

NEWS RELEASE
Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

October 20, 2005

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following Narrows High School Custodians were recognized for their Custodial Support, Teamwork, and Dedication: Danny Dent – Head Custodian; Doris May – Custodian; Rocky Thorne – Custodian; Justin Gray – Custodian. The board members as well as the superintendent thanked each of them for all of their hard work. The board members also commented on how good each school has looked.

***Educational Feature**

Major Steve Vinson from the Giles County Sheriff's Department attended the meeting to represent the School Resource Officers (SRO's) for the school system. Major Vinson thanked all of the SRO's for the wonderful job that they do. **Teddy Vaughn, MMS SRO**, began the presentation by speaking on the issue of truancy. Officer Vaughn and Jared Rader, principal at MMS, attended a truancy and bullying conference in Charlottesville on September 21st. They attended this conference to gain more knowledge about these subjects and to be able to help the students in a more effective manner. Officer Vaughn is currently focusing on truancy and tardiness at Macy. He assists the guidance counselor with drug/alcohol issues and helps her prepare skits for the students that allow the students to see the effects of using drugs and alcohol. He is currently working on a PowerPoint presentation dealing with juvenile laws and how it can affect the students. Once he finishes this, he will be able to share this with all of the SRO's. After his presentation, he showed everyone a video from the School Intruder Drill conducted last week at MMS. **Mark Wilburn, GHS SRO**, began speaking on truancy as well. He, as well as the other SRO's are hoping to have more training this coming summer. He stated that each SRO has gone through the other schools in an attempt to become more familiar with each facility in the event of an emergency. Officer Wilburn is very happy to be an SRO in the school. He also is currently working on traffic issues at GHS and how he can help keep accidents to a minimum and keep the children safe in the mornings and afternoons. He stated that the safety of the children are the SRO's main concern and that the year is going great so far! **Jon Bowman, NHS SRO**, is currently on his seventh year as an SRO and does many of the same programs as the other SRO's. He also checks weekly on truancy and is working on possible alternatives for different traffic pattern at NHS as well. He thanked the board for funding them, and most important, believing in them. **Chris Neice, EEMS SRO**, spoke to the board concerning how far away EEMS was in relationship to the other schools. Since it would take longer for help to get to EEMS, there is a crisis team in place for his school. Officer Neice does the DARE program and he states that this program is beneficial to all students who take part in this program. He also stated that his main concern was the safety of the children and the schools. **Jerry Gautier, NEMS SRO**, spoke to the board about tardiness in the schools and how he has seen it decreasing this year. He helps in the office in the morning with the absentee report and makes calls to parents of students to speak to them about the policy of tardiness. Officer Gautier also monitors the lunch room during lunch time to help prevent discipline issues from occurring, particularly bullying amongst students. Further, he has experience in domestic issues, which enable him to assist the staff when domestic issues arise, as well as explain the documentation that is necessary. He also thanked the board for having the parking lot painted, which has helped with some of the safety concerns.

The board commended all of our SRO's for providing a safer environment for our students. They are very thankful that we have an SRO in each of our schools this school year.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2005
- Bills in the amount of \$193,437.03
- Payroll, September 30th and October 14th
- Revenue for September 2005
- Expenditure for September 2005

- Appropriation Request for November 2005
- Declaration of Surplus Property
- 2005-2006 Advisory Committees
- 2005-2006 Field Trip Requests
- Kindergarten Progress Report

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

The School Board confirmed the **retirement** of *Roger D. Simpkins* as School Bus Garage Mechanic.

The School Board confirmed the **resignation** of *Bryan Patteson* as NHS Girls Varsity Basketball Coach.

The School Board confirmed the following **athletic coaching contracts (Spring):**

GHS – *Neil Schmidt* – Head Girls Soccer; *Randy Roe* – Head Boys Soccer

NHS – *Wayne Gautier* – Girls Basketball Coach

The School Board confirmed all **Substitute Teachers to Date** and the **2005 Fall CDL Class Participants**.

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

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

The Superintendent updated the board on the Smart Board. He has had the opportunity to observe some of the teachers at the schools incorporating their lessons plans to use the Smart Board. He noticed that children were very excited and anxious to use this board. He watched some children learn multiplication by participating in a multiplication game on the board and stated that they were jumping out of their seats to answer these questions and to be able to use the board. He stated that it was truly amazing what this board can do and the information that is available for the teachers to use.

The Superintendent stated that GHS and NHS were administering the writing section of the SOL's this week and there were no concerns thus far. The teachers/faculty have worked very hard to prepare for these tests.

The Superintendent updated the board on the AYP status change of MMS. After submitting a letter to the Department of Education to alter the AYP status of MMS, they have now made "Adequate Yearly Progress."

***School Board and School Staff Present Comments and Mission Statement Accomplishments**

Annual budget meetings were held at each site this week. All the meetings were very successful. Board members were impressed with the comments and concerns during the budget meetings this year. All of the requests that were made this week from the teachers were in the best interest of the students. They were very fortunate to have teachers that want to have equipment and supplies to better educate the students. It's always hopeful that those issues can be addressed.

MMS PTO was commended for the new patio and the faculty was commended for decorating it. It looks great!

GTC was commended for the career/technical booklet that they put together. It's great to know that the Technology Center can help out so many people.

The schools and the Virginian Leader were commended for all of the school representation every week in the paper.

A board member stated that they were excited about the possibility of the new governor's school being built.

Board members stated that they were very impressed with the Smart Board and how effective it is.

Board members stated that they were very appreciative of the SRO's in our schools.

***In Other Action**

The board approved a volunteer agreement for Brad Whitehead – Boys Basketball Assistant.