

**Giles County Public Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
February 24, 2005**

Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2005
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for March 2005
- Declaration of Surplus Property
- Field Trip Approval/Confirmation

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Presentations**

The Board recognized NEMS for being one of 77 schools named as a “Distinguished Title I School” by the Virginia Department of Education. Mr. Franklin, Principal, along with Title I teachers and assistants attended the meeting to receive a plaque for NEMS.

Rom Matlock was recognized for his 25 years of service with Giles County Schools. He also has over 30 years of service in the state of Virginia.

Mrs. Barbara Hobbs, Giles County Board of Supervisors Chairperson, attended the meeting to distribute certificates to School Board Members in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Jared Rader, Macy McClaugherty School Principal and Christina Strayer, Macy McClaugherty Guidance Counselor, attended the meeting to share information regarding Macy Mentors. The program is a spin-off from the Giles High School Ambassadors and consists of sixth and seventh graders who serve as mentors on behavior. They sign an actual contract on how to behave and do service projects at school and in the community. Ms. Strayer, who gave the program its name (Macy Mentors), distributed handouts to Board members and explained how character education is used as a model guidance program. It gives students responsibility and helps them to learn to resolve their own conflicts as well as learn about morals. The students are active in many projects through the program, which includes visiting nursing homes (Granny’s Gang), Winter Wear Drive (collecting coats), Food For Thought (collecting used books for students), and CAT (Children Assisting Troops) to name a few. So far thirty students have signed up to participate in “Keep Giles County Beautiful” Day. The students have also asked the Giles High School Ambassadors to participate in their Character Counts Program. The main goal of the program is to give students an opportunity above and beyond the classroom to help other students and to help themselves in life. Mr. Rader was highly complimentary of Ms. Strayer, and commented that Macy Mentors continues to be a success due to her involvement with the program.

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

- The Board confirmed the following retirements effective the end of the 2004-05 school year: Ann Davis; Becky Straley as an ERIP participant for 2005-06 and 30 years service with insurance benefits; and Ulmont “Bud” Reynolds as an ERIP participant for 2005-06 and 30 years service with insurance benefits.
- The Board confirmed the resignation of Beth Roe, effective February 28, 2005, contingent upon a suitable replacement, which has been found.
- The Board confirmed the employment of Derek Sparks as NHS Custodian for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year., effective March 1, 2005.

- The Board confirmed the following volunteer coaches for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year: Robert Buchanan – GHS Softball; Chris Bales – GHS Varsity Baseball; Mike Davidson – GHS JV Baseball; Cindy Lang – GHS Assistant Girls’ Track; and current employees: Jodi Reed – GHS Assistant Girls’ Track; Maurice Milton – GHS Varsity Basketball and Track & Field; Steve Wilson – GHS Head Varsity Softball; and Whitney Matlock – GHS JV Softball.
- The Board confirmed Randy Roe for a supplemental position as GHS Head JV Soccer Coach.
- The Board confirmed all substitute teachers and substitute custodians to date including additions and deletions.
- The Board approved the transfer of John Maddy to NHS Band Director for the 2005-06 school year.

The School Board completed the semi-annual evaluation for Mr. Arbogast, Superintendent. The Board Chairman commented that the Board is extremely pleased with his performance thus far and that all evaluations by the Board were satisfactory and above. He stated that he hopes Mr. Arbogast’s stay as Division Superintendent with Giles County Schools will be a long tenure.

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

The Superintendent commented about the Annual School Board Retreat as part of his instructional update. The Retreat was held prior to the regular session and began at 9:30 AM. He stated that several instructional updates from the schools were a part of the retreat. He reiterated that Narrows High School has been very successful in preparing for the evaluation by Dr. Street of the Virginia Department of Education as part of the school improvement process. They have worked very hard and it is evident by the most recent SOL scores.

The Superintendent shared with the School Board that one of the changes to discipline did not pass in General Assembly, which was in regard to students carrying utensils in their lunch box that would not be considered weapons. Also, one other bill was stopped that pertained to arbitration and the final authority in filing grievances. The Superintendent also commented that he hoped to receive state budget information for our locality by February 26th.

***Other Action....**

As a result of the School Board Retreat, the following changes will be made:

- High school student parking permits will be increased to \$10
- Lunch prices at all schools will increase by 10 cents
- Change in Distance Learning Guidelines/NRCC
- Revisions will be made in the following policies and/or regulations:
 - Current Exam Policy
 - Algebra I Placement Policy
 - Out of County Transfers

***Next School Board Meeting**

The March 2005 School Board meeting and quarterly meeting were scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2005. The regular meeting will begin at 4:00 PM at the School Board Office, followed by the quarterly meeting at Macy McClaugherty School at 5:30 PM. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at 3:00 PM at the School Board Office.

***Positive Comments**

- Board members were very complimentary about the annual retreat and all the information they had received. They commended the Superintendent and his staff for the efforts to provide the information to them. Although it was a long day, it was very productive and informative.
- The Board also commended the school principals and their presentations to the Board during the retreat. It’s always good to hear how well instruction is going in the schools and to learn of the advances in development for the students.
- The Board commented that it is nice to have information on CD’s now. Previously, large notebooks containing information had to be toted to meetings. Ah, the world of technology is great!

- Mr. Rader and Ms. Strayer were commended for the fine presentation regarding Macy Mentors. It's the only time that some students learn about character education and it helps to make kids better adults.
- Montgomery County has committed 16 student slots to the Governor's School for 2005-06. The current enrollment stands at 151 for next year.
- The proposed budget for the Governor's School is balanced and it is hopeful it will remain that way!
- Congratulations to the recent Science Consortium winners at the Governor's School. Several Giles and Narrows students placed in the event. Good job!
- The Board conveyed its congratulations to NEMS for being one of 77 schools named as a "Distinguished Title I School" by the Virginia Department of Education.
- Congratulations were conveyed to the NHS Girls' Basketball Team for winning the first round of regional playoffs and they were wished good luck as they enter round two!
- Best of luck to GHS as they work toward getting new band uniforms!
- The Superintendent shared that over 20 students from GTC placed in the recent USA Skills competition. Congratulations!
- The Superintendent conveyed appreciation to Board members on behalf of School Board Appreciation Month. He commented he has enjoyed working with the Board thus far in his career and looks forward to the future with them.
- The Superintendent commented on the retreat, saying it had been a great day that went by quickly. He commended the administrators and Central Office staff for compiling the information for the Board members and expressed his appreciation to all that contributed.