

**Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting  
NEWS RELEASE  
November 18, 2005**

*Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**\*Public Comments**

Speakers Mike Harrell, Kathleen Delaney, and Patricia Jacobs attended the meeting on behalf of the Gifted Education Program. Mr. Harrell thanked board members for all of their efforts as far as education. He wanted the board to consider fully funding a Gifted Education Coordinator for the 2006-2007 school year for the benefit of the children involved and for the schools. He stated that children really look forward to this program because it will help prepare them to possibly attend the governor's school and have extra credits that they will need for college. Mrs. Delaney also attended the meeting to address the board members on keeping the Gifted Education Program. She also wanted the board to consider making this position fully funded for next year. Patricia Jacobs of the Giles County Historical Society addressed the board on how important gifted education is, but also reminded them that every child's education is important.

The Board Chairman thanked the speakers for attending the board meeting on behalf of the Gifted Education Program and told them that the board members want to keep this program and are trying to get this fully funded for next year, depending on the budget.

**\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Marlene M. Bailey – NEMS Custodian, Richard L. Ratcliffe – NEMS Head Custodian, Berly R. Wilson – NEMS Custodian, Kevin White – GHS Band Director, Debbie Vest – MMS Cafeteria Manager, Bonnie Martin – MMS Cafeteria Worker, Kathy Pyles – MMS Cafeteria Worker, Faye Owens – MMS Cafeteria Worker, Linda Ratcliffe – MMS Cafeteria Worker, Jane Dalton – MMS Cafeteria Worker, Debbie Havens – MMS Cafeteria Worker.

**\*Educational Feature**

Greg Brown, Principal at Giles High School, updated the board on "**writing across the curriculum**", a writing improvement plan intended to improve students writing skills in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade by creating a writing program for all middle school students (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students). Eastern Elementary/Middle School and Macy McClaugherty School are working in conjunction with Giles High School on this program. With the help of three Language Arts Teachers, Karen Yolton (GHS), Vicky Johnson (MMS), Judy Keating (EEMS), as well as Judy Craig-Hartley and Tammy Frazier (Secondary and Elementary Instructional Technology Personnel), this team has begun attacking this issue. They began meeting during the summer months. One of the main goals was to improve communication between the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Another goal was to work on aligning the curriculum. All classes, including math and science classes, have been incorporating some language arts/writing material to help students prepare for the writing SOL tests. The English Teachers will work on a different part of writing each semester with their students and they are hoping that by the time the students get to high school, they will have been exposed to all types of writing. Mrs. Hartley showed the School Board how the "SmartBoard" and the internet can be used for exercises on grammar and writing that students will enjoy.

The Board Chairman thanked Mr. Brown, as well as the other team members, for informing the board on this writing improvement plan.

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2005
- Bills in the amount of \$264,935.49
- Payroll, October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005
- Revenue for October 2005
- Expenditure for October 2005

- Appropriation Request for December 2005
- Additional 2005-2006 Field Trip Requests
- Changes to Activities Handbook

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

The School Board confirmed the employment of **Tara Johnson** – NEMS Kindergarten Teacher.

The School Board confirmed all **Substitute Teachers to Date**.

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

The School Board approved policy changes as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and Administration.

The School Board approved a scholarship offered by the National Alliance for Scholastic Achievement. The National Alliance for Scholastic Achievement will be awarding eight scholarships for a total of \$45,000 to graduating seniors in the 05-06 academic school year. The scholarships are offered to assist eligible students finance their education and to reward students who have demonstrated scholastic achievement as well as the desire to succeed in gaining a higher education. The organization is seeking individuals who value integrity, truthfulness, and demonstrate a strong determination to succeed.

The School Board approved revisions to the Gifted Education plan for 2005-2010, which were submitted by Trish Muldoon, Interim Gifted Education Coordinator. The revisions were submitted to Giles County's Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted, as recommended by the peer review teams. With the revisions, the Local Plan will be in compliance with the Regulations Governing Educational Services for the Gifted (8 VAC 20-40-60).

The School Board decided to table the discussion regarding the 2006-2007 School Calendar until the December Board Meeting.

The Superintendent stated that it had been a good day for the tours of the schools with board members for American Education Week.

The Superintendent updated the board on a letter he received from the Department of Education, regarding Jan Vittum from Narrows Elementary/Middle School. Mrs. Vittum received the 2005 Title I Distinguished Educator Award.

The Superintendent updated the board on the Technology Center. With the help of Mr. Fowler, the Giles County Technology Center has 100% participation in the Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education (VACTE) for the second year. He stated that he has recently visited the Building Trades class, and they are currently constructing buildings for the Public Service Authority (PSA). He also visited Mr. Evans Computer Systems Technology Class and they are currently working on the "Keystrokes for Kids" programs, where the students refurbish donated computers from various industries around the area. "Keystrokes For Kids" furnishes computers to needy children at Christmas. This is the third year the Giles County Tech Center has participated in the project.

**\*In Other Action**

The board approved the **Resignation** of Maurice Milton as a State Remedial Assistant/Teacher Assistant for Giles High School, effective November 23, 2005.

The board approved a **Coaching Contract** for Renee Jesse as the Narrows High School Women's Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach for 2005-2006 Basketball Season.

The board approved a **Volunteer Agreement** for Charlene Sharpe at Eastern Elementary/Middle School.

The board approved a **Volunteer Agreement** for Tammy McGuire at Eastern Elementary/Middle School.

The board approved David Graham as an **additional Health Advisory Committee Member**.

**\*Next School Board Meeting**

The December School Board meeting will be held **Thursday, December 15, 2005** at 3:00 PM at the School Board Office, prior to the quarterly meeting with administrators at 5:30 PM, which will be held at EEMS.