithful years as a mentor in **Gaston County Schools**. This is the highest award that a state employee can receive. Landrum is employed by the communication studies department at UNC-Charlotte.
  17. **Pinewood Elementary** students celebrated International Dot Day on September 15 with a variety of reading activities. The observance is associated with "The Dot," a book by Peter Reynolds that encourages students to be creative and leave their mark on the world.
  18. **W.A. Bess Elementary** students in **Kim Crain's** and **Rose Nabinett's** kindergarten class observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink on October 15. The students wanted to honor mothers and faculty members who are battling the disease or have survived it.
  19. **East Gaston High School** adopted a new motto for the school year. "Shifting the Atmosphere" is the motto now showcased on the school sign. The students and staff are creating an atmosphere that is positive, successful, and full of school pride with increased participation in pep rallies, spirit days, and the student section at football games. The school also started a new teacher recognition program and reinstated its Warrior Pride program to honor students. The school's new "Arrowhead of Success" logo highlights goals for this school year and the future.
  20. **Belmont Middle School** hosted a community celebration on October 5 to mark the school building's 75th anniversary. The building opened in 1939 as Belmont High School.
  21. The **Forestview High School** boys' team and the **Ashbrook High School** girls' team won the Gaston County cross country championships. **Forestview** claimed its eighth boys' title in nine years and **Ashbrook** won the girls' title for the fifth consecutive year. **Stuart W. Cramer** freshman **Haley Bourhill** won the girls' individual championship and **East Gaston** freshman **Landon Maxwell** took the boys' individual championship.
  22. **North Gaston High School** sophomore **William Anderson** was appointed by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to serve as the youth representative on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.
  23. **Hawks Nest Intermediate School** produced the highest growth on the end-of-grade tests of all Gaston County elementary schools with an increase of 26.6 points.
  24. **Hunter Huss High School's** "Pride of the Pack" marching band received the following awards at the **Forestview High School** band competition: first place music, first place percussion, first place drum major, second place color guard, and second place general effect.
  25. The **Pinewood Elementary** September Students of the Month were **Kendall Sherrill, Myron Allen, Wisdom Kelson, Olivia Huffstetler, Hunter Valentine, Pearl Ervin, Athony Impellizeri, Olive Peterson, Gauge Kinley, Torren Mayr, Braylan Hux, Kasey Anthony, Jiya Patel, Ashley Beal, Porter Beckham, Tate Hawkins, Damazia Murphy, Noah Howard, Morgan Sherrill, Aniyah Callahan, Caleb Blackmon, Durrell Corry, Tyler Mizzell, Katelyn Walsh, Maddison York, Jacob Hunter, Will Hager** and **Christine Mori Cleary**.
  26. **Holbrook Middle School** counselors **Millie Clemmons** and **Erin Stokes** hosted a parent program titled "How to Be More Involved in Your Child's Education." The program provided information about helping children to study, discovering a child's learning style, and accessing school resources such as teacher websites and calendars, the Parent Portal, and GCS mobile app. A separate session for Spanish-speaking parents was led by **Maria Lopez**, the school's English as a Second Language teacher.
  27. **South Point High School** football player **Tanner Muse** was selected for the N.C. Shrine Bowl team.

28. **W.A. Bess Elementary** second grader **Wilken Gray** participated in the Southeastern Regional Figure Skating Competition in Atlanta and captured fourth place.
29. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** PTO and campus beautification committee provided the resources to build a basketball court behind the school for students to enjoy during recess. Parents **Deanna Longo** and **Belinda Gunter** coordinated the project.
30. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** September Citizens of the Month were **Mackenzie Edge, Ella Cann, Stone Snelson, Delaney Reckers, Seth Stowe, Saul Galo, Jace McCall, Ella Benton, Lily Cabe, Lilly Friday, Jillian Chitwood, Annabelle Wight, Bayleigh Hawkins, Kattie Hall, Austin Rude, Gage Knight, Meredith Cook, Matthew Avery, Fay Papaevagelou, Chris Tuttle, Faith Caudle, Bailey Hope, Jessica Vazquez, Ryan Willman, Mercy Le, Anthony Payne, Disha Patel** and **Dylan Boone**.
31. **W.A. Bess Elementary** celebrated the retirement of school psychologist **Dr. George Popper** with a reception in the school's media center. He is retiring after 43 years of dedicated service.
32. **Cramerton Middle School** received a \$200 contribution from PSNC Energy to support the Discovery music class.
33. The following **Ashbrook High School** students were chosen as nominees for college scholarship programs: **Valery Briceno** and **Adina Girmay**, Davidson College Bryan Scholars; **Matthew Fargher** and **Dalton Hoskins**, N.C. State Park Scholars; **Matthew Fargher, Adina Girmay, Tyler Henkel, and Edith Lindley**, UNC-Charlotte Levine Scholars; and **Allison Bradshaw, Matthew Fargher, Adina Girmay** and **Mary Carson Wells**, UNC Morehead-Cain Scholars.
34. **Hunter Huss High School** received 780 scientific calculators from Classroom Central, an outstanding business partner that provides resources to area schools on a regular basis.
35. The **Gaston County Schools** Department for Exceptional Children and the Advisory Board for Children with Disabilities sponsored the "Informed, Effective Parents" workshop for more than 50 parents, caregivers and professionals. The successful event provided helpful information about services for exceptional children.
36. **Forest Heights Elementary** students participated in the Hugo's Reading Revolution program featuring the Charlotte Hornets' mascot, Hugo. The event with a pep rally atmosphere focused on the importance of reading. The students toured Hugo's book bus and were able to select a book to take home with them.
37. Students from **Holbrook Middle School** had an opportunity to participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Day at UNC-Charlotte. The students learned about STEM-related careers, college programs of study in the STEM field, and heard from college and business leaders about the importance of STEM education.
38. **Grier Middle School** in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Gastonia sponsored a chartering ceremony for an Interact Club at the school. Rotary district governor Ken Dresser administered oaths of office to student president **Zion Biggers** and other club officers. In addition to the Interact Club, the Rotary Club is sponsoring the EarlyAct FirstKnight charter education program at the school.
39. The **Robinson Elementary** PTO collected \$2,500 in membership fees to provide resources and support programs for teachers and students.
40. The girls' volleyball teams from **South Point High School** and **Stuart W. Cramer High School** teamed up to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a "Pink Out" Day on October 13. Students at both schools were encouraged to wear pink, attend the volleyball game, and buy t-shirts and raffle tickets to raise money for Cancer Services of Gaston County. **South Point** coach **Tina Dimmitt-Salinas** coordinated the effort.
41. Twenty students in the **East Gaston High School** Interact Club spent time cleaning up the roadside in front of the school. They collected 15 bags of trash and debris.
42. Students in the **Cherryville High School** teacher cadets program implemented a tutoring and mentoring program at **John Chavis Middle School**. The students also participated in Grandparents' Day activities at **W.B. Beam Intermediate** by reading to the children.
43. **Robinson Elementary** parents and volunteers took time to help beautify the school grounds. **Donna Taylor** provided chrysanthemums to plant around the flag pole, and **William Hobson** mowed the lawn and provided landscaping services.
44. **Southwest Middle School** had more than 90 students, parents, faculty, and staff members to participate in a school clean-up day project. Work was done at the main entrance and front yard of the school. The following local businesses contributed to the project: Gordon Cobb's Lawn Care, AJ's Lawn Maintenance, Food Lion on Hudson Boulevard, Lowe's Home Improvement, Stowe's Nursery, New Hope Greenhouse and Garden Center, Ingles of Dallas, Dunkin' Donuts of Dallas, Ford's Seeds and Plants, and Home Depot of Gastonia.
45. The **Kiser Elementary** September Students of the Month were **Allie Cogdill, Lily Lambert, Robbie Hersey, Luke Moore, Sheldon Clark, Olivia Robinson, Alyssa Shires, Caroline Mesimer, Hailey Clark, Harrison Rowland, Amber Usery, Alex Helton, Mallory Shires, ShyAnn Hambright, Daniel Vences, Madi Moore, Jordan Bishop** and **Laci Hentshel**.
46. **Laura Long**, media specialist at **Kiser Elementary**, was chosen to present a session at the N.C. School Library Media Association conference in Winston-Salem. She led a workshop titled "Lights, Camera, BOOKS!" that focused on engaging students in creating book report video commercials and blogging to promote literacy and library activities.
47. Three students were honored as the October *Do the Right Thing* award winners for displaying outstanding character: **Luis Armando Jaramillo Maya, Gardner Park Elementary; Julianna Marlow, Bessemer City Middle School; and Francisco Vera-Hernandez, Hunter Huss High School**. They were recognized during a luncheon at the Gaston Country Club.
48. The **Cherryville High School** boys' cross country team competed against more than 100 runners at the pre-conference meet and Spartan Invitational in Davidson. Four of the runners set personal records: **Tanner Jones**, who finished tenth in the conference, **Quinton Hollar, Alton Mull** and **Gauge Tillman**.
49. **East Gaston High School** senior **Tyler Rapp** and teacher **Renee Beale** started the Project UNIFY club, which is a Special Olympics program. The club is designed to increase athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities while creating an atmosphere of acceptance for all.
50. **Rhyme Elementary** was selected by N.C. Beautiful, WRAL-TV and Capitol Broadcasting to receive 50 azaleas to plant in front of the school as part of a campus beautification project. The organizations provide azaleas to community groups across the state for creative landscaping projects. Members of the Local 5286 of the UAW are helping community members, school staff, and students to plant the azaleas.
51. The **Highland School of Technology** girls' golf team won the Southern Piedmont 1-A Conference championship. Junior **Caroline Cole** was named the Conference Golfer of the Year and coach **Marty Hutchins** earned the Conference Coach of the Year recognition.
52. The **Gardner Park Elementary** September *Terrific Kid* award winners were **Ayden James, Aaliyah Blanco, Natalie Ocampo Tapia, Sheronna Spencer, Laila Jackson, Ashley Godinez, Samora Johnson, Amaya McCain, D.J. Perry, Cameron Robinson, Menaal Shaikh, Jersie Thomas, Colin Silvers, Alexis Henderson, Daysi Cruz Flores, Kie-lijah Gibson, Isabel Castro Uribe, Kameron Kee, Saharai Diaz, Jacob Pruitt, Makenna McCuen, Jenna Davis, Madison Watson, Ethan Rhyne-Davis, Ciella Sosa, Bryson Froneberger, Tra'Shawn Lattimore, Jordan Dilling** and **Julian Hall**.

- National Principals Appreciation Month Recognition.
- Receive information regarding the Master Facilities Planning Committee Update.
- Receive information regarding the Mental Health First Aid Grant.
- Receive information regarding the Epinephrine Auto-Injector Requirement.
- Receive information regarding the Driver Education.
- Receive information regarding School Improvement Plans.
- 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
  - "Building Support for Public Schools" Resolution
  - Policy Updates
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel.

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