

# BOARD AGENDA INFORMATIONAL ITEM

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**DEPARTMENT:** Communications/Public  
Information Department

**TOPIC: GOOD NEWS**

**FOR THE MONTH OF:** March 2024

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1. **Bessemer City Central Elementary** and **Bessemer City Middle** were the overall winners at the annual RoboGASTON competition. Other school winners were **Belmont Middle**, middle school runner-up; **New Hope Elementary**, elementary school runner-up; **Cramerton Middle**, middle school first place robot performance; **Lowell Elementary**, elementary school first place robot performance; **W.B. Beam Intermediate**, elementary school second place robot performance; **Stanley Middle**, middle school first place project presentation; **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, elementary school first place project presentation; **McAdenville Elementary**, elementary school second place project presentation; **York Chester Middle**, middle school first place teamwork; **Pleasant Ridge Elementary**, elementary school first place teamwork; **Robinson Elementary**, elementary school second place teamwork; **Mount Holly Middle**, judges award; **Kiser Elementary**, gracious professionalism award; **W.A. Bess Elementary**, innovative team name; and **Robinson Elementary**, spirit award.
2. The following students won awards at the Region 6 UNC-Charlotte Science and Engineering Fair: **Laren Brooks Leuschel**, **Robinson Elementary**, first place, biological sciences; **Emalyn Jennings** and **Kellan Jennings**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, second place, biological sciences; **Blythe Sipe**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, second place, chemistry; **Henry Markwith**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, first place, engineering and technology; **Samuel Diamond**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, third place, engineering and technology; **Camden Hunter**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, honorable mention, engineering and technology; **Muhib Kamdar**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, honorable mention engineering and technology; **Kyle Zell**, **Hawks Nest STEAM Academy**, third place; physics and math; **Brynn Dubois**, **W.A. Bess Elementary**; honorable mention, physics and math; **Reagan Beard**, **Stanley Middle**, third place, biological sciences A; **Prudence Hammond** and **Rosalyn Skidmore**, honorable mention, biological sciences A; **William Coss YLeon** and **Juda Crane**, **Chavis Middle**, third place, biological sciences B; **Jillian Schultheis**, **Stanley Middle**, first place, chemistry; **Trinity Adams** and **Chelsy Hernandez**, **Stanley Middle**, fourth place, chemistry; **Colin Anderson**, **Cyrus Baltimore**, and **Vincent Vernitsky**, **Stanley Middle**, third place, engineering; **David Lopez Saldivar**, **Stanley Middle**, fourth place, engineering; **Payton Bell** and **Cannon Ernst**, **Mount Holly Middle**, second place, physics; **Isabella Ogan**, **Stanley Middle**, honorable mention, physics; **Alexis Dobson** and **Bryson Yarbro**, honorable mention, math and data science;

3. **Mount Holly Middle School** participated in the “Polar Plunge” event and raised \$3,116.50 for the Special Olympics of Gaston County.

14. **Michelle McCotter** of **Hunter Huss High School** was named **Gaston County Schools** Psychologist of the Year, and **Rachel Canipe** of **Cherryville Elementary** was named the **Gaston County Schools** Service Provider of the Year.
15. The following schools and employees were nominated in the Best of Gaston Choice Awards that are presented by The Gaston Gazette: Principal - **Chris Mills, Webb Street School**; School - **W.A. Bess Elementary, Bessemer City Primary, East Gaston High School, Highland School of Technology**, and **Webb Street School**; and Teacher - **Kelli Smith, Bessemer City Primary**.
16. **Sean Adams** of **Ashbrook High School** was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.
17. **Jonathan Moore** of **Ashbrook High School** placed sixth in the 285-pound weight class at the N.C. High School Athletic Association 3A individual wrestling championship.
18. **H.H. Beam Elementary** had winners in the Gaston County Conservation Poster Contest. **Na'ila Lowery**, kindergarten, second place; **Ezra Barnett** and **D'Aria Antrum**, second grade, second place; **Ava Hill** and **Tahmiyya Odom**, second grade, third place; **Sunni Bryant**, third grade, first place; **Carloa Nolasco Rivera**, third grade, third place; **Madeline Menocal**, fourth grade, second place, **Amirrah Witherspoon**, fourth grade, third place; **Jesselle Muhammad**, fifth grade, first place; **Jae'lynn Burris**, fifth grade, second place; and **Fanny Mendoza**, fifth grade, second place. **Jesselle Muhammad's**



36. **Dewayne Davis** of **North Gaston High School** placed sixth in the 215-pound weight class at the N.C. High School Athletic Association 3A individual wrestling championship.
37. **Page Primary School** celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Friday, March 15. Built as the replacement school for East Belmont Elementary School, the school is named after former East Belmont principal J.B. Page. Members of the J.B. Page's family were present along with city and county officials and past and current staff.
38. **Pinewood Elementary's** principal, **Kimberly Reese**, was highlighted in an article by EDNC that focused on arts education and Governor Roy Cooper's visit to the school.
39. **Sadler Elementary** launched a school-wide reading initiative featuring the book, "The

winning a \$10,000 scholarship. **Emma Corripio** took first runner-up honors and received a \$5,000 scholarship; **Ava Bungardner** was named the second runner-up and won a \$4,000 scholarship; and **Ava Staton** captured the third runner-up spot, receiving a \$3,000 scholarship.