

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
September 23, 2004

Mr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2004
- Bills in the amount of \$574,409.93
- Revenue for August, 2004
- Appropriation Request for October 2004
- Declaration of Surplus Property
- Confirmation of Carilion Giles Memorial Hospital/OT/PT Services
- Confirmation of Slots for Governor's School 2005-06

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Educational Feature**

Howard Spencer, Executive Director of the Partnerships for Excellence Foundation, Inc. attended the meeting to share various projects of the Partnership. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support of projects for the betterment of students in Giles County Schools and spoke of the spirit of cooperation that exists between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors. He stated that approximately 136 people are currently in training programs through the Partnership. He also reviewed several grants that have been received including \$15,000 for NEMS playground equipment; \$8,000 for a water study that for science students; \$500,000 for a housing grant which will assist the "Hammering in the Hills" workers; and \$96,000 for School Resources Officers (SRO's) which are now placed in each school. Also, mini-grants such as Career Scope for ninth graders are still received periodically. The Partnership also hosts the annual new teacher luncheon at Anna's, which is a great way to start each school year. He reminded the Board that the Giles County Incubator continues to assist with VEC services and VA Tech in accepting applications for employment. There has been a cut in the WIA Program from \$189,000 to \$132,000. Mr. Spencer also commended the School Board for allocating the money for raises for teachers this year. The Chairman responded by thanking the Board of Supervisors for allowing the raises to be approved.

Board members conveyed their sincere appreciation to Mr. Spencer and the Partnership for the outstanding job that is done on behalf of students and adults in the community. Mr. Spencer closed by inviting Board members to stop by the Partnership Office for a visit to see how their daily schedule works. It was very clear from his presentation, that the Partnership's goal is continue to help schools and the communities of Giles County.

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

The School Board confirmed the following employment: Kristi Gordon – EEMS 6th Grade Teacher; Michelle Scott – MMS Part-time Sp. Ed. Teacher Assistant; Ruth Ann Moore – GHS Special Ed. Teacher Assistant; Kim Squibb – MMS Title I Teacher Assistant; Billy Gautier – NEMS Lunch Monitor; Trish Muldoon – Part-time Gifted Coordinator; and Administrative Interns: NEMS – Paula Tibbs; GHS – Jason Mills; NHS – Todd Lusk.

The School Board confirmed the resignation of James Meadows as NHS Custodian.

The School Board approved the employment of Rocky Thorne – NHS Custodian and James Meadows – MMS Custodian.

The Board confirmed the following volunteer coaches:

GHS - Cindy Henderson – Team Physician/Trainer; Joyce Marion – Choral Activities; Shana Midkiff – Assistant Volleyball; Maurice Milton – Assistant Football; Nancy Noble – Choral Activities; Steve Wilson – Assistant Football.

NHS - Bryan Patteson – Head, Girls Varsity Basketball

Other Volunteers:

NEMS - Bobbie Weiss; Lynda Atkins; Joyce Bragg; Billy Jean Gautier

MMS - Dina Anderson; *Ginger Davis*; Gretchen Carlson Hagee; Sandra Ingram; Chris Mullins; Bendy Shrader; Mary Spaur; Veronica Stump; Cindy Widrig

GHS - Ann Webb

The School Board confirmed all coaching positions for sports and MACC as recommended for 2004-05 as well as all substitute teachers to date.

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

- The Superintendent shared opening school information with the Board which included enrollments the first week of school: September 7th – 2502; September 10th - 2515; and September 14th - 2519. The ending enrollment in June 2004 was 2524 while the first day of school of the 2003-04 school year reflected 2508.

The Superintendent also commented that it's been different this year with the weather thus far, but hopefully we'll get through the hurricane season without too much difficulty.

He also stated the schools are continuing to work diligently to raise SOL scores this year.

- The Superintendent's instructional update consisted of introducing Robert Stump, NHS Principal who shared information regarding the NHS School Improvement Committee and what is being done to assist with the Standards of Accreditation. Dr. Darrin Martin of Concord University is working as a Consultant for NHS to assist the committee. He and Mr. Brady, Assistant Principal attended the meeting as well. The committee consists of 18 members from the school, community and School Board, who have been meeting weekly to establish goals, present ideas and work toward meeting these standards. A handout was provided to the School Board that consisted of 19 recommendations from the committee. These consisted of the NHS administration working with various groups including: 1) NEMS to create an easier transition for rising 8th grade students and to address the NEMS PTA in the Spring; 2) TTAC to provide professional activities in SOL areas that are deficient; and 3) instructional personnel that need help with curriculum matters that address SOL requirements. Other meetings were also listed as well as various procedures and sub committees to be in place to assist in the process. Mr. Stump stated that the attempt is strongly being made to build a bridge between NHS and NEMS so that parents of 8th graders can see the opportunities as well as the challenges that will impact their children. He also indicated that the 90-minute planning blocks for teachers are also being used for remediation and administrative duties that are needed. He conveyed his appreciation to Dr. Martin for being the "outside set of eyes" that can help NHS work toward their goals. Mr. Stump explained the importance in working with the calendar committee to address school needs with block scheduling, and also the importance of a sub-committee that will monitor SOL concerns and community perception throughout the year. Mr. Stump encouraged Board members to review the handout at their convenience and to feel free to call if they had questions.

Dr. Darrin Martin also took a moment to express to the Board members his appreciation for the time he has spent at NHS. As an outsider, he commented that the NHS and SBO administration took a proactive approach by asking, "what can be done?" His opinion was that improvement of student achievement happened at the first meeting.

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

- The Board was very appreciative and complimentary of the Giles County Partnership for Excellence Foundation and Mr. Spencer's efforts to provide assistance for our schools and students. He has certainly helped students find direction in their lives. Sincere thanks were conveyed for all that has been done!
- The Board members met with administrators prior to the regular Board meeting and lots of positive remarks were heard among the group. It's always good to get together and hear what is going on with the schools. It's a good start for a new year!

- Board members commented how proud they are of NHS for looking toward avenues to improve student achievement. From the presentation, it's apparent everyone is excited about the new ideas and goals that are being set. Thanks were conveyed to Dr. Martin for his outside expertise.
- GTC staff was highly commended for their achievement of recent certification exams. Good job!
- Governor Warner's visit was a very positive topic. Board members commented his speech was a very optimistic one, yet truthful and spoke to teachers clearly on the school level.
- The current enrollment for the Governor's School is 133 with 31 coming from Giles County!
- The Governor's School is preparing for the annual visitation from the State Department October 26 & 27. Good luck!
- All were pleased to see the volunteer coaches that have been approved since the FLSA issue has been resolved.
- The Superintendent also commended NHS for their efforts with the School Improvement Committee. Lots of good thoughts have occurred from their meetings.
- The Superintendent reiterated that it was great having the Governor with us at NHS for the Pre-School Conference. That just might be hard to top next year!
- The Superintendent commented that it is exciting to have SRO's at all schools this year. It certainly makes the students and staff feel more secure.
- The Superintendent updated the Board on the upcoming GHS/NHS football game on Friday, 9/24, stating that arrangements have been made for security and law enforcement.

In Other Action:

The Board approved "Introductory Plan Biology" at NHS to become a "weighted" class, upon recommendation of the Weighted Grading Committee, which was made up of NHS and GHS faculty members. The class will now be titled "Advanced Biology", Course number 4320. The Board initially approved the class last year through consensus; Gary Hinson is the instructor.

The Superintendent shared a request from John Hale, member of the county trash committee. He asked that the School Board consider having surplus buses destroyed rather than selling them, due to those sold being used for storage and hunting cabins. The Board was in agreement with Mr. Hale and after discussion, it was decided the Superintendent and Mr. Wheeler would look into selling them back to distributors for parts.

The Superintendent shared a description for administrative interns with Board members as a matter of information. Since teacher evaluation forms and others are approved at the administrative level, no action was needed from the Board.

Next School Board Meeting

The October School Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 14, 2004 at 4:30 PM at the School Board Office. The meeting is being held earlier in conjunction with the annual site budget meetings.