



# 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, October 17, 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 June 6, 2016, June 20, 2016, August 8, 2016, August 22, 2016, and September 19, 2016 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for October 2016:
1. The average SAT score for **Gaston County Schools** increased by 15 points. The score for 2015-2016 is 1425 compared to 1410 last year. Six high schools – **Bessemer City, East Gaston, Forestview, Highland, Hunter Huss, and North Gaston** – had a higher average score. The **Highland School of Technology** ranks above the state and national averages in all three tested subject areas (math, verbal and writing) for the second consecutive year.
  2. **Gaston County Schools** hosted a series of guest speakers as part of Rachel’s Challenge, a national anti-bullying initiative now in its fifth year in Gaston County. The speakers shared their motivational stories with middle and high school students and encouraged the students to “start a chain reaction” of compassion in their schools by looking for the best in others, choosing positive influences, and acting with kindness.
  3. The following high school students were recognized by the Gaston Literacy Council for volunteering as “Reading Soul Mates” during the **Gaston County Schools** summer reading camp: **Alanie O’Dell and Cynthia Garcia, Gaston Early College High School; Julia Kim, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Molly Burns, Ashbrook High School; Madeline Bame, South Point High School; and Sonu Sangani, Highland School of Technology.**
  4. The **Cherryville High School** football team and head coach **Tim Pruitt** hosted a community night program at First United Methodist Church of Cherryville to meet and talk with local children and play games with them.
  5. Students and staff members at **John Chavis Middle School** held a fundraiser and collected more than \$2,000 to benefit the family of Noah Hampton, who died as a result of an automobile accident. The students paid \$1 to wear their favorite team jersey or sports memorabilia and to participate in a half-court basketball contest. The fundraiser was sponsored by the Chavis CARES club.
  6. **W.C. Friday Middle School** eighth grader **Martiona Carothers** participated in a residential summer program for students in middle and high school who are interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field. The program was sponsored by the Charlotte Area Health Education Center.
  7. **Cramerton Middle School** sixth grader **Faith Tucker** performed as a “Junior Top Cat” cheerleader before a Carolina Panthers home game.
  8. **Brookside Elementary** first grader **Devin Phillips** collected books during his birthday party for a book drive at **Carr Elementary**. He recently delivered his donation of 40 books to **Carr** principal **Rebekah Duncan**.
  9. **Teresa Thomassen**, instructional technology facilitator for **Gaston County Schools**, earned certification as an Apple Teacher. Apple Teachers are recognized for their understanding of how to use Apple computer products to enhance teaching and learning. She earned the certification after passing a series of six comprehensive tests.
  10. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** teacher **Chuck Stowe** was elected to serve as president of the North Carolina Theatre Arts Educators, which is the statewide organization for educators who teach theatre in grades K-12. He will serve a three-year term from now until September 2019.
  11. The **Bessemer City High School** marching band hosted a “change war” for two weeks and asked students to donate money to support the “Reach for the Stars” program at **Bessemer City Primary**. The band raised \$191.23 to purchase books.
  12. Students and parents at **Belmont Central Elementary, Hunter Huss High School, and Lingerfeldt Elementary** participated in National Walk to School Day. The Lingerfeldt students were accompanied by volunteers from business partner Chemtura. The national event is designed to teach students about pedestrian safety and the health benefits of walking.
  13. **Cramerton Middle School** seventh grader **Ahmad Blair** was invited to serve as emcee for the Junior Achievement fundraising dinner. He was selected after attending the BizTown program for a week this summer. Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.
  14. Students at **Woodhill Elementary** donated \$440 in change to the Gastonia Police Foundation. The school sponsored the money collection in an effort to teach the children about supporting their community. It’s an idea inspired by the children’s book “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds. The students also got an opportunity to spend time with officers and learn about the police department’s bomb squad and K-9 units. School media specialist **Nicole Hallman** organized the fundraiser.

15. Teachers and staff at **Page Primary** dressed as superheroes for a day in honor of Jacob Hall, the child who died recently as a result of a tragic school shooting in South Carolina.
16. Using cardboard, recycled materials, and their imagination, students at **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy** created more than 100 unique games as they participated in the Global Cardboard Challenge. The activity taught students about engineering and design.
17. **Belmont Central Elementary** sponsored a STEAM Challenge Day that included building activities related to classic fairy tales. At **Springfield Elementary**, the school held STEAM Night and gave students and their families an opportunity to participate in engineering challenges, educational games using iPads, and math and reading activities. STEAM focuses on five academic areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.
18. The September “Do the Right Thing” award winners were **Madison Baylock, North Gaston High School; Kendall Richardson, W.A. Bess Elementary; and Esli Cruz-Dionicio, Southwest Middle School**. The awards program is sponsored by *The Gaston Gazette* and recognizes students for acts of kindness and “doing the right thing.”
19. Students and staff at **Webb Street School, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy, and York Chester Middle School** participated in activities to celebrate International Day of Peace.
20. Juniors and seniors from all 11 high schools had the opportunity to get information and visit with representatives from more than 70 colleges during the **Gaston County Schools** College Day program. Gaston College hosted the event in partnership with the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.
21. **Robinson Elementary** hosted 28 students for its first Book Club meeting that featured activities associated with the book, *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*. The club’s next meeting will focus on the book, *The One and Only Ivan*.
22. The **Robinson Elementary** cafeteria staff earned a 99 percent sanitation rating.
23. Students involved in the RamTV program at the **Highland School of Technology** got the opportunity to tour the WBTV Channel 3 studios in Charlotte and talk with the news staff about their work. School media specialist **Laura Long** coordinated the trip.
24. The **Rankin Elementary** student council established the “Early Bird for Champion Readers and Buddies” program. Student council members are paired with other students to establish new friendships and offer a helping hand with reading. The program is conducted on Fridays before the start of school. Student council adviser **Katie Johnson** coordinates the activities.

- Classroom Moment.
- Operations Committee Report.
- Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the Lightspeed Web Filtering Solution.
- Consider the Merit-Based Bonus Plan.
- Consider Student Records.
- 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.
  - Proposed Board Policy Revisions and Adoptions.
  - School Improvement Plans.
  - Professional Development for Superintendent’s Leadership Academy.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session - Personnel.

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