

NEWS RELEASE
Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
September 21, 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**

- **Mr. Richard Atkins**, community member, spoke to the board about his concerns regarding the procedure of refunding insurance money for employees when changes in policies occur.

- **Mr. Bill Anderson**, member of the Giles County Advisory Committee on Gifted, spoke to the board on the importance of supporting the 2005-2010 Local Plan for Gifted Education in Giles County. Mr. Anderson stated that the success of this plan depends on the support of the schools, as well as School Board Members. He stated that he is very happy with the quality of Giles County Public Schools, as well as the support that is given to the Governor's School by the board members. Mr. Anderson is proposing that the school system hire a full-time Gifted Education Coordinator to focus primarily on elementary schools. He states that benefits of hiring a full-time person will allow students to be better prepared for governor's school as well as being able to train teachers to work more effectively with gifted children. Mr. Anderson commended Trish Muldoon, current Gifted Program Coordinator, for all of her hard work. The School Board Members thanked Mr. Anderson for his concern for the students and staff of Giles County Public Schools and stated that although the budgets would not be approved until Spring 2006, they would consider his request for a full-time gifted coordinator when the time comes.

- **Mr. Doug Turner**, former student of Pearisburg and Giles High Schools, spoke on the subject of "Education and Baby Boomers." He described reasons why the coming retirement of the baby-boom generation could be a demographic time bomb for the nation's workplace. A few reasons for this included the following: America is already facing a skill shortage, because of a lack of people trained in technical, medical, and scientific fields; next, the skills and experience that boomers will take with them when they retire cannot wait years to be replaced or modernized, and he stated that boomers make up a third or more of the nation's work force. He was concerned about how we would prepare our country for a successful transition from boomers to generation X and beyond and that the task would fall on the shoulders of our educators. He stated that those students currently, and for the next 25 years, entering 1st grade will remain in the category of workers who must fill the gap of retiring baby boomers during the approximate period to and beyond 2030 and used nursing as an example because of the shortage of nurses. He used the Giles Technology Center as an excellent example of a good start and an ongoing program that is responding to many economic needs. He conveyed that video teaching, conferencing, and expanded use of personal computers must be maximized, allowing teachers to facilitate academic courses of study and provide more special instruction as needed. He reminded everyone that the cost of education represents the single largest chunk of the total county budget and use of taxpayer money than any other service throughout the communities of our country. The Board Members thanked Mr. Turner for conveying his concerns and views on this matter.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2005
- Bills in the amount of \$176,762.14
- Payroll, August 31st and September 15th
- Revenue for August 2005
- Expenditure for August 2005
- Appropriation Request for October 2005
- Declaration of Surplus Property
- 2005-2006 PAC & Calendar Advisory Committees

- Activities Handbook Revisions

***Educational Feature**

Howard Spencer, Executive Director of the Partnerships for Excellence Foundation, Inc. attended the meeting to share various projects of the Partnership. Mr. Spencer spoke briefly about the “Hammering in the Hills” program, which currently employs 3 people. They have currently completed 3 houses, a homeless shelter, and a roof for the Glen Lyn Fire Dept., as well as many other projects. Mr. Spencer spoke about many grants that are currently in place. He discussed the Work Force Investment Act (WIA), which is \$93,270 for the “youth group” and \$112,527 for the “adult group,” which includes people 18 and older. This program is targeted to serve 40 people in the “youth group” and 37 people in the “adult group.” Michelle Sadler Johnson is the Case Manager for the youth part of the WIA and Shaun Merix is the adult Case Manager. The Partnership and New River Community Services partnered on a program called “Positive Action” for Narrows Elementary Middle School last year and NEMS and Macy McClaugherty School this school year, with both grants being \$43,125 each. There was \$15,000 in grant money from the Giles County Department of Social Services Grant to place playground equipment at Narrows Elementary Middle School, which has been installed. The Partnership also partners with New River Community College with work readiness skills to help students obtain their GED’s. There are currently 3 pending Parent Resource Grants. The Partnership offers many other grants for community and educational needs. These grants are funded from federal, state, corporate, and private agencies, as well as the Virginia Department of Education.

Board members conveyed their sincere appreciation to Mr. Spencer and the Partnership for the outstanding job that is done on behalf of students and adults in the community.

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

The School Board confirmed the following **employment**: Gail Vaught – EEMS Custodian, Erin Lucas – MMS Title I Teacher, Katrina Orey – NEMS Special Ed. Teacher Asst., Amaris Meredith – NEMS Special Ed. Teacher Asst., Carol Spangler – EEMS Special Ed. Teacher Asst – Student Specific.

The School Board confirmed the **resignation** of Kimberly Shaffner as NHS Special Ed. Teacher.

The Board confirmed the following **volunteer agreements**:

GHS – David C. Hrbek – Band, Anne Wheeler – Asst. Girls Track

NHS – James B. Long – Manager/Ticket Seller

The School Board confirmed the following **supplemental contracts**:

GHS – Karen Yolton – Head Senior Class, Rhonda Colavecchio – SCA Sponsor, Michael Etzler – Newspaper, Cecilia McFaden – Annual, Mitch Reed – SCA Sponsor

NHS – Larry Greer – Senior Class Sponsor

The School Board confirmed all **GHS & NHS MACC Coaches** as recommended for 2005-06 as well as all substitute teachers to date.

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

- The Superintendent shared opening school information with the Board which included enrollments the first week of school: September 6th – 2583; September 9th - 2602; and September 13th - 2604. The ending enrollment in June 2005 was 2532 while the first day of school of the 2004-05 school year reflected 2502.
- The Superintendent’s instructional update consisted of introducing “new technology” to the School Board Members known as a “SMART Board.” SMART Board interactive whiteboards help you integrate digital information into teaching, presenting and brainstorming. These easy-to-use collaboration products improve learning and meeting effectiveness by enhancing communication and stimulating audience engagement, which saves you time, effort and resources. Connecting to tools already in most classrooms and boardrooms, the SMART Board interactive whiteboard enables you to write notes, insert diagrams, link to websites and save your work for future use. As the world leader in interactive whiteboards, SMART has front-projection, rear-projection and

overlay models to meet any budget or need. One of these boards have been ordered for each school and teachers will have to sign up to use this board. In the future, Dr. Arbogast is hoping to be able to purchase more of these for classroom use. The School Board Members were astonished at this new technology that was introduced and were looking forward to it being used by teachers in the classrooms. The School Board Members thanked Dr. Arbogast for the wonderful presentation.

- The Superintendent updated the Board on a scholarship opportunity, called the Student of Integrity Scholarship Award, being offered to high school seniors by the Better Business Bureau located in Roanoke, Virginia. The Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia is offering the Student of Integrity Scholarship Award to honor high school seniors. Five award winners will each be presented with a \$1,000 scholarship to an accredited college of his or her choice. This scholarship is sponsored by area businesses that are eager to acknowledge your locality's *Students of Integrity*. After discussion, the School Board confirmed this scholarship.

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

Board Members thanked Mr. Turner for his presentation on "Education and Baby Boomers" and for his interest/concerns in Education.

David Graham, Director of Operations, as well as the rest of the administrators, were commended on an excellent start of the new school year.

A board member stated that they were very happy to see new vending machines at Giles High School, which were put in with the help of Jeannie Layton and Mary Henderson. The new vending machines now have more nutritional foods in them.

A board member stated that they were very impressed on the cleanliness of the schools.

The enrollment at the Governor's School is currently at 158, but there has been discussion of the enrollment going up to 300 if the new Governor's School is built.

A board member stated that it was refreshing for speakers such as Bill Anderson and Doug Turner to attend the monthly board meetings and bring positive comments.

The Virginian Leader was commended on their extensive school coverage for the past two weeks, especially the article in the paper on Wednesday, September 21st, regarding AYP, "No Child Left Behind", as well as "Communication", which was wonderful.

Dr. Arbogast was commended for his "magician" show on the "SMART Board."

A board member commended Howard Spencer for his enlightening presentation on the Partnership.

The bands were congratulated on their wonderful performances at the football games. It was stated that they were doing a wonderful job!

The Superintendent was very happy to announce the **2004 Graduate Follow-up Survey of Career & Technical Education Program Completed**. This follow-up is conducted nine months after graduation and includes graduates who completed a Career & Technical Education Program at Giles High School, Narrows High School or Giles County Technology Center. A total of 82 graduates completed a career and technical education program. The statistics are as follows:

- 55% of the 2004 graduates completed a career and technical education program.
- 96% of the career and technical education program completers have transitioned from high school to employment, the military or further education.
- 65% of those employed full time stated their job is related to the career and technical education program are satisfied with their job.
- 94% of those employed in a job related to their high school career and technical education program are satisfied with their job.

- 62% of the career and technical education program completers have received formal education and training since leaving high school. This includes four-year university, community college, technical school and business/industry training.
- 71% of the program completers enrolled in post-secondary education are studying in an area related to their career and technical education program they completed in high school.
- 45% of career and technical education program completers pursuing further education are going to school full-time and working at least a part-time job.
- 100% of career and technical education program completers responding indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the preparation received in high school for employment and/or further education.

In Other Action:

The Board approved an **additional volunteer agreement:**

Joshua D. Bowman – **NHS** Football Manager

The Board approved an **additional PAC committee member:**

Anne Wheeler - **GHS**

Next School Board Meeting

The October School Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 20th at 9:00 A.M. at the School Board Office. The meeting is being held earlier that day in conjunction with the annual site budget meetings.