

The Gaston County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016, 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 regular meeting, an opportunity will be provided for the public to address the Board.
 - Consider approval of minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting and March 21, 2016 legislative meeting.
 - Receive the following Good News for April 2016:
- Gaston County Schools** received a special visit from country music singer **Jimmy Wayne**, who visited several schools the week of April 4. Wayne, a graduate of **Bessemer City High School**, spoke to students at **Carr Elementary, Chavis Middle, Stanley Middle, Bessemer City Middle, Pleasant Ridge Elementary, and North Gaston High School** about his life story and performed several songs.
 - Ashbrook High School** student **Mallory Alman** received the Park Scholarship from N.C. State University. The prestigious scholarship is valued at \$100,000 for undergraduate studies over four years. Alman was also selected to participate in an international high school science fair. I-SWEEEP, the International Sustainable World (Energy, Engineering, and Environment) Project, takes place in Houston, Texas and is the largest event of its kind worldwide. Alman’s project, “Production of Cellulose Acetate, Polylactic Acid, and Nonprofessional Plastic from Kudzu,” was selected in the Engineering category.
 - Ashbrook** students swept the awards in the Women’s History Month Essay Contest sponsored by the American Association of University Women. **Elizabeth Hendrix, Wade Wilson** and **Isabel Stellato** finished first, second and third. They are students in **Jean Miller’s** class.
 - Students from **Ashbrook** and **Forestview** high schools earned scholarships for an educational summer trip to Gotha, Germany. The German Language and Culture Foundation donated \$12,500 to fund the study abroad experience. Students earning scholarships are **Catalina Aguero, Josh Bartlett, Dia Ray, Amelia Taylor, Jacob Towne, Cory Lineberger, Tricia Levi, Braden Oak, William Roberts** and **Savannah Silver**.
 - Students at **Belmont Middle, W.B. Beam Intermediate, Chavis Middle, and Southwest Middle** participated in the Google Expeditions program that gave them the opportunity to experience virtual reality field trips using Google Cardboard viewers.
 - Bessemer City Central Elementary** sponsored a “Pasta for Pennies” fundraiser and collected \$1,708.35 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
 - The **Bessemer City High School** baseball team and athletics department hosted an Autism Awareness Night program. Students **Aubrey Bridges** and **Brock Lineberger** were named honorary Yellow Jackets for the game.
 - Bessemer City Primary** received a donation of more than 30 backpacks from the Kiser Senior Center program participants and First Baptist Church of Bessemer City.
 - Catelyn Franklin** of **Brookside Elementary** was named the Gaston County School Library Media Coordinator of the Year.
 - The **New Hope Elementary** PTA purchased 16 iPads for the school’s kindergarten and first grade classrooms.
 - Belmont Middle School’s** eighth grade band received a superior rating at the District Music Performance Adjudication held at Wingate University.
 - The **Belmont Middle** Science Olympiad team placed ninth overall in a field of 24 teams at their first-ever competition held at Catawba Valley Community College. The students placed in 10 of the 23 events. Science teacher **Timothy Jones** is the team adviser.
 - Carr Elementary** teachers received classroom funding requests through the DonorsChoose.org program. Music teacher **Stacie Bell** earned funding for her projects titled “Music Resources for PreK-3” and “Mrs. B’s Chorus and Ukulele Club.” First grade teacher **Hannah Reynolds’** project allowed her to receive 25 stability balls for her classroom.
 - Five teams and 69 students from **Cherryville High School** earned scholar-athlete recognition from the N.C. High School Athletic Association for the 2015 fall/winter sports season. The volleyball, women’s tennis, wrestling, cheerleading, and women’s basketball teams were honored for having a combined grade point average of 3.1 or higher.
 - The **Stuart W. Cramer High School** and **Highland School of Technology** theater arts programs were featured in a PBS Charlotte documentary about the Blumey Awards, which honor excellence in high school theater productions. Both schools have been nominated for awards: **Stuart W. Cramer** students and theater director **Chuck Stowe** for “Hairspray” and **Highland** and theater director **Allison Shaw** for “Little Shop of Horrors.”
 - East Gaston High School** performed the national anthem and displayed the American flag for the Charlotte Hornets home basketball game on March 21. Teacher **Peter Haley** directed the concert choir’s performance.
 - Students from **East Gaston** and **Forestview** high schools earned top awards in the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Arbor Day poster competition. From **East Gaston**, **Rachel McFarland** earned first place and **Isaac Black** received an honorable mention. Their teacher is **Justin Allison**. **Katlyn Kendrick** of **Forestview** earned second place. Her art teacher is **Travis Johnson**. The winners were honored by the Gastonia City Council.
 - Students from **Chapel Grove, Forest Heights** and **Woodhill** elementary schools were named winners in the City of Gastonia’s fair housing coloring contest. The winners are **Stephen Iyevbele, Woodhill; Lilly Om** and **Kassidy Fox, Forest Heights; and Valey Rivera, Isabella Lerma** and **Cesar Manon, Chapel Grove**.
 - W.C. Friday Middle School** and its Project Unify group were the top fundraisers in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics of Gaston County. Almost 30 teachers and students took the plunge after raising \$3,300 for the Special Olympics. They held fundraising activities at school such as a food eating contest and penny collection.
 - Gaston Early College High School** has partnered with the broadcasting department of Gaston College to produce weekly news segments. The news crew, a group of seniors enrolled in journalism at the high school level, works with college staff and interns to write, videotape, and produce the news for the school. The students are **Kate Braswell, Kayla Walker, Alex Fugett, Olivia Hudson, Caylin McRavion** and **James Wessinger**. The students also wrote an article about the experience for the North Carolina New Schools blog.
 - Britnee Reid’s** sixth grade class at **Grier Middle School** enjoyed a special geology presentation from Dr. David Campbell, a professor at Gardner-Webb University. Campbell spoke to the class as part of the “Invite-A-Scientist” program sponsored by the N.C. Science Festival.

22. **Hawks Nest Intermediate** fifth graders **Kendal McJunkins, A’ja Adams, Makayla Wamsley** and **Anna Grace Dickson** organized a canned food drive and stuffed animal collection with the help of school counselor **Alisa Wheeler**. They collected 96 cans of food and 136 stuffed animals for Family Promise of Gaston County, which serves homeless families.

23. **Woodhill Elementary** collected approximately 33,300 pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House as a school service project.

24. Students from the **Highland School of Technology** math club earned first place awards in the Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS) contest at UNC-Charlotte. TEAMS is an annual competition for middle and high school students designed to help them discover their potential for engineering. **Joseph Yavelak** is the club adviser.

25. **Highland** senior **Haley Abernathy** won the SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Student of the Year Award at the SAVE Summit held at N.C. State University. She is president of the school’s SAVE club.

26. **Highland** student **Brady Miller** received a three-year, Army ROTC scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill.

27. The following **Highland** students earned merit scholarships: **Max Miranda**, University of South Carolina and Mercer University; and **Matt Noles**, University of South Carolina.

28. **Highland** senior **George Dent** achieved a perfect score on the Math Level II and Physics SAT subject tests. He is also the recipient of the Helen Friday Cloninger piano scholarship.

29. **Highland** student **Nicole Wolf** was selected to participate in the National Hispanic Recognition Program based on her outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

30. **Highland** students involved in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) earned 32 medals at the state conference with 24 students qualifying to compete at the national level. The school also was awarded the FBLA Gold Seal Chapter of Merit for the fourth consecutive year.

31. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** began a “One School, One Book” program with all students receiving a copy of “The World According to Humphrey” by Betty Birney. Students and their families will read the book together, and students will complete assignments about the book in their reading journals. The school also got a new pet hamster named “Humphrey,” who is visiting each class.

32. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** conducted a “Loving the Little” drive to collect items for local animal shelters. Students donated items such as food, toys, leashes, stainless steel bowls, shampoo, and nail trimmers and collected 312 items. The drive was organized by the school’s “Girl Power” group, which is led by school social worker **Nohra Nunez**.

33. **North Gaston High School** senior and state champion wrestler **Lathan Bumgarner** finished fifth in the National High School Coaches Association wrestling tournament in Virginia Beach to earn All-American status.

34. The March “Do the Right Thing” award winners were **Joseph Ramos Perez, Carr Elementary; Alicia Maceda, Belmont Middle; and Jarell Carothers, Webb Street School**.

35. **Robinson Elementary** dedicated its annual Teacher of the Year Award as the Kay Turner Award. Teachers and staff held a ceremony to name the award for Ms. Turner. The trophy will be passed on to **Amber Litfin**, the school’s current Teacher of the Year.

36. The **South Point High School** Interact Club held a school-wide fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and raised more than \$2,500.

37. **South Point** students **Jasmine Stokes** (trumpet) and **Christopher Seay** (tuba) earned seats in the 2016 North Carolina All-State Honors Band. They will go to UNC-Chapel Hill to rehearse with the best players in the state under internationally renowned guest conductors in the All-State Band Clinic.
- A Classroom Moment.
 - Receive information regarding the Operations Committee Report.
 - Consider the Awarding of School Contract for New Elementary School.
 - Consider the Awarding of School Contract for New Middle School.
 - Consider the 2016-2017 Gaston Early College High School Calendar.
 - Consider the Recommended Approval of 2016-2017 Gaston County Board of Education Budget Request.
 - 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 – Personnel.
- For more information, please contact the Communications/Public Information Department, Todd Hagans, 704-866-6118.