

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
May 18, 2006
NEWS RELEASE

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Public Comments**

On behalf of the GEA Compensation Committee, Cecilia McFaden, President of the GEA, attended the meeting to discuss the budget with the School Board Members and Superintendent. She informed the School Board that the teachers were working many extra hours and if their actual pay were calculated with all the extra hours worked, it would amount to less than minimum wage. She stated that the teachers are doing all of this extra work because they wanted to, but would appreciate an increase in their salary to compensate them for the extra work. She informed the board that the "veteran" teachers have produced the results that have enabled the schools to meet full accreditation. In addition, she asked that the School Board and Superintendent reconsider the budget plans and salary scale for the experienced teachers. She also requested that the salary scale be adjusted for inflation. In closing, she asked that the School Board and Superintendent revisit the budget for all the right reasons.

Jeff and Charlene Long attended the School Board meeting to address the School Board on the process of applying for Governor's School. They first thanked the School Board for the opportunity to speak to them regarding this matter. The Longs have a son named Christopher who has been home schooled for the last seven years. He currently is enrolled as a junior in drafting at the Giles Tech Center. They explained that to be eligible for the Governor's School, you had to provide SOL or SAT Scores and home school students are not eligible to take SOL tests. The Longs requested that the School Board reconsider eligibility requirements for Governor's School and also asked that the board consider making an exception to the policy for home school students to attend Governor's School. Mr. Long informed the board that he knew of other home school students who have attended Governor's School.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: **Jeannie Layton – GHS, Anne Wheeler – GHS, Amy Rogers – NHS, Linda Vaught – MMS, Vicky Johnson – MMS, Janet Psathas – MMS, Gloria Hurt – MMS, Debbie Green – NEMS, Marva Boggess – NEMS and Suzanne Blankenship – EEMS.**

On behalf of the School Board, the following students from the **Giles Technology Center** were recognized for their performance in the **SkillsUSA State Competition: Chad Butler, Dakota Lawson, Megan Honaker, Josh Palmer, Brandon Vaught, Shane Slaughter, Zach Guynn, Thomas Nelson, Matthew Conley, Bryan Skidmore, Josh Link and James Dudding.**

***Educational Feature**

Mrs. Michele Thompson, Special Education Coordinator, presented the Educational Feature on behalf of the Special Education Department. She shared with the board the new IEP (Individualized Education Plan) Online program using the Smart Board. This program, which is Internet based, will be used by the Principals, Guidance Counselors, Special Education Teachers, the Special Education Secretary, and Mrs. Thompson. She showed the School Board how to go through the referral and eligibility process, as well as the IEP process. All special education students are loaded into this program. SASI, a program that is currently used by the schools, works hand in hand with IEP Online. IEP Online follows state and federal laws, and provides immediate feedback as the program is being used. In addition, this program will help adhere to the necessary timelines by sending reminders regarding when the IEP's are due and will allow Mrs. Thompson to run reports regarding SOL's, as well as several other things.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2006
- Bills in the amount of \$ 336,381.64
- Payroll, April 28 and May 15, 2006
- Revenue for April 2006
- Expenditure for April 2006
- Appropriation Request for June 2006
- Special Educational Annual Plan
- Additional Field Trips 2005-06

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: **Donetta Dunbar** – NEMS (Effective July 1, 2006), **Elizabeth Miller** – GHS (Effective at the end of the 2005-06 School Year), **Jimmie Beale** – EEMS Bus Driver (Effective at the end of the 2005-06 School Year).

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Transfer of **Danny Havens** from GHS Custodian Position to NHS Custodian Position, **Michele Fields** – NEMS/NHS Bus Driver (Effective beginning of 2006-07 School Year), **Helen “Tracey” Yates** – MMS Title I position (Effective beginning of 2006-07 School Year), **Laura Wickham** – NHS Guidance Counselor (Effective beginning of 2006-07 School Year), **Elizabeth Mould** – NHS Special Education Teacher (Effective beginning of 2006-07 School Year), Kevin Riley – EEMS/MMS Itinerant Music Teacher (Effective beginning of 2006-07 School Year).

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

The School Board confirmed all **Substitute Bus Drivers to Date**.

The School Board confirmed the proposal from **Flowers Bakery** for services specified in RFP #8-2006 (bakery items).

The School Board confirmed the proposal from **Culligan** for services specified in RFP #9-2006 (water treatment services).

The School Board confirmed the proposal from **Vaught Septic** for services specified in RFP #12-2006 (cleaning of grease traps and septic tanks).

***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 following authorizations for the 2006-2007 school year: The Chairman and Superintendent to accept RFP's and offer employment between School Board meetings, if needed, and Scott Meade, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum to sign documents for the 2006-07 school year, in a Superintendent's absence, as requested by the Virginia Department of Education.

The School Board approved textbook adoptions as recommended. Select committees of teachers and parents have been reviewing textbooks to develop a recommendation for County adoption of Math for grades KG-5. The committee has spent many hours in textbook review and has finalized their recommendation. The new selection will be **Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Mathematics, Virginia Edition**. This recommendation was available for public review at the Giles County Board of Education Office May 15-17, 2006.

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

A board member stated that the after prom party was very successful. There were approximately 400 people that attended. The fundraisers for the after prom party were started in December and were very successful.

A board member stated that the renovators were doing a great job on Northwood, the new Governor's School.

A board member commended several students whose papers were accepted from the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. Those students mentioned were Kristin Fields in Earth and Science and Maria Abrams in Psychology.

A board member commended Josh McCann for placing 2nd in Zoology in the 2006 Virginia State Science Fair.

The Superintendent informed the School Board that Narrows Elementary/Middle School was one of 130 schools nationwide selected as an HP Technology Grant Recipient. The \$35,000 grant includes HP wireless equipment, cash, and professional development to improve student achievement. The team consists of Tammy Frazier, Heather Rowland, Crissy Dunn, Rick Franklin, Jeff Bucklen, Sarah McGlothlin, and Joyce Riffe.

The Superintendent commended the Spring Fair, which was held at the Giles Tech Center on Saturday, May 13th. He stated that there were approximately 65 people that had come through the Tech Center for health screenings. The students also created things such as benches, key chains, and wind chimes. Plants were also available for sale.

The Superintendent informed the School Board that the Giles Technology Center was selected by the career and education awards committee from the Virginia Department of Education to be recognized at state level. The awards are made annually to recognize exemplary projects that promote excellence in career and technical education.

The Superintendent informed the School Board of a play that the Giles High School students will be performing at the Giles County Courthouse for the Bicentennial celebration. The students will be performing May 27th at 3:00 & 5:00 p.m.

The Superintendent commended all of the exceptional art work that was on display at the School Board Office the week of the art show.

The Superintendent commended the 7th grade trip scrapbooks from Macy McClaugherty School that were displayed at the School Board.

The Superintendent read a letter from Brian Squibb, PTO President from Macy McClaugherty School. The letter was written to Dr. Arbogast, thanking him, as well as the School Board for their support of the Macy PTO during the past three years. He stated that their support was very important to the PTO Board. Mr. Squibb will step down from president at the end of this school year and Ms. Gretchen Carlson-Hagee will be the new PTO President for the upcoming school year.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the special meeting minutes on May 11th, 2006 for the 1:00 p.m. and the 2:00 p.m. meeting.

The School Board approved the employment of Mr. Greg Canaday – EEMS Principal (Effective July 1, 2006).

The School Board approved a new Student Wellness Policy, JHCF.

The School Board approved the revision of policy JHCC-R.

The School Board approved an additional check run for May 15, 2006.

The School Board approved the resignation of Erin Yearout-Patton, Social Studies Teacher at Narrows High School (effective at the end of the 2005-2006 school year).

The School Board approved the revision of policy IKEB-R-1.

The School Board confirmed the proposal from Land-O-Sun Dairies for services specified in RFP #7-2006 (dairy items).

The School Board confirmed the proposal from Sysco Foods for services specified in RFP #11-2006 (cafeteria items).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board meeting will be held Friday, June 30th at 7:30 a.m.