

News Release

Giles County Public Schools Regular School Board Meeting January 20, 2005

Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Organizational Meeting**

- JB Buckland was appointed as School Board Chairman for 2005.
- Ronald Whitehead was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2005.
- The Board set the third Thursday of each month as Board meeting day, holding the first Thursday open in case another meeting is needed.
- Boni Kirk was appointed School Board Clerk for 2005.
- Barbara Perkins and Terry Arbogast, II were appointed Deputy Clerks for 2005.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2004
- Special Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2004
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for February 2005
- Declaration of Surplus Property

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Educational Feature**

Ms. Erin Yearout-Patton, Social Studies Teacher at Narrows High School, attended the meeting along with her student, Amber Sparks who assisted her with the educational feature. As part of their presentation, they distributed a bag to School Board members, each containing a different item. The Board members paired up and listed descriptive phrases so that other Board members could attempt to guess the contained item. Ms. Patton then compared the item to its use now and back during the Great Depression. Items were cardboard, aluminum foil and sugar. It was very interesting to compare usage now and “way back when”. Ms. Patton also explained displays of student activities that she uses in the classroom including chain links and dominos labeled in relation to history as well as posters. Students are currently working on valentine cards for veterans and soldiers in Iraq as a part of community service.

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

- The Board confirmed the following retirements: Charles Collins, effective August 31, 2004 with participation in ERIP and insurance benefits as a 30 year employee; Mary Cornwell, effective January 1, 2005; H. L. White, effective the end of the 2004-05 school year with insurance benefits as a 30 year employee. Also confirmed was the resignation of Eric Dalton, effective immediately.
- The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2004-05 school year: Carol Spangler – MMS Part-time PALS Remediation; Ginger Davis – GHS Part-time Distance Learning Lab Facilitator and MMS Volunteer; Mark Wilburn – GHS Assistant Coach for 8th Grade Boys’ Basketball; Substitute teachers as recommended including additions and deletions.

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

The Superintendent was pleased to share positive SOL scores with the Board members regarding Narrows High School, who is currently under academic review, which assists in identifying and analyzing instructional and organizational factors affecting student achievement. Overall NHS scores were as follows: English 77.61%; Math 67.21%; Science 85.53%; and History 90.98%. The Superintendent also stated that enthusiasm and high spirits were evident from students and staff at NHS. Giles High School also had passing scores in retakes: 3 passing in English/RLR; 2 passing in Earth Science; 3 passing in Biology; and 1 passing in World History I. Good job!

The Superintendent asked that the Board refrain from action at this time regarding the request by Giles High School for a new class elective for 2005-06, until more information could be obtained.

The School Board approved policy revisions which included GCBC-R to change the 20 day retiree program to a 30 day retiree program. Also approved was the sick leave policy regulation and exhibit to clarify use of employee days.

***Other Action....**

The Board Chairman polled Board members individually and it was the consensus of the Board to have a representative on the 2005-06 School Calendar Committee. The Chairman then appointed Dr. Webb to the committee after there were no volunteers.

The Board approved the ERIP Program for those retiring the end of the 2004-05 school year, which will allow them to participate during the 2005-06 school year.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The February 2005 School Board meeting and annual retreat were confirmed for Thursday, February 24, 2005 with the retreat beginning at 10:00 AM at the School Board Office. A closed session will be held at 3:00 PM and the regular session will begin at 4:00 PM.

***Positive Comments**

Ms. Patton and her student Amber Sparks were highly commended for their outstanding educational feature. Board members were very impressed with the incentives for students to achieve SOL goals.

The Superintendent and his staff were commended for the recent weather-related decisions. We have been fortunate this year for the most part. The Board realizes it's a tough call sometimes, and they complimented the Central Office decisions.

The schools were commended for participating in the Tsunami Relief programs to collect money, etc.

NEMS was congratulated for having no discipline to report since the last Board meeting report. Good job!

Mary Henderson was commended for the outstanding job she did recently in a meeting regarding grant funding received for school nursing. Mrs. McMahon complimented Mary, saying that she was precise and detailed in presenting information concerning all of the work that has been done for the grant as well as the day to day duties/activities that the nurses handle.

Positive comments had been received by Board members regarding Mr. Rader, MMS Principal. He was complimented for reading the "I Have a Dream" speech to all students at MMS on Martin Luther King Day. Students were very attentive!

Some Board members visited GHS to dip ice cream for "Sundaes for Scholars". Mr. Whitehead commented that he dipped a lot more this time, and was glad to know this meant there are more students allowed to attend the activity because of academic improvement.