

# 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 Monday, October 19, 2015, 5:30 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 8, 2015 and September 21, 2015 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News:
1. **Gaston County Schools** began its fourth year of the Rachel’s Challenge anti-bullying campaign. Former NFL players, motivational speakers and other special guests visited schools and spoke to students about kindness, character and making good decisions.
  2. The **Gaston County Schools** Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department brought together more than 400 high school students for the “Career Expo: Discover the New Face of Manufacturing” program at Gaston College. The event gave students an opportunity to learn about careers in advanced manufacturing.
  3. The following high schools were recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for being ejection-free during the 2014-2015 year: **Ashbrook, Bessemer City, South Point** and **Stuart W. Cramer**. Only 139 schools in the state were honored for outstanding sportsmanship and having no conduct infractions.
  4. The **Highland School of Technology** was honored by State Superintendent June Atkinson for achieving a 100 percent graduation rate. In the category of schools with a graduating class of 100-199 students, Highland is one of only two schools to receive recognition for a perfect rate.
  5. **Highland** student **Chris Puryear** received merit scholarships from Campbell University and Wingate University.
  6. The **South Point High School** volleyball team hosted its annual “Dig Pink” game in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The match against **Forestview High School** included junior varsity and varsity games and a charity match involving faculty and staff. The event raised \$6,600 for Cancer Services of Gaston County.
  7. **Mount Holly Middle School** hosted representatives from Google along with Congressman Patrick McHenry for “The Good to Know” School Roadshow. The program shared information with students about being safe and responsible online.
  8. The following **Hunter Huss High School** students were chosen as the school’s nominees for the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship at UNC-Chapel Hill: **Nathan Snyder, Caroline Styers** and **Isabelle Taylor**.
  9. Members of the **Southwest Middle** football team spent a recent Saturday morning cleaning up the school campus and working on beautification projects. Coaches **Tyree Taylor, Maurice Thomas** and **Jacob Stahl** coordinated the school clean-up efforts.
  10. Third graders at **Bessemer City Central Elementary** enjoyed the “Dirt Made My Lunch” program presented by the Schiele Museum. The presentation taught students about food, nutrition, and the environment and encouraged them to make healthy meal choices.
  11. **Bessemer City Central Elementary** hosted a special luncheon on September 18 to celebrate Grandparents Day. The students invited their grandparents to eat lunch with them at school.
  12. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** students **Gracie Devine** and **Ambrea Campbell** were chosen to participate in the final interview for “The Broadway Experience” program sponsored by the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Twelve students from the Charlotte area will be selected for the program and receive an educational trip to New York City.
  13. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** student **Marissa Garrison** was named Miss Gaston County’s Outstanding Teen and student **Ashlyn Glass** was named Miss Gastonia’s Outstanding Teen. They will compete next summer in the 2016 Miss North Carolina’s Outstanding Teen Pageant.
  14. **Brookside Elementary** kindergarten teacher **Sarah Crisp** was chosen as the Gaston County Schools representative for the Outstanding Elementary Mathematics Teacher Award presented by the N.C. Council of Teachers of Mathematics.
  15. Sixty students from **Gaston County Schools** participated in the Volunteer summer program at Holy Angels. The following students decided to continue their volunteer work at Holy Angels throughout the school year: **Matthew Trotter, Cramerton Middle; Rich Gray, Katelynn Haynie, and Chloe Johnson, Belmont Middle; Lindsey Ellis, Forestview High; Kendall Cagle, South Point High; Hope Cockerham, Hunter Huss High; Madison Pasour, North Gaston High; Grace LaBue, Stuart W. Cramer High; and Abril Jauri, Highland School of Technology**.
  16. The following students were honored at the “Do the Right Thing” awards luncheon sponsored by *The Gaston Gazette*: **Addison Norwood, Costner Elementary; Nayeli Olivas-Martinez, East Gaston High; and Heather Griffis, Bessemer City Middle**.
  17. The following students in the **East Gaston High School** Beta Club and National Honor Society volunteered at the Mount Holly Art and Music Festival: **Katie Cobb, Meredith Poole, Lindsey Blackwell, Grace Ratliff, Luke Murphy, Jordan Simpson, Josh Kaskay, Jenna Radford, Sarah Stacks, Ashton Odom, Carson Calhoun, Savannah Ballard, Jordan Hollar, Ariel Ray, Mackenzie Styles, Sydney Payne, Kaylee Meek, Morgan Abernathy, Brittany Ballard, Alex Adams and Angel Bowers**.
  18. **W.C. Friday Middle School** organized a pep rally before their annual “Pink” football game to help raise awareness of breast cancer. Students dressed in pink and the grade levels competed against each other for the school spirit award.
  19. The **W.C. Friday Middle** “Star Musician” Students of the Month for September were **Susan Christy, Sarah Gipson, Jasmyne Greene, Wesley Greeter, Haley Peninger and Carter Keller**. The recognition is presented by band director **Cindy Owens**.
  20. **Gavin Withers** and **Bryleigh Weigum** were selected as the **W.C. Friday Middle** “Do the Right Thing” winners for September. The Students of the Month were **Skyler Smarr, Austin Wood, Haleemah Zaghary, Mara Thomas, Abbie Sims, Martiona Carothers, David Hardin, Jaden McLean, Anna Martin, Evan Perkins, Alex Leatherwood, Anna Stephens** and **Dylan Boone**.
  21. **W.C. Friday Middle’s** “Jazz Cavs” band performed at the Cotton Ginning Days Festival. Seventh and eighth grade students audition for this elite jazz ensemble and rehearse four times a week before school.
  22. **Ashbrook High School** teacher **Barbara Dean** received the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence Award. She will be recognized during the annual exceptional children conference in Greensboro.

23. Two **Ashbrook High School** students earned nominations for awards given by the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. **Marah Branham** was nominated for the Sylvia Hatchell Female Scholar-Athlete Award and **Mikhail Kogan** was nominated for the Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice Male Scholar-Athlete Award.
24. **Ashbrook** student **Mikhail Kogan** received an \$80,000 academic scholarship from Wingate University.
25. **Ashbrook** students **Mallory Alman** and **Spencer Stowe** were chosen as Commended Students in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. Only the top five percent of students who participate in the scholarship program earn the distinction.
26. The **Springfield Elementary** September Students of the Month were **Abby Wolfe, Dylan Carver, Emma Baker, Molly Kuproski, Kaiden Lang, Bella Calhoun, Kira Kirkland, Kallissa McLendon, Rieghleigh Welch, Omar Reyes, Broc Benson, Brylee Benson, Laynon Featherstone, Zoie Gramarossa, Raziyah Miller, Brandon Wiley, Carmen Abernathy, Bailey Wise, August Sowell Raegan Lilja, Jacob Williamson, Kameryn Stines, Evan Lane, Mayleen Alvarado, Corey Simpson, Katelyn Smith, Emily Brooks, R.J. Love, Katelyne Payne, Gavin Burton, Atlanta Taylor, Gabriel Kirkpatrick, Braeden Cook, Christian Bedard, Valerie Reyes, Landon Dumont, Ryleigh Morris, Samantha Rogers, Reid McSwain, Austin Webb, Olivia Speight, Melody Seigle, Noelle Hamid, Zane Dodd, Jackson Cope, Travis Woods, Za’nyia Johnson, Jayce McGinnis, Katlin Baker, Jimmy Andronis, Hope Goss, Brooklyn Addair, Jacob Featherstone, Kevin Escorcia Puente, Emma Myers and Logan Pruitt.**
27. **Woodhill Elementary** held a school-wide fundraiser and collected more than \$180 for Heifer International, a charity organization that provides livestock for families living in poverty. Students chose to use their money to donate a goat and three flocks of chickens. The project was coordinated by media specialist **Edie Crook** and school counselor **Shandrai Silva**.
28. The **York Chester Middle School** Students of the Month were **Jamiyah Curry, Starr McDaniel, Hermione Neely, A’ssyria Hall, Steven Zaporta-Benitez** and **Jonathan Vazquez**.
29. **York Chester Middle** received a donation of school supplies from the local group of NCAE (North Carolina Association of Educators) retirees.
30. The **York Chester Middle** cheerleaders hosted a “Pie a Teacher” competition for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and collected donations for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Principal **Amy Holbrook** and teachers **Laura Coker** and **Julian Wilson** received a pie in the face during a pep rally.
31. **Kiser Elementary** and **Catawba Heights Elementary** hosted visits by “Hugo,” the Charlotte Hornets mascot, who brought his “Book Bus” to the schools and led a fun presentation about reading.
32. The **W.A. Bess Elementary** September Students of the Month were **Abigail Christopher, Jeremiah Bigger, Addisyn Henry, Carolina Pritchett, Taraji Mitchell, Gabriel Lora, Addison Sawyer, Kelsey Day, Katelynn McCampbell, Dalton Brown, Tiffany McIntire, Garrett Towery, Karsyn Lowman, Jace McCall, Lily Davis, Landrum Braddy, Archie Yavelak, Luke Denton, Lincoln Wilson, Dritzton Dunlap, Bayleigh Hawkins, Samantha Collins, Trinity Roddey, Leah Turner, Jessica Vazquez** and **Lucas Yavelak**.
33. **Cherryville High School** students **Austin Treadway** and **Bayleigh Henley** were nominated for the Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice and Sylvia Hatchell Scholar-Athlete Awards given by the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.
34. **Robinson Elementary** received a new American flag from N.C. Senator Kathy Harrington, who presented the flag to third grade members of the school’s flag patrol and Girls on the Run team.
35. **Robinson Elementary** principal **Bill Kessler** “camped out” on the roof of the school following a successful PTO fall membership drive. Kessler challenged the school to raise \$3,000, and the drive brought in more than \$3,500.
36. The Community Foundation of Gaston County presented a \$7,500 grant to Classroom Central. The grant makes it possible for Classroom Central to provide materials for students in **Gaston County Schools** through the “Backpacks & Basics” program.
37. The **H.H. Beam Elementary** kindergarten classes competed against each other in the school’s annual “Nursery Rhyme Olympics.” Students learned classic nursery rhymes and then participated in outdoor games.
38. The **Sherwood Elementary** September Citizens of the Month were **Johnny Crisco, Bella Conard, Christian Rowe, Za’ria Herndon, Julien Asante, David Gore, Illiana Valencia, Makayla Haynes, Naemeiney Alonso, Kourtney Hillman, David Herrera, Matthew De La Cruz, Xavier Lyon, Amor Polanco, Nicolas Miranda, Alex Bradley, Taylon Wells, Angelee Gomez, Prince Herndon, Ny’Kira Baldwin, Aki’Ra Walker, Isaac Byers, Noel Tario, Giovanni Tabares, Ja’Leah Thomas, Jasmine Sanders, Preston Balanay, Juliet Garcia, Kayden Lowman, Jameen Moore, Jackson Sheehan, Farris Smith** and **Hayden Owens**.

- Consider the National Principals Month Resolution.
- Receive information regarding the Classroom Moment/Pinnacle Base Camp.
- Receive information regarding the Secondary Classroom Moment.
- Receive information regarding the Arbiter Pay.
- Consider the Warlick Academy Roof Replacement (Areas A-E, G, Canopies 1-3).
- Receive information regarding the School Improvement Measures.
- 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 Budget Transfers
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Consultation with Attorney and Personnel.

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