

**Giles County Public Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
News Release
April 14, 2005**

Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2005
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for May 2005
- Declaration of Surplus Property

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the Board recognized the following for their dedication and efforts:

- VDOT Staff Members for Assistance during 2005 Winter – Gary Thornhill, Bill Bonds, Lavetta Huddle and Gale Blevins
- MMS Teachers - Sheri Miller, Jessica Morris and Allison Wright
- GHS School Nurse – Susan Collins
- NEMS Volunteer – James Riffe
- NHS Volunteers – Bryan Patteson and Jane Garrett

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Brown, Giles High School principal attended the meeting to introduce Judy Craig-Hartley, GHS English teacher. Ms. Hartley introduce a new reading program, Cast eReader, which helps students to excel that may otherwise have reading problems. Her energy and enthusiasm suddenly emerged when she spoke of the program and how it helps students. Cast eReader is a web-based tool that helps people who have difficulty reading. The program actually reads to the student. Teachers can write tests, put it in eReader and it will read the test for the student. Ms. Hartley used the term “it puts eye glasses on reading”. Marcus Reed, a GHS student, demonstrated the program to the Board members. He reviewed how there are several voices to choose from that can read to the student. Each can listen to eReader, then type a summary of what they hear. Current events are also obtainable on eReader, which helps students with daily news. Anything that can be done on line can be done with Cast eReader. Mrs. Woodring and Mrs. Greene, GHS teachers, attended the meeting as well to assist Ms. Hartley and Marcus with the presentation. It was an interesting educational feature and was great to learn that there is a program out there that can help students with reading problems stay up to speed in the classroom.

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

As per the Code of Virginia that all reappointments must be made by April 15th annually, I recommend, contingent upon receipt of notification of necessary funding, all personnel appointments, non-reappointments, and transfers as recommended by principals and administration of the Giles County Public Schools System for the 2005-06 school year.

The Board confirmed the employment of David Graham as Director of Operations at the Central Office for the 2005-06 school year.

The Board also confirmed the following resignations: Shannon Stump – Effective April 8, 2005 and Melissa Cowan, Jodi Reed and Melisa Rivera, effective the end of 2004-05 school year.

The Board confirmed the following employees to serve as volunteers:

NHS: *Jane Garrett – Prom and Faculty Basketball Game and Millie Lawrence – Prom and Faculty Basketball Game.* GHS: *Jerry Huffman – Boys Varsity Track Coach*

The Board approved Ralph Harless as GHS Volunteer JV Softball.

The Board approved the transfer recommendations for Instructional Technology Teachers for the 2005-06 School Year: Judy Craig – Secondary Instructional Technology Teacher and Tammy Frazier – Elementary Instructional Technology Teacher

The Board confirmed the following supplemental contracts for NHS: *Teresa Lowe – Newsletter and SCA Sponsor; Faye Nicholson – Yearbook Sponsor and Senior Class Sponsor – Larry Greer.*

The Board rescinded the motion to allow EEMS teacher assistants to serve as volunteers on the 7th grade due to FLSA restrictions.

The Board confirmed all substitute teachers to date including deletions and additions.

The Board approved the change of the health plan from Key Advantage 200 to Key Advantage 300. After looking into the costs of the insurance plan, lower premiums were found in the “300” plan with no monthly premium cost to employees. Therefore it was the consensus of the Board to switch from the Key Advantage 200 plan to Key Advantage 300.

The Board confirmed the rollover of RFP – 8-2004 for food services by Sysco, the current provider to continue through the 2005-06 school year.

The Board approved, on the condition of available funds, the purchase of a new school bus from low bidder, Commonwealth Bus Sales. Other proposals were received from Sonny Merryman and Kingmor Buses.

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

The School Board confirmed the approval of the 2005-06 School Board budget as approved by the Giles County Board of Supervisors.

The School Board approved the proposed 2005-06 school calendar as recommended by the Calendar Committee. The issue of Labor Day (to start before or after) for the 2006-07 school year was discussed once more. Dr. Webb requested that a new committee be convened in Fall, 2005 and review possibly starting the 2006-07 school year before Labor Day. The Chairman asked that the issue be brought back to the Board at a later date, since the decision did not have to be made immediately.

***Next School Board Meeting(s)**

The May 2005 School Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th at 4:00 PM, School Board Office. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at 3:00 PM.

***Other Action**

The Board confirmed the Dr. Robert C. McCracken scholarship for the Giles County Technology Center. (Established August 10, 2004 at time of retirement)

Qualifications as recommended for students who plan to enter the workforce within the occupational field enrolled in at GTC OR students who plan to further their education within the occupational field enrolled in at GTC through a 2 or 4 year college or post-secondary technical training program, awarded after successful completion of the first semester of college.

The Board approved the C&A Yearout Memorial Scholarship as requested by Erin Yearout-Patton, NHS Social Studies teacher.

She requests this scholarship in memory of her grandfather in the amount of \$500 (in a two part payment) for any NHS Senior who has been accepted to college.

Field Trip Approval – Jeannie Layton, GHS Ag Teacher and 4 students to travel to Richmond for April 22-24 for Equine Extravaganza to explore various horse breeds and equipment as well as meet professional horse trainers.

***Positive Comments**

- Thanks were conveyed by the Superintendent and all Board members to the Board of Supervisors for their assistance and support with the 2005-06 budget. The working relationship with the Board of Supervisors is deeply appreciated by all.
- Congratulations to Matthew Blevins, who won 2nd place in the State Spelling Bee. Good job!
- The “Giles County Clean Up Day” was a great success with lots of students and teachers participating!
- The Board members were all highly complimentary of the GHS educational feature. As always, it is a highlight of the Board meetings. Technology continues to meet instructional needs for our students. It’s good to know there’s a program for students who may get frustrated from reading problems.
- Some of the Board members attended the recent GHS Sundaes for Scholars and found a new technique. Rather than having to dip ice cream for students who have excelled academically, they were able to take tops of of DQ ice cream and hand them out. Students were very courteous and polite, saying “thank you” to Board members.
- Some of the Board members visited and/or participated in the Academic Fairs in the elementary schools. As always, it is interesting to see how the students’ minds work and what projects they come up with.
- The Superintendent shared positive feedback from the Cosmonaut that recently visited GHS for the GHS and NHS students. Student behavior was exceptional and everyone really enjoyed having him here. The NHS and GHS administration was commended for the fine job they did getting the students there for the program and the smooth organization of the day. Ryan Olson was also recognized by GHS for his assistance in providing the opportunity to the high school students of Giles County.
- The Superintendent also shared information from School Matters.com which compares performances of all schools. He encouraged Board members to take a look at the website.
- The Superintendent invited Board members to visit NEMS on April 18th to see Miss Virginia, who would be speaking on the topic “Right Choices, Right Now”.
- The Superintendent thanked the 2005 Teacher of the Year Committee for their time and assistance this year. Their efforts were highly commendable!