

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
December 14, 2006**

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Public Comments - 2007-2008 School Board Budget**

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II, Division Superintendent of Giles County Public Schools, spoke on behalf of the 2007-2008 School Board Budget. The Superintendent told Board Members that Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced on December 12, 2006 several education-related budget amendments that he would submit to the 2007 General Assembly for consideration. Some of these amendments would include continuing to fund the Standards of Quality, updating Virginia lottery proceeds and sales tax revenues, and fully funding the state's share of a three-percent salary increase for teachers and other public school employees. The Superintendent also told Board Members that Governor Kaine's budget amendments would include nearly \$64 million dollars to fund the state's share of a three percent salary increase for teachers, including instructional and support staff, effective December 1, 2007. Governor Kaine is scheduled to address the General Assembly's money committees on Friday, December 15th to submit his budget amendments.

***Public Comments – General**

Sonya Meekins, GEA President, attended the board meeting to speak on behalf of the GEA. Mrs. Meekins first thanked Dr. Arbogast for meeting with the GEA on a monthly basis to discuss their issues. Mrs. Meekins asked that the Board continue to consider a salary increase for teachers and Para-professionals. She gave a handout out to the Superintendent, as well as the Board Members, that showed how Giles County stood for each of the benchmark salary rankings for Virginia's sixty-three fully accredited school divisions for the 2006-2007 school year. The handout shows that Giles County ranks 54 at the starting salary level, ranks 50 at five years, ranks 48 at 10 years, and ranks 46 at 15 years. She also gave a handout to the Superintendent and Board Members to show how Giles County stood for each of the benchmark salary rankings when compared to the other 132 School Divisions in the state. For a bachelor's degree at the starting salary, Giles County ranks 112. Additionally, Giles County ranks 102 at 5 years, ranks 96 at 10 years, ranks 95 at 15 years, ranks 97 at 20 years, ranks 97 at 25 years, ranks 109 at 30 years and ranks 105 at the maximum salary. For a master's degree at the starting salary, Giles County ranks 118. In addition, Giles County ranks 116 at 5 years, ranks 106 at 10 years, ranks 102 at 15 years, ranks 101 at 20 years, ranks 104 at 25 years, ranks 114 at 30 years, and ranks 108 at the maximum salary. Mrs. Meekins reminded the Superintendent and Board Members of the formal salary proposal that she submitted to them back in November and she hopes that they will continue to work with her to get a salary increase. School Board member Drema McMahan asked Mrs. Meekins if she has compared the benefit package of other school divisions to our school division. Mrs. Meekins told Mrs. McMahan that she could get that information and present it to them at the next board meeting if she would like. Mrs. McMahan said that it was impressive the benefit package that we have for our employees. Mr. Buckland thanked Mrs. Meekins for her comments and told her that the Board supports what teachers want, but as far as benefits, he told her that Giles County was second to none.

***Educational Feature – Giles High School**

Mr. Greg Brown, Principal at Giles High School, Mrs. Barbara Scheid, Teacher at Giles High School, along with two 9th grade students, Samantha Darnell and Dylan McVey, attended the School Board meeting to show the School Board a "fun" technology program that helps students learn. Mr. Brown said that the schools were always in a battle for "fun" technology that the students could use to learn their subjects. Mrs. Scheid introduced an internet program called "Brain Pop," which is used as a teaching tool for teachers. Teachers and students can access this program as a group, or the students can bring this program up in computer labs at school using head phones. "Brain Pop" is a program intended for students in the third grade through the eighth grade level and Mrs. Scheid said she agrees that this is a great program for her students. This program has all subjects to choose from and is very user friendly. Samantha Darnell and Dylan McVey demonstrated the program using the English subject.

***Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Lea Beth Bowers – EEMS (PE/Health Teacher), Teresa Link – EEMS (Teacher Assistant), Rose Jennings – MMS (Bus Driver), Art Terrill – MMS (Bus Driver), Richard Trenar – MMS (Bus Driver), Lisa Ratcliff – MMS (Bus Driver), Roger Crockett – MMS (Bus Driver), Betty Crigger – MMS (Bus Driver), Pearisburg Volunteer Fire Department, Barbara Havens – NHS (Cafeteria Worker), Michelle Skeens – NHS (Cafeteria Worker), Becky Smith – NHS (Cafeteria Worker), Regina St. Clair – NHS (Cafeteria Worker), Betty McCroskey – NEMS (Secretary).

The following students were recognized for their outstanding artwork and winning this year's Christmas Card Contest: Miranda Akers – EEMS, Caroline Eaton – MMS, Cameron Blankenship – NEMS.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2006
- Bills in the amount of \$ 191,502.52
- Payroll, November 30 and December 15, 2006
- Revenue for November 2006
- Expenditure for November 2006
- Appropriation Request for January 2007
- Additional 2006-2007 Field Trip Requests
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Jean Vogler – PALS Remediation (EEMS)

The School Board confirmed the following **Leave of Absence**: Kimberly Mills – NEMS Teacher (January 2007 – End of 2006-2007 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: J.P. Griffith – GHS Boys Basketball Assistant, Melissa Williams – EEMS Teacher Support, Laura Collins – EEMS Popcorn & Anything else needed, Jean Vogler - EEMS

The School Board confirmed the following **Supplemental Contracts**: Teresa Lowe – NHS SCA Sponsor, Margaret Christle – NHS Yearbook Sponsor, Faye Nicholson – NHS Yearbook Sponsor, Larry Greer – NHS MACC Social Studies

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers**: Jerry Johnson, Betty Robertson (currently employed through NEMS cafeteria)

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 the District Wide Title I Parental Involvement Policy. The District Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the minutes from quarterly Division Advisory Council meetings.

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

Board members commended the Giles High School Varsity Football Team, the Coaching Staff, as well as everyone involved in the program for a wonderful season. The Football Team really has something to be proud of.

A board member stated that the success of the Giles High School football team really says a lot for the coaching staff and everyone else involved. They are all really good people!

A board member commended Betsy Wood at NHS and everyone else involved for a wonderful craft show

last month. Their money is always put to good use!

A board member commended all of the schools on their appearance during last month's school tours for National Education Week.

A board member thanked Giles High School for the calendars that they were given for Christmas.

A board member stated that the Governor's School would probably be full again in the next few years due to the interest.

A board member told everyone that around this time every year, many colleges go to the Governor's School to review records and as of right now, Virginia Tech will be accepting 33 students from the Governor's School, but they are reviewing more.

A board member commended the Pearisburg Volunteer Fire Department for all of their help with parking vehicles at the Giles High School Varsity Football games.

A board member commended Narrows Elementary/Middle School on their Character Counts Assembly and said that it was a great experience for them.

Board members commended Mr. Buckland for being recognized at last month's VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, VA. They really appreciate him! Mr. Buckland was recognized for having more than 25 years of service as a School Board Member.

A board member stated that they really enjoyed the VSBA Annual Convention last month.

A board member commended all of the people that were recognized at the board meeting, especially the Christmas Card Winners.

The Superintendent told Board Members that the first SOL Testing window is from January 8th – January 19th.

The Superintendent thanked Giles High School for providing the educational feature and also commended the play at Giles High School, "The Prince and the Pauper." It was a great play!

The Superintendent commended the Giles High School Varsity Football team on a wonderful season!

The Superintendent commended Jared Brown, son of Greg and Tammy Brown, for a football award he received this week.

The Superintendent commended Coach Ragsdale for being named the Single A Coach of the year.

The Superintendent shared information with the Board Members regarding a company called "Knowledge Learning," which involves before and after school programs. A representative from this company will hopefully be present at next month's board meeting to share information regarding these programs.

The Superintendent reminded the Board that there will be a two hour early release next Thursday for students and staff for the Christmas holiday.

The Superintendent told Board Members that after sharing upcoming dates for the schools with members of the Board of Supervisors at their monthly meeting, he has been asked to prepare a calendar for them monthly with events from each school. This information will also be provided to the School Board Members as well.

The Superintendent told Board Members that there will be a band concert at Narrows High School on Monday at 9:00 a.m.

The Superintendent told Board Members about the Wall of Art Dedication that will be Thursday, December 21st at 9:30 a.m. on the lawn beside of the Timberlake building. This dedication will involve 5th – 8th grade students from Giles County.

The Superintendent commended Mr. Buckland for being recognized at the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg last month.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the December 15th Payroll.

The School Board approved the December Miscellaneous Payroll.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Agreement for Connie Sublett (EEMS Volunteer, School-Wide).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be *Thursday, January 18th at 4:00 p.m.*