

**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
**April 12, 2007**

*Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**\*Public Comments**

Sonya Meekins attended the board meeting on behalf of the GEA and thanked the board members and Superintendent for allowing her to be in attendance. She told the board members that she feels like the GEA has accomplished a lot this year. She informed the board that the GEA received the lighthouse award due to their increased total membership this year. She stated that it was now down to the last minute as far as the budget and she thanked Dr. Arbogast for everything he has done to try to help them. Mr. Buckland stated that he was glad that she has worked with the board members this year and told Ms. Meekins that they have and always will be willing to listen to their comments and concerns.

**\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: **Dottie Meredith** – EEMS, **Norma Lester** – EEMS, **Michelle Robertson** – NEMS, **Ann Hively** – MMS, **Mary French** – MMS, **Gloria Hurt** – MMS, **Kim Squibb** – MMS, **Bendy Shrader** – MMS, **Phyllis Radford** – GHS.

The following team/individuals were recognized for their continued teamwork and dedication: **GHS Boys Varsity Basketball** – Region Qualification.

**\*Educational Feature**

Mr. Jared Rader, as well as several Teachers, Teacher Assistants and students attended the board meeting on behalf of the MMS educational feature. Mr. Rader gave board members an overview of several remedial programs offered at his school. Three of the remedial programs that were discussed at the board meeting were SKILLS, PALS, and Title I. SKILLS is a new program at Macy. PALS is a program for Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, which runs from November until May. Title I is the other remedial program that was discussed. All students from Kindergarten through seventh grade have the opportunity to stay after school for remediation. Mr. Rader informed the board members that over half of the students at Macy are involved in some type of remediation program. The Teachers, Teacher Assistants, and students that were present at the meeting provided a brief overview of each remedial program. First, Tracey Yates, a Title I Teacher, stated that she has about 147 kids in the Title I program at Macy. She had three of her first grade students in attendance with her. In addition, Kim Squibb, a Teacher Assistant, showed an example of a game called "Merry Go Round," which is similar to the game known as "Go Fish." Mrs. Squibb was filling in at the meeting for Becky O'Dell who works with the PALS program. This game helps students learn letter clusters. PALS is a daily 30 minute class and has about 55 kids in the program. Michelle Blankenship, a Teacher Assistant, brought along several sixth grade students to play a game called "Extra" to show an example of the SKILLS program at Macy. Marcia Murray, a Special Education Teacher, who works with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders, demonstrated examples of reading comprehension and sang songs to show how the students learn their multiplication tables. Mr. Rader concluded by saying that the point he was trying to make was that many skills were demonstrated during the short amount of time that the students showed examples of the remediation programs they participate in each day. He also stated that even though the students look like they are playing games, they are also learning valuable lessons and skills at the same time that will benefit them in the future. He stated that without his teachers and teacher assistants at Macy, the students would be in the dark. He was very thankful for all of his staff at Macy.

Amy Wheeler, Mark Skidmore, Lane Mann, Dale Ryder, Mary French, Terri Dunford, and Jerry Gautier attended the board meeting on behalf of PULSAR. Amy began by stating how much she loved this program. She has been helping with this program for about 14 years and there are other staff members who have participated in this program during that period as well. Amy stated that during her time with PULSAR, they have gone through a lot of changes. She stated that about 4 years ago, Charles Lytton

came to her with the idea of taking the program to Mountain Lake free of charge. At Mountain Lake, the students are now able to sleep in a hotel room instead of a tent or cabin. There are 16 sixth graders from each elementary school who are a part of this program. To decide who will be in the PULSAR program, the staff members talk to each school to see who would benefit the most from this program. For example, the children who have had hard lives and experienced rough situations throughout their lives would probably benefit most from this program. Amy stated that they train some of the members of their team to be Peer Counselors to help out the other individuals. The PULSAR staff is made up of Police Officers, School Resource Officers, Teachers, and Teacher Assistants. Mark Skidmore told board members that he has been in police work for about 18 years, so he has had the opportunity to work with a lot of children. He stated that he has watched some children grow up that are now parents. Mark stated that PULSAR is a great program! Several students that are in the PULSAR program attended the board meeting to share information with the board members about each day of the PULSAR retreat. There were several groups of children and each group discussed activities for one of the three days.

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2007
- Special Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2007
- Bills in the amount of \$ 152,096.47
- Payroll, March 30, 2007
- Revenue for March 2007
- Expenditure for March 2007
- Appropriation Request for May 2007
- Confirmation of Resolution to the Virginian Leader
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Ben Woodyard – NHS JV Baseball Coach, Jennifer McCroskey – NHS Assistant Track Coach.

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

As per the Code of Virginia that all reappointments must be made by April 15<sup>th</sup> annually, the Superintendent recommended, contingent upon receipt of notification of necessary funding, all personnel appointments, non-reappointments, and transfers as recommended by principals and administration of the Giles County Public Schools System for the 2006-07 school year.

The School Board confirmed the request to roll-over the following RFP's for one year each: RFP #7-2006 (dairy items) - Pet/Land-O-Sun Dairies, RFP #8-2006 (bakery items) - Flowers Baking Co., RFP #11-2006 (cafeteria items) - Sysco Foods.

The School Board confirmed the proposal from Douglas Equipment for services specified in RFP #3-2007 (cafeteria dishwasher).

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

The School Board approved policy revisions as recommended by the VSBA Policy Services and administration.

The Superintendent and the Board Chairman met with the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the budget. The School Board requested approximately \$683,000 new money from the Board of Supervisors. The Superintendent stated that the Board of Supervisors will be giving the School Board approximately \$400,000. The Superintendent is currently working on the budget to make necessary changes to reflect this cut. He is trying to leave all personnel as is, but he is trying to keep funding for a Teacher and Teacher Assistant at Eastern Elementary/Middle School since they will lose their Title I program. He will be adjusting salary scales, proposed new positions, and other items as proposed in the budget to get to \$400,000.

The School Board approved the Timmy Meredith Memorial Scholarship offered by the family of Timmy Meredith. On behalf of the family of Timmy Meredith, they would like to offer a scholarship in the amount

of \$850 to a graduating senior at Narrows High School. To be qualified for this scholarship, the student should be enrolled in art at Narrows High School, the student must be furthering their education, the student must be financially in need, and the student is either not already receiving a scholarship or is receiving the least amount of scholarship available.

The School Board approved the Riverview Campground Scholarship offered by Riverview Campground. This scholarship was founded to help provide an opportunity through financial assistance for Narrows High School graduating seniors to further their education. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded the first year. To qualify for this scholarship, a student or children of a family who rents or camps at Riverview Campground is preferred, but if there is not a recipient who would qualify, then a student would be chosen based on financial needs and acceptance into an educational institution. The scholarship will be paid upon the successful completion of the student's first semester of school. To collect the scholarship, the student must show a transcript of the previous semester's grades and a schedule for the next semester.

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 **Spanish & French**. The committee has spent many hours in textbook review and has finalized their recommendation. "*Expresate!*" by Holt, Rinehart & Winston will be the new Spanish Textbooks for grades 7-12 and "*Bien dit!*" by Holt, Rinehart & Winston will be the new French Textbooks for grades 8-12. This recommendation was available for public review at the Giles County Board of Education Office April 3- 12, 2007.

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

The board chairman stated that it is very important to keep a good relationship with the GEA. He stated that it had been a while since anyone has really represented the GEA at board meetings, until this year.

The board chairman stated that we were very fortunate to receive \$400,000 in funding from the Board of Supervisors.

The board chairman stated that the Superintendent did a wonderful job when talking to the Board of Supervisors regarding the budget.

A board member commended Mountain Lake for offering their hotel and facility to PULSAR students during their recent retreat. The board chairman recommended preparing a resolution to Mountain Lake for the next board meeting.

A board member stated that we were very fortunate to have PULSAR. It is a wonderful program!

A board member thanked Ms. Meekins for all she has done for the GEA this year.

Board members commended the students and staff who participated in Giles County Clean up Day on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Board members thanked the Superintendent for all of his hard work this year on the budget.

A board member informed other board members and the Superintendent that the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics will be coming to Richmond next year.

A board member encouraged everyone to attend the Junior/Senior Award Banquet at the Governor's School, which will be held May 22nd.

A board member commented that the school year was quickly coming to a close.

Several board members commented that there have been wonderful educational features this year. There are some great programs at our schools!

A board member commented that the PULSAR program is super! This program has come a long way!

A board member stated that it was great to find out what PULSAR is all about! It seems to be a great program!

The Superintendent informed board members that he was pushing to get information out about KLC (Knowledge Learning Corporation), the new before and after school program, that will begin for the next school year at Macy McClaugherty and Eastern Elementary/Middle School. KLC was approved at the March 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Registration will be held April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent commended the FFA for being awarded a gold rating at the State Level for the FFA National Chapter Award. Ms. Layton submitted a lengthy application with all of the accomplishments of the students, as well as the activities that they participate in. The application is broken down into the categories of Student Development, Chapter Development, and Community Development. This application was scored at State judging and it will now go to Nationals since it was in the top ten percent.

The Superintendent shared information from Ms. Layton regarding the FFA's first Livestock evaluation contest this year. The junior team made up of Nicole Stump, Logan Martin, and Matt Hall placed 5<sup>th</sup> high overall at the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Contest out of 85 teams. Matt Hall placed in the top ten in several events including 6<sup>th</sup> in swine, 10<sup>th</sup> in questions, and 8<sup>th</sup> high overall out of 310 contestants. The senior team consisting of Amy Henderson, Courtney Price, Josh McCann, and Wyatt Hall placed 3<sup>rd</sup> high overall in the advanced division out of 22 teams. This team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the sheep category, 2<sup>nd</sup> in swine, 8<sup>th</sup> in cattle, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in oral reasons. Josh McCann finished 5<sup>th</sup> high overall, Amy Henderson finished 8<sup>th</sup>, and Wyatt Hall finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of 87 contestants. The Superintendent commended these students on their accomplishments.

The Superintendent informed board members that SOL testing would start next month.

The Superintendent commended the three elementary schools for their work and participation in the academic fair this year. He was able to go and see some of the work and it was impressive.

The Superintendent thanked PULSAR and Macy McClaugherty for their great educational features.

#### **\*In Other Action**

The School Board approved the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 payrolls.

The School Board approved a field trip for five of Kay Lucas's students to attend the National Competitive Events for HOSA in Orlando, Florida. This field trip will take place June 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.

The School Board approved corrections to the minutes from the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting. The NHS Athletic Coaching Agreements should have been Brad Boyd instead of Brad Boys. Also, additional information was added to the minutes where the ending date of school was changed to June 11<sup>th</sup>. It was changed to reflect that this decision was from the PAC Committee.

#### **\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. The Teacher of the Year reception will begin after the board meeting at approximately 4:30.