



# 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, October 16, 2017, 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 July 17, 2017, August 7, 2017, and August 21, 2017 meetings.
  - Receive the following Good News for October 2017:
1. **Highland School of Technology** was chosen as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. The distinction is presented by the U.S. Department of Education. Highland is one of only six schools in North Carolina and 342 schools in the country selected for the honor this year.
  2. The graduation rate for **Gaston County Schools** has increased to 88.3 percent, which is the highest ever for the school district. Since the state first calculated the graduation rate in 2006, Gaston County has increased 20.2 points from 68.1 percent to 88.3 percent.
  3. The overall student proficiency rate on the state end-of-grade and end-of-course tests has increased for **Gaston County Schools**. The proficiency rate for the 2016-2017 academic year is 55 percent compared to 52.9 percent the previous year. Additionally, the district had more schools to exceed academic growth expectations.
  4. **South Point High School** student **Jessica Helton** and **Highland School of Technology** students **Mary Martin** and **Nicholas Thorpe** were selected as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They are three of approximately 16,000 students from across the country chosen for this honor and will continue in the competition for a National Merit Scholarship.
  5. **James Swayney** of **Hunter Huss High School** and **Scott Queen** of **Stuart W. Cramer High School** were selected for "The Broadway Experience" program sponsored by the N.C. Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. The program is an all-expenses 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. **Chuck Stowe**, theater arts teacher at **Stuart W. Cramer High School**, was chosen to serve as a chaperone for the trip.
  6. **Hunter Huss High School** football coach **Jamal McKoy** was selected as "Coach of the Week" for the Carolina Panthers vs. New Orleans Saints football game. McKoy along with other "Coach of the Week" award recipients will be honored with an on-field presentation at the December 17 game against the Green Bay Packers. As "Coach of the Week," McKoy received a \$1,000 donation from the Carolina Panthers, Toshiba, and the National Football League for the school's athletic program.
  7. **Hunter Huss High School** athletic director **Steve Gardner** received the Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award for Region 6. The award was presented by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.
  8. **Carr Elementary** received a \$4,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The youth literacy grant will be used to support the "One Book, One School" program that involves students and teachers reading the same book and being involved in activities and discussions related to the book.
  9. A group of high school students from **South Point**, **East Gaston**, and **Stuart W. Cramer** attended a Textiles Day program at the Gaston College - Kimbrell Campus in Belmont. Additionally, students from **Hunter Huss High School** participated in a Manufacturing Day program at Lanxess. The programs gave students an opportunity to learn about jobs available in Gaston County and what skills are needed to have a successful career in advanced manufacturing.
  10. **South Point High School** football players **Phillip Davis** and **Matthew Robinson** were selected for the N.C. Shrine Bowl team.
  11. The culinary arts program at **Stuart W. Cramer High School** has been named in memory of Katharine Cramer Angell, the daughter of Stuart W. Cramer and co-founder of the Culinary Institute of America. A dedication ceremony and plaque unveiling was held on September 26 with representatives of the Cramer family and the Culinary Institute as special guests.
  12. **Gaston Early College High School** students **Meghan Russell** and **Emily Kirby** performed in the recent "Little Mermaid Jr." production at the Kings Mountain Little Theater.
  13. **Highland School of Technology** media specialist **Laura Long** invited WBTV news anchor John Carter to visit her class. He spent the morning discussing television broadcasting with the students.
  14. The **Highland** Beta Club collected school supplies for students at **York Chester Middle School**. **Tiffany Fletcher** is the club adviser.
  15. The **Bessemer City Middle** golf team received six sets of junior golf clubs from Crossroads Rescue Mission in Shelby.

16. **Belmont Middle School** embraced diversity with their “Year of Wonder” challenge. Students cut out hand shapes and expressed what makes them unique. The challenge encouraged students to treat everyone with kindness.
17. **North Belmont Elementary** celebrated the “Night of Family Literacy (NFL)” reading program. Students and staff dressed in their favorite athletic team attire and participated in reading activities.
18. **Stuart W. Cramer High School** hosted four university choirs as part of the Collegiate Choral Symposium in an effort to introduce students to music/chorus programs at the college level. High Point, Winston-Salem State, Gardner-Webb, and Claflin were the participating universities.
19. **Page Primary** received 10 azaleas from Keep North Carolina Beautiful, which will be used for campus beautification.
20. **Sadler Elementary** celebrated World School Milk Day. Teachers planned different activities and fun lessons so students could learn about how milk is produced and why it’s beneficial. The Southeast Dairy Association sponsored the event and gave the children an opportunity to meet a dairy farmer, ask questions, and see a calf.
21. **John Chavis Middle School** raised more than \$1,200 for hurricane disaster relief. Students donated money to be able to wear a hat at school during Hat Day and students participated in a five-on-five basketball tournament with half-court shots and other fun activities. The fundraiser was a great way to start the school’s Chavis CARES activities for the 2017-2018 year.
22. **Bessemer City Middle School** hosted a group celebrating their 50-year graduation reunion from Lincoln High School. The classmates toured the sixth grade wing, which was the primary classroom location when the facility served as Lincoln High School.
23. **Bessemer City Middle** band teacher **Ryan Riley** received full funding for a Donors Choose project to purchase supplies such as reeds, oil, and mouthpiece cleaner.
24. Classroom Central’s mobile free store visited **Bessemer City Primary** and provided 150 teachers in the Bessemer City area with additional school supplies. Each teacher received \$166 worth of supplies for a total of nearly \$25,000.
25. **Rankin Elementary’s** student council helped pack boxes of relief supplies for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The school partnered with Fozzy’s Future Heroes, which was created by the Carolina Panthers’ Fozzy Whittaker, to collect items to send to Texas.
26. **Lingerfeldt Elementary** celebrated International Walk to School Day with students and their parents coming together to walk to school. Joining them for the walk were Superintendent of Schools W. Jeffrey Booker, Gastonia mayor John Bridgeman, and representatives from the Gaston County Health Department and Lanxess, one of the school’s business partners.
27. **Belmont Central Elementary** held a dedication ceremony for a new swing set on the second and third grades playground. Fifth grader Lilly Floyd conducted fundraisers and partnered with parents and volunteers from Duke Energy’s Allen Steam Plant to make the project a reality.
28. **Belmont Central Elementary** conducted a walking activity for International Walk to School Day. Parents and students met on the ball field and walked around the track.
29. Football players from **Cherryville High School** visited **Cherryville Elementary** to welcome the younger students as they arrived at school. A similar activity took place in Bessemer City. Football players and cheerleaders from **Bessemer City High School** visited with students at **Bessemer City Central Elementary** as they arrived for school.

- Classroom Moment.
- Capital Needs Committee Report.
- Receive information regarding the Selection Process for Architect.
- Consider the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) Plan.
- Receive information regarding Elementary Literacy.
- Receive information regarding STAND UP Gaston.
- Receive information regarding Volunteer Orientation.
- Consider Policy 7105 Employment and Supervision of Relatives and Other Related Policies.
  - Policy 5010 – School Volunteers
  - Policy 5020 – Visitors to the Schools
  - Policy 7100 – Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
- 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.
  - Construction and Repair Change Orders.
  - Contracts:
    - E-Rate Internal Connections Purchase
    - Head Start
    - YMCA Afterschool Care Program
    - School Nursing Services (Partnership with Health Department)
- 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.**