

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
October 14, 2004

Mr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2004
- Bills in the amount of \$1,714,487.39
- Revenue for September, 2004
- Appropriation Request for November 2004
- 2004-05 Advisory Committees
- 2004-05 Field Trip Requests

***Pledge of Allegiance**

The School Board Chairman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for recognition for their outstanding efforts. They each received a certificate from the School Board: **EEMS:** Terri Stevers – Volunteer Efforts and Dedication; **NHS:** Paul and Sue Hyatt – Volunteer Efforts and Dedication; Doris May and Steve Songer – Custodial Support and Dedication; **MMS:** Billy McCraw and Jane Hazelwood - Custodial Support and Dedication; Joyce Marion and Thelma Yost – Office Support and Dedication.

***Educational Feature**

Giles County Sheriff Bryan Altizer attended the meeting and introduced the School Resource Officers (SRO's) for the school system. We are fortunate to have an SRO in each school this year. Jon Bowman, NHS SRO, kicked off the presentation by thanking the School Board for the support of the SRO jobs. He commented that the knowledge and experience among the SRO's is extremely beneficial to Giles County Schools. This is his sixth year with the program and he is happy to still be a part of working with students. Teddy Vaughn, MMS SRO, has over 19 years of service in law enforcement. He stated that he assists with a gun safety class for K-3 students and enjoys his job very much. Jerry Gautier, NEMS SRO, has 26 years experience with law enforcement. He stated it is a pleasure to see students every morning at the crosswalk, and is appreciative of his position. Chris Neice, EEMS SRO, has 12 years experience in law enforcement. He is fortunate to work in the school where he was an elementary student. He thanked the Board for the opportunity. Mark Wilburn is in his second year as the GHS SRO. He stated that getting to know the students is most important. He loves teaching the DARE Program and enjoys attending their activities. Mr. Bowman closed by saying that all of the SRO's are for education and love the kids. He also commented that SRO's usually remain in the school buildings 95% of the time. Unless they are called to assist another officer or have to go to the Sheriff's Office, they remain in the building. The Board commended all of our SRO's for providing a safer environment for our students.

***The School Board Approves/Confirms Personnel Items**

The School Board confirmed the following employment: MMS Part-time lunch duty monitors: Carolyn Martin and Debbie Vest; all substitute teachers to date and all CDL participants for the Fall 2004 class.

The Board also approved the following supplemental positions: Rhonda Colavecchio and Mitch Reed as GHS SCA sponsors.

***The School Board Hears Reports from the Superintendent**

The Superintendent shared some comments during his instructional update. Eastern Elementary/ Middle School has had a status change regarding AYP. They did meet the Annual Yearly Progress.

Also, the Vantage on-line Reading Program is now loaded and ready for grades 6-8 to use in English classes, and will begin soon.

The Superintendent also commented that there has been no word on SOL Accreditation yet, but he hopes to hear something by the end of this month.

The Board approved policy changes as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and administration.

***School Board and School Staff Present Comments and Mission Statement Accomplishments**

All Board members highly commended our School Resource Officers and the job they do everyday. It is great to know our students feel safer during the school day. And it is great having an SRO in each school this year! Thanks were also conveyed to Sheriff Altizer for his support and assistance to the SRO program.

Annual budget meetings were held at each site this week. All the meetings were very successful, and teachers seemed very appreciative of their raises for this year. Although there will always be maintenance and upkeep, employees are always very understanding of funding issues and budget concerns. It's always hopeful that those issues can be addressed. It's nice to visit the schools and share comments with faculty and staff members.

The Board also commented on the cleanliness of all the schools that were visited this week. The custodians do a great job in facility upkeep.

Mrs. McMahon commented on the student handbooks and the letters from student SCA officers. She invited the Board members to read those letters if they hadn't. They were very impressive!

Several colleges have visited the Governor's School for recruitment purposes. They include William and Mary, Brown, Randolph- Macon, VA Tech to name a few. JMU is scheduled to visit as well.

NRCC recently donated 25 computers to the Governor's School to assist in offsetting dual enrollment costs. Thanks!

The Superintendent reminded the Board that parent/teacher conferences are coming up October 26 and 27. He also stated that NHS will begin SOL testing October 25th with the direct writing on October 28th.

The Superintendent conveyed his appreciation to Sheriff Altizer, Steve Vinson and Willie Lucas for their support of the SRO Program. They recently met with school administrators and were very cooperative in addressing concerns and questions that had come up.

Additional Information....

The Superintendent shared with the Board information regarding the Big Stoney Creek road that was damaged by the storm a few weeks ago. VDOT has opened the road to one lane, but at this time parents will continue to meet the bus at the National Forest sign, where the bus will pick up students for safety purposes until the road is complete. The Superintendent and his staff will continue to monitor the situation.

The Superintendent shared with the Board that the official deed of easement for the Town of Pearisburg's Sidewalk Project has been received for signatures. He reminded the Board that they had approved the easement contingent upon the project being reviewed on site for safety issues. Mr. Arbogast did meet with the Town Manager and Engineer last Spring and all concerns and questions were answered so that the Town of Pearisburg could move forward. No Board action was needed on the deed of easement.

Next School Board Meeting

The November School Board meeting will be held Friday, November 19, 2004 at 1:30 PM at the School Board Office. The meeting is being held earlier in conjunction with the annual school tours during American Education Week.