

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 on Monday, April 20, 2015, 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 March 2, 2015 and March 16, 2015 meetings and March 16, 2015 public hearing.
 - Receive the following Good News:
1. **Kevin Li**, a seventh grader at **Belmont Middle**, and **Nehemiah Stovall**, a fourth grader at **Pinewood Elementary**, qualified to compete in the North Carolina National Geographic Bee held at UNC-Charlotte.
 2. The following schools earned top honors in the Battle of the Books competition. The East Division winners were **Costner Elementary**, first place; **Carr Elementary**, second place; **New Hope Elementary**, third place; and **W.A. Bess Elementary**, fourth place. The West Division winners were **W. Blaine Beam Intermediate**, first place; **Bessemer City Central Elementary**, second place; **McAdenville Elementary**, third place; and **Catawba Heights Elementary**, fourth place.
 3. **East Gaston High School** senior **Tyler Rapp** is the recipient of two prestigious, full-tuition scholarships: the UNC-Charlotte Levine Scholarship and the Park Scholarship from North Carolina State University.
 4. **East Gaston High** students and staff got an up-close look at a Cobra Annie military helicopter during a program sponsored by the U.S. Army. Guest speakers discussed the construction of the helicopter as it relates to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and described how the helicopter was used during the Vietnam War.
 5. Students in the **East Gaston High** HOSA club received recognition at the State HOSA Leadership Conference. **Tyler Rapp** placed third in the medical math competition and qualified for the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. **Harley Bourgeois**, **Stephane Costner**, **Emily Davis** and **Amanda Angstadt** placed seventh in the public service announcement competition.
 6. The **East Gaston High** concert choir was chosen to sing the national anthem at the Charlotte Hornets basketball game on March 9. **Peter Haley** is the director.
 7. **Board of Education** member **Dot Guthrie** was chosen to serve as co-chair of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's 2017 national conference, which will be held in Atlanta.
 8. The **Bessemer City High School** band achieved a superior rating at the North Carolina Music Performance Adjudication. **Laradon Pilot** is the director.
 9. **Bessemer City High** senior **Tyler Bess** received a full-tuition presidential scholarship to attend Greensboro College where he plans to play football.
 10. **Bessemer City High** biology teachers **Tiffany Fletcher**, **Sarah Fink** and **Megan Trimnal** were chosen to present a workshop at the SPARC3 Conference sponsored by Gaston College. SPARC3 is a program that enhances the college experience for students studying science, technology, engineering and math.
 11. **Bessemer City High School** boys' basketball coach **Danny McDowell** was named the Southern Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year. Senior **Asante Sanders** was named the Conference Player of the Year, and he and senior **Kwon Wright** were chosen for the all-conference team.
 12. **Gaston County Schools** had several students to earn awards at the North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair. **Devin Totherow**, **Amanda Rhyne** and **Kyra Crossgrove** from **Gaston Early College High School** won the U.S. Naval Research Award and **Mallory Alman** of **Ashbrook High School** won awards from the N.C. American Water Works Association, N.C. Water Environment Association and the U.S. Army.
 13. **Belmont Middle School** student **Ryan Proud** earned second place in the middle school chemistry category at the North Carolina Student Academy of Science competition.
 14. **Robinson Elementary** received a \$3,000 grant from the Intermec Foundation to purchase iPads for first grade classes. Teacher **Casey Surratt** coordinated the grant application.
 15. The **Robinson Elementary** second grade classes hosted the fifth annual Wax Museum program that gave the children an opportunity to portray famous Americans. Students in the third grade read 670 books during the "Reading the Most Coast-to-Coast" celebration. The school also enjoyed a visit by state representative Dana Bumgardner.
 16. **Robinson Elementary** students, staff and families raised \$1,800 in the Pennies for Patients fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. **Lorna Poe's** kindergarten class raised the most money.
 17. The **Bessemer City Central Elementary** student council conducted a fundraiser and collected \$158.16 for the school's media center.
 18. **Bessemer City Central Elementary** student **Lilly Greene** won the school's spelling bee.
 19. The **Cherryville High School** concert band earned a superior rating for the second consecutive year at the South Central District Music Performance Adjudication.

20. The **Costner Elementary** February Good Citizens were **Vidal Saldana, Nathan Pruitt, Ksea Graham, Sophie Dabrawaski, Austin Allen, Camden Kanupp, Leland Williams, Yaritza Villafuerte, Brittany Reid, Gracie Hullett, Noah Brown, Avery Cotton, Maddey Ammons, Garrett Richardson, Tristan Ryall, Jahaziah Barnette, Chloe Bell, Rachel Dellinger, Drake Lytton, Lauren Romines, Emma Dease, Emilie Welch, Dalton Taylor, Lauren Martin and Haleemah Zaghary.**
21. The **Costner Elementary** March Good Citizens were **Katelyn Dahir, Gunner Edwards, Nehemiah Whitworth, Logan McKnight, Daisy Dellinger, Aiden Griffen, Hayden Routhier, Taylor Boone, Ayden Stines, Bryson Ballard, Solomon Rhyne, Callie Keller, Savannah Glenn, Hayden Davis, Mariella Weathers, Allison Frietch, Ethan DeVern, Addi Hendrix, Aaron Wood, Emily Lane, Parker Smith, Carter Wright, Makayla McSwain, Holland McCarter, Gabby Carver, Austin Wood and Christopher Mintz.**
22. **Costner Elementary** held its first “Cougar Connections” event that involved students from all grade levels teaming up for reading, math and science activities. Kindergarteners and fourth graders created model habitats for bears during hibernation. First and third graders conducted a force and motion experiment using Hot Wheel cars. Second and fifth grade students were involved in a Reader’s Workshop lesson about the “5-Finger Rule.”
23. The **North Gaston High School** art club and students in **Deborah Hamer’s** art class at **Forestview High School** designed hand-painted chairs for the “Chairs of Life” auction and fundraiser sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse Gaston.
24. The following **North Gaston High** students had artwork selected for the “Through An Artist’s Eyes” exhibit at the Gaston County Museum in Dallas: **Madison Riley, Sabrina Greene, Frances Fisher, Kamryn Camp, Jenna Starnes, Liyah Grant, Monica Walters, Chloe Hamilton, Syerra Greene, Alexis Fahrenholtz, Cammie Greenwood, Kelly McAbee and Cerys Webber.**
25. The **North Gaston High** symphonic band received a superior rating at the N.C. Music Performance Adjudication. The band received an A or B grade in all categories, which resulted in the superior rating. This is the fourth consecutive year and sixth out of the last nine years that the band has earned a superior rating.
26. The **Rankin Elementary** February Principal’s Pride award winners were **Avery Hodgeman, Trevor Hall, Trevor Harless, Zach Willer, Caleb Craig, Jacob Ramirez, Jake Washam, Madison Harris, Ashley Pearson, Derrick Eley, Dyllon Byrd, Anna Shuler, Layla Ferdinand, Slick Luangrath, Kirin Lee, Jaylea McGinnis, Matthew Hamilton, Michael Morgan, Cohen Wilson, Seth Coleman, Dimitri English, Zach Hatfield, Karmen Hunter, Kassie Boughman, Kaelyn Jackson, Tajh Whitley, Kingston Curry and Avery Robnet.**
27. The **Rankin Elementary** February Students of the Month were **Jayda Foster, Natalie Harrill, Mackenzie Barton, Paris Lippman, Alan Kheang, Donna Woods, Maggie Varney, Jaden Harvell, Brooklyn Tidd, Olivia Michael, Amare Davis, Olivia Black, Keaton Davis, Matthew Wofford, Sabrina Pressley, Diamond Wilson, Murphy Reynolds, Adrianah Pressley, Jayden Taylor, Noah Henson, Nakhone Chanthak, Sherri Russell, Austin Washington, MacKenzie Brunner, Tyler Boykin, Landon Lee, Mya Hinton and Skyler Nanthaseung.**
28. **W.A. Bess Elementary’s** fifth grade classes enjoyed a visit from students in the **Ashbrook High School** Advanced Placement physics class and teacher **Bianca Yavelak.** The students conducted activities about speed as it relates to distance and time and the effect of friction on speed.
29. **W.A. Bess Elementary** fourth grader **Gabby Knight** won first place in the “Art for Heart” contest sponsored by The Heart Society of Gaston County. Fourth grader **Jade Juarez** took second place in the competition.
30. **Webb Street School** was one of the winners in the “I Love A Clean School” contest sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful. Student **Jarell Carothers** earned an honorable mention award in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Arbor Day poster contest.
31. Students from the **Gaston Early College High School** visited **Webb Street School** and led an Arbor Day celebration that included an art project and planting a tree. **Highland School of Technology** graphic arts students also visited the school to help create two art pieces that are on display at the school. Additionally, the **Webb Street** staff visited North Shelby School for a professional development program.
32. **Holbrook Middle** students participated in a school-wide Career Day program coordinated by school counselors **Erin Stokes** and **Amelia Clemmons.** More than 45 professionals and business owners discussed job opportunities with the students.
33. **W.C. Friday Middle School** and its Project Unify club won the “Polar Plunge” competition sponsored by the Special Olympics of Gaston County. The school donated more than \$3,000 to capture the fundraising award for the third consecutive year.
34. **McAdenville Elementary** and the school’s business partner Pharr Yarns won the annual “Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?” competition. The event raised more than \$29,000, which will be used by the Gaston County Education Foundation to fund grants for innovative classroom activities.
35. **Warlick Academy** students are involved in a “Breakfast of Champions” mentoring program organized by volunteers from the United Methodist Mission Network 10 organization. The twice-monthly breakfasts feature motivational speakers and discussion. **John Logan,** the Navy JROTC instructor at **South Point High School,** was the guest speaker for a recent program.
36. **Sarah Patel,** a student in **Jamye Craig’s** class at **Gardner Park Elementary,** won the school’s spelling bee. The first runner-up was **Hannah Veradi** and the second runner-up was **Audrey Spencer,** who are in **Adrianne Dellovade’s** class.
37. **South Point High School** received the Chapter of Distinction Award at the N.C. DECA Career Development Conference. The following students were recognized for scoring proficiency on their presentations in business, marketing and entrepreneurship: **Sanval Ali, Sean Chaudhry, Lauren Andrews, Madison Canterberry, Jessica Helton and Vageli Mageras.** **Rhonda Van Pelt** is the club adviser.
38. The **South Point High** chamber choir received a superior rating in Grade VI music at the N.C. Music Performance Adjudication. The advanced women’s choir and the beginning chorus received an excellent rating in Grade IV music. The director is **Melissa Glover.**
39. **South Point High** junior **Grace Russell** was appointed to serve as a student adviser on the N.C. State Board of Education.

40. Several **South Point High** students received awards in the 51st annual Belmont Oratorical Contest. The first place “gold” winners were **Ben Miller** and **Rosie Tran** and the second place “silver” winners were **Franklin Bogle** and **Lauren Andrews**.
41. The **Highland School of Technology** math club placed first in the grades 9-10 and 11-12 divisions at the TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) competition at UNC-Charlotte. **Joe Yavelak** is the club adviser and members are **Tobi Adekun, Jennifer Chan, George Dent, Baldev Desai, Bonham Ekleberry, Reilly Gallagher, Jesse Hambrick, Michael McMahon, Miriam Okonkwo, Christian Rodgers, Hayley Rose, Ryan Thurston, Ethan Wu** and **Evann Wu**.
42. The following **Highland** students attended Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) National Summit in Raleigh: **Haley Best, Dominique Bradley, Genesis Dingle, Savannah Duncan, David Hamilton, Laura Medina-Hernandez, Brandon Moore, Miriam Okonkwo, Cameron Prince** and **Sidney Roberts**. Student **Haley Abernathy** is serving as the president of the SAVE National Youth Advisory Board.
43. Fifteen **Highland** students volunteered at the **Sadler Elementary** Family Science Night. Each student assisted in operating a booth and demonstrated a science concept for the elementary students and their families.
44. **Highland** students **Baldev Desai, Miriam Okonkwo, Ethan Wu** and **Evann Wu** were accepted to the residential program at the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics. Okonkwo was also accepted to the N.C. Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics program.
45. Several **Highland** students qualified to compete at the National TSA (Technology Student Association) Conference after winning first place at the state competition. The national qualifiers are **Taylor Hughes, Alex Matthew, Jacob Phil** and **Ethan Turner** in the animatronics category and **George Dent** in technical sketching. Other award winners at the state competition were **Jonathan Baysden, Brant Black, Corbin Bumeter, Annalee Decker, Emma Lineberger, Kathryn McIntosh, Jacob Phil, Jesse Hamrick, Nate Devenny, Evan Escobedo, Evann Wu, Mitchell Bowen, Luke Hastings** and **Savannah Lutz**.
46. The **Highland** HOSA chapter was honored for excellence at the annual North Carolina HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Leadership Conference. The chapter received special recognition for its charitable work and newsletter and was named the Outstanding HOSA Chapter. Highland is a N.C. HOSA Gold Chapter and the largest 1A chapter in the state. Ten students placed in the top three of their competitive events and qualified to attend the national conference: **Collin Hill, Gabrielle Whiteman, Noele Jones, Erin Farris, Ellen Terry, Savannah Lawing, Alexis Burton, Ginna Suarez, Haley Abernathy** and **Logan Runyan**. Other students placing in the top ten of their competitive events were **Austin Lowry, Sidney Roberts, Caroline Cole, Kensley Fisher, Victoria Coulter, Kelsey Best, Jenna Payne, Makayla Young, Madison Brooks, Corinthia Friday, Sarah Eagan, Miriam Okonkwo, Brian Koo, MacKenzie Foust, Metra Sheshbaradaran, Emily Aguilar, Amber Courtemanche** and **Maria Araujo**. Additionally, **Amber Courtemanche** received the HOSA District 6 Scholarship.
47. Four **Highland** students were selected to attend the prestigious Governor’s School of North Carolina: **George Dent, Savannah Lutz, Matthew Noles** and **Ellie Sweezy**.
48. **Highland** student **Malik Currence** received the E.R. and Lillian B. Dimmette Scholarship.
49. The **Cramerton Middle School** eighth grade chorus earned several awards at the Festival Disney 2015 competition in Orlando. The treble chorus earned first place in its division and the mixed chorus earned second place. Both ensembles received “Best in Class” awards. Fifty-four students participated in the competition. **Patty Fayssoux** is the choral director and **Susan Lisle** and **Katie Carpenter** are the accompanists.
50. **Belmont Middle School** eighth grader **Jashawn Camp** was honored for his community leadership as the first winner of the “Campbell & Cody” recognition program. He received a surprise visit at school from Charlotte Hornets player Cody Zeller. Camp is captain of the AAU basketball team and volunteers at his church to help provide food for people who are homeless.
51. The **Belmont Middle** Battle of the Books team won the county and regional championships and will compete for the state title in Greensboro. Team members are **Savannah Allman, Abi Barbu, Christopher Bumgardner, Kathryn Cupp, Sophia DeMark, Grayson Dunbar, Ethan Goodwin, Grace Goodwin, Kevin Li, Grace Nehring, Taylor O’Hare** and **Priyanj Patel**. The coaches are **Linda Cathcart** and **Angie Alexander**.
52. The **Belmont Middle** “Beauty and the Bots” robotics team received a donation of \$250 from PSNC Energy. The funds will support the students’ “iCan4iPads” fundraiser to benefit the residents of Holy Angels. The team is coached by **Belmont Middle** teacher **Deb Elmore** and **Carmin Adams**, a teacher at **Catawba Heights Elementary**.
53. **Tryon Elementary** collected more than \$800 for the Autism Speaks organization. As part of the fundraising efforts, five staff members participated in a special “pie in the face” contest won by principal **Todd Dellinger**. Preschool teacher **Brigitte Pitts** organized the fundraiser.
54. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** fifth grader **Derek Bradley** was named to the first team of Pop Warner Scholar-Athletes for the Mid-South Region. He was also named a National Pop Warner All-American Scholar, an award for students in the top two percent academically of the 375,000 Pop Warner athletes nationwide.
55. **Woodhill Elementary** fifth grader **Analy Diaz** had her logo design selected for the Mountain to Mountain Bike Ride, a fundraiser for The Alliance for Children & Youth and Communities in Schools.
56. **Gaston County Schools** had a group of employees to attend the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Professionals (NCAEOP) conference. The following administrative professionals received their Professional Standards Program certification or renewal this year: **Michelle Allen, Susan Brooks, Pam Dellinger, Cindy Guthrie, Jackie Hall, Jan Hames, Julie Hunter, Elizabeth Mashburn, Gina McBride, Beverly McCombs, Lavondra McClain, Iris Mills, Doris Moss, Geri Nivens, Darlene Oakley, Sherri Parham, Dana Phillips, June Rogers, Marie Taylor, Tina Walker, Wendy Waller, Sandra Whitmire, Charlotte Wright, Tonya Young** and **Vicki Welch**.

57. The **Springfield Elementary** February Students of the Month were **Emma Burgess, Elijah Chavis, Mason Merrill, Parris Mauldin, Seth Massey, Bryce Kiser, Emma Massey, Natalie Smith, Theresa Williams, Ray Klouse, Elyse Foster, Bandi Schmelter, Kody Trantham, Kayden Barr, Aiden Gay, Maggie Ballard, Abby White, Mackenzie Hart, Olivia Kegley, Kloie Perry, Lilly Wall, Chase Corely, Noah Peeler, Kaylee Curtis, Brenda Curtis, Harley Chastin, Robert Curtis, Gavin Gunter, Ashlee Huss, Andrew Caudill, Harrison Smith, Reygan Stowe, Hunter Davis, Grantlee Freeman, Ava Brooks, Briar Huffman, Chadyn Roddey, Matthew Pierre, Jayce Rowe, Makenna Yow, Jimi Thornburg, Waylon Featherstone, Ty Adkins, Garrick Spake, Taylor Ann Nolan, Wyatt Aldred, Megan Pettus, L.J. Featherstone, Landon Smith, Kayley Chaney and Jake Vernon.**
58. The **Springfield Elementary** March Students of the Month were **Madison White, Gavin Santiago, NeVeah Jackson, Lacey Edwards, Amberic Lowe, Liam McLendon, Adrian Lambert, Samantha Rogers, Trent Taylor, Brianna Keovongsa, Atlanta Taylor, Valerie Reyes, Donte Thompson, Alyssa Nicholson, Jacob Williamson, Bella Symonds, Kody Kirkland, Cooper Austin, Kaiden Messerschmidt, Nathan Parker, Helena Healy, Wendy Garcia Zavala, Lillie Rankin, Zarjhia Goode, Ashlyn Price, Aleijah Gillenwater, Melody Seigle, Izabella Hughes, Isaiah Goins, Hannah Somers, Jy'Kim Hall, Kyndall Phillips, Isiah Hutto, Makenna Snipes, Jordan Sims, Kaylee Revis, Lawson Burgess, Selina Ashe, Jason Garica, Trey'von Johnson, Halie Jo Gosnell, Logan Masters, Damien Thompson, Lucas Blackburn, Steven Abernathy, Maddie Pettus, Gavin Chance, Summer Dillow and Hannah Aponte.**
59. The **Gardner Park Elementary** February Terrific Kids were **Benjamin Guerrero Cortez, Thilyn Lindsay, Rylan Greene, Kaleb Huff, Carolina Leal Alfonso, Jeremiah Ivester, Brayden Bagnell, Kendal Clubb, Grayson Tate, Daren Morales, Aldair Avendano Melcor, Sophia Grevey, Anna Campbell, Gavin Fields, Janiya-Marie Acosta, Carson Sherer, Carolyn Parsons, Victoria Moscol, Plamedi Warsinsky, Hayden Massey, James Bolinsky, Anna Townsend, Ashley Martell, Danari McIlwain, Lauren Bolin, Ronnie Sparks, James Bailey, Stephany Acosta and Peyton Montgomery.**
60. **Cherryville High School** senior **Jalie Creech** and **Forestview High School** senior **Jeffrey Friday** were the Best and Brightest 2015 scholarship winners presented by *The Gaston Gazette*.

61. **Chavis Middle School** received a donation of \$425 from the St. Dorothy's Council of the Knights of Columbus. The funds will be used to purchase supplies for the exceptional children program.
62. **Kayla Hill**, an eighth grader at **Chavis Middle**, won the school's spelling bee. **Trae Costner**, a sixth grader, was the runner-up.
63. **North Belmont Elementary** student **Hailey Royall** won the school's spelling bee and **Brandon Gonzalez** was the runner-up.
64. **Stanley Middle** student **Rebecca Watts** won the school's spelling bee.
65. The **Sherwood Elementary** March Citizens of the Month for March were **Abigail Perrone, Iliana Valencia, Anaya Cunningham, Jacqueline Aguire Zarate, Destiny Hughes, Israel Miller, DeAsia Cole, Josiah Colon, Gabrielle Campbell, Christopher Garcia-Platas, Matthew De La Cruz, Lillyan Mulwee, Willa Lovelace, Jordyn Hampton, Samantha Ventura Ayala, Issac Byers, Jazlyn Harrell, Ruth Cano, Cava Blackwell, Brandon Love, Kevin Tabares, Sebastian Hernandez, Quest Points, John Marte, Deston Hibberts, Omarr Hardin, Candy Gomez, Fidel Medina Gomez, Christell Cano, Madison Walker and Kynsten Marlow.**
66. **Sherwood Elementary** sponsored the Pennies for Patients fundraiser and collected \$2,842.65 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The student council organized the fundraiser.
67. **Sherwood Elementary** fifth grade teacher **Christina Smith** was selected as a Discovery Education Network STAR Teacher. The distinction recognizes her effective use of digital media and technology to transform students' learning experiences.
68. Students at **Rankin Elementary School** presented the production, *Magic Tree House: The Knight at Dawn KIDS*, for parents, teachers and guests from the community. It was the school's eleventh musical production. Music teacher **Jeff Ingle** directed the program.
69. **Ashbrook High School** special education teacher **Lindsay Taylor** was featured in an *Education Week* article about online classes for students with disabilities.
70. **Ashbrook High School** won the annual Gaston County baseball tournament. **Forestview** took second place and **Hunter Huss** earned third place.

- Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report.
- Consider the 2015-2016 Gaston Early College School Calendar.
- Receive information regarding the Human Resource Services Annual Report.
- Consider the Adoption of 2015-2016 Superintendent's Budget Request.
- Receive information regarding the New Schools Update.
- Award of Architectural Design for New Elementary School in West Gastonia.
- Award of Architectural Design for New Middle School in Stanley.
- Consider the McAdenville Elementary Roof Project.
- 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.
 - Capital Budget Amendment.
 - Facilities Projects Ratification.
- Superintendent's Comments.
- Closed Session - Award and Personnel.

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