

**Giles County Public Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
March 16, 2005**

Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***The Chairman requested a moment of silence for the family of Rom Matlock.**

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2005
- Special Budget Work Session Minutes – March 9, 2005
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for April 2005
- Confirmation of Perkins Grant
- Scholarship Confirmation (to include two additional scholarships)
 - Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC for VA students)
 - Kenneth Abel Honorary Research Scholarship/GHS
 - Rom L. Matlock Scholarship/GHS

***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:

- Macy McClaugherty School PTO Executive Board –Continued Efforts and Support,
(MMS 2004-05 Winter Festival and Classroom Technology)
- Teddy Vaughn – MMS School Resource Officer and Volunteer
- Patricia Young – County-wide Supervisor of Testing and Information Management

***Educational Feature**

Mrs. Brenda Hayes, Eastern Elementary/Middle School Principal, attended the meeting to introduce two kindergarten teachers, Toma Eaton and Ann Harman, who explained how a grant was received through the VA Commission of the Arts regarding teacher incentives. They brought their students to share with the School Board how this grant has benefited them. The kindergartners' shared projects they had done which included each student taking a letter of the alphabet and finding an object that started with that letter. The students brought items with them and each one stood, told what their object was and what letter it began with. One student had the letter "W" and told Board members her objects were "water" and "Walmart". Another student was clever by using the letter "O" for "outhouse" and carried a small replica to show the Board. And one more student brought her dad along for "P"...but not for "Papa" but for Pittsburg Pirate. The students also read sentences and sang alphabet songs as part of the program. It was great to watch students having fun while they were learning!

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

The Board confirmed the following: the transfer of John Maddy to NHS Band Director, effective March 9, 2005; the resignation of Christine Engels, effective the end of the 2004-05 school year; the employment of: Tara Johnson – Part-time NEMS SOL Remediation; Volunteers/Coaches – Burt Noble – GHS Musical; Jarad Hall – GHS Soccer; Ashley Bales – GHS Softball; Dusty Stump – GHS Girls' Softball; Melissa Conley – NHS Girls' Softball; and Juanita Sweeney and Dale Ryder – EEMS 7th Grade Trip.

The Board also confirmed the following supplemental coaching positions: Jeff Williams – GHS Boys 8th Grade Track; Scott Suttle – NHS JV Baseball; Clyde Turner – NHS Assistant Varsity Basketball; Gary Lowery – NHS Varsity Track; and Erin Patton – NHS Assistant Track.

The Board rescinded the motion for employment of Derek Sparks as NHS Custodian, who declined the position. They approved Jamie Epling as the new NHS Custodian, effective March 21, 2005.

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

The Board approved the new rates for health insurance which included new plans Key Advantage 200 and Key Advantage 500. The health plans we currently have are no longer being offered. In addition, they approved an addition to the memo they received to include open enrollment dates for medical spending accounts, dependent care, and cancer plans. Memos regarding rates and open enrollment periods will go out to all employees with March 31st payroll.

The Board approved the Flexible Benefit Plan which is the health care reimbursement plan for employees that choose to participate.

The Board confirmed the awarding of RFP – 1-2005 for services as specified for duplicating paper, to low bidder, Jan Pak at \$20.10 per case. Other proposals were received from Savin and Wytheville.

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

Upon the Superintendent's request, Nichole Reidy, a Vice-President of Retirement Services for Suntrust attended the meeting to share information regarding the school system's current ERIP plan that is in place. Following her presentation, the Board had questions regarding the return that's being received for the plan. It was the consensus of the Board to meet with the investment manager and the Rutherford Company representative, who manages the actual account to get additional information about the current plan.

For the instructional update, the Superintendent shared information with the School Board regarding a Cosmonaut that will be coming to visit high school students on April 13th. He invited the Board to attend the program and explained that area Virginia students, which included Ryan Olson, that were scheduled to go to Russia previously did not get to make the trip due to 9/11, therefore as an alternative, the Cosmonaut will visit the high schools around Virginia. He also commented the astronaut, Roger Crouch had visited elementary schools last Fall, and this program would be for the high school students. GHS will host the event and NHS students will be bussed to GHS for the program.

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

March 23, 2005 was set for interviews by the School Board for the Director of Operations position at the Central Office for the 2005-06 school year.

The April 2005 School Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2005 at 4:00 PM, School Board Office. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at 3:00 PM.

***Positive Comments**

- The Board members were all highly complimentary of the EEMS educational feature. They were pleased with the many parents and students that attended from EEMS and commented on the high energy level of students and teachers, it just doesn't get any better than that! They all did a wonderful job.
- Galax City is planning to send 5 students to the Governor's School next year, and possible 9 more!
- Congratulations to Ryan Olson, winner of the regional science fair, who recently made a trip to Arizona.
- Congratulations were conveyed to the MMS PTO for all the work they do. It's a hard working organization with lots of good help!
- Sympathy was conveyed to the Matlock family and it was commented that Mr. Matlock will be sorely missed. He was a great administrator and math teacher and was always fair with every student.

- Those that support Pulsar was highly commended. There is no way to accurately measure the positive results that come from that program. Thanks were conveyed to those that work with it each year.
- The Superintendent shared pictures from the EEMS "Read Across America" Day. He, Mr. Meade and Mr. Whitehead were shown serving "green eggs and ham"!