

**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
**December 13, 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**

Leigh Stoudenmire attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. Mrs. Stoudenmire read a response to the board members that was prepared by their attorney and sent to the School Boards attorney. In addition, she distributed a copy of the letter to all of the School Board members. She stated that the response that they received from the School Board attorney took three weeks and she felt that it should not have taken that long to obtain.

Darlene Cunningham attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. The concerns that she shared with the board were regarding the Giles County Partnership for Excellence Foundation, as well as the Cumberland Park Project. Mrs. Cunningham read excerpts from a Maryland newspaper regarding contamination from fly ash. Additionally, she informed the School Board members that there is a possibility of a revision in the EPA policies. She also stated that if the School Board has any influence at all on the Cumberland Park Project, then they should take a hard look and research this issue.

Danny Robertson attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. Mr. Robertson began by stating that the school system should be teaching children to be responsible and to take care of the environment. He stated that the Partnership is a public school foundation and that the project is a disgrace to the county. Mr. Robertson also voiced his concerns about "The Concerned Citizens of Giles County" not being able to obtain a copy of the Partnership's by-laws. He closed by informing the School Board members that he hoped that they would do the right thing.

Joan Kark attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. Mrs. Kark lives in Giles County and is concerned about the Cumberland Park Project. She stated that the design of the project will not protect the New River. In addition, she informed School Board members that this project would be a long term liability for them. Mrs. Kark also stated that the code says that projects by the Partnership were to be approved by the School Board. She closed by telling the School Board members to put a halt to this project.

Larry Blankenship attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. Mr. Blankenship has been a resident of Giles County for 61 years. He stated that he was not opposed to AEP, Celanese, or the School Board, but was opposed to the Partnership's project. Mr. Blankenship requested a copy of the by-laws of the Partnership and wanted to know how much money the School Board has given to the Partnership.

Ellen Woodyard attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. Mrs. Woodyard stated that Mr. Howard Spencer gave a yearly report to the School Board members at one of their monthly meetings each year. She stated that she has been looking at past year's minutes and read articles relating to the projects of the Partnership.

Tom Hoffman attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. He stated that this project should not be built because the EPA is changing their mind on some regulations. Mr. Hoffman stated that he doesn't want taxes to increase due to this project. He also referred to related stories in Maryland newspapers regarding the contamination from fly ash.

Teresa Melvin attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. She informed School Board members that she lives at Riverview Campground and that she will have to move if fly ash is placed on the Cumberland Park site. She stated that many people have already moved due to this project and if the project continues, then more people will have to move. She closed by stating that the School Board had a right to stop this project.

Barbara Scheid attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. She thanked the School Board members for serving the children of Giles County. She stated that their service was very valuable to her. Mrs. Scheid informed School Board members that they have taken no action to stop the project and she had hoped that they should stop the project until more research was done. She stated that the School Board members have legal standing and she interprets their lack of action to mean that they are "for" the project. She also stated that the project is becoming a public relations nightmare and requested that the School Board cease this operation. She closed by offering volunteer services to benefit the Giles Tech Center instead of using the proceeds from the Cumberland Park Project. She stated that she knows that the Tech Center has very important programs and she thinks that there are other funding activities that can be done instead of the Cumberland Park Project. The Board Chairman informed Mrs. Scheid that they are currently in the process to renovate the Giles Tech Center.

Britt Stoudenmire attended the meeting to speak in opposition to the Cumberland Park Project. Mr. Stoudenmire and his wife operate Canoe the New Outfitters and they both have been a substitute teacher in the school system. After doing research, he informed School Board members that every grant from the Partnership was in the school system's name. He challenged the School Board to look at some of these issues with the Partnership. He closed by stating that the School Board needs to investigate this, to ensure that everything is going smoothly with the Partnership.

Mr. Buckland informed all of the public speakers that their concerns would be forwarded to the School Board attorney and whatever he advised the board to do, they would follow his recommendations.

#### **\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: **Charles Lytton, Jeff Young** – GTC, **Marcia Murray** – MMS, **Judy Hartley** – GTC, **Suzie Baker** – NHS, **Sarah McGlothlin** – NEMS, **Denise Osborne** – GHS.

The following students were recognized for their outstanding artwork and winning this year's Christmas Card Contest: **Tyler Canaday** – EEMS, **Hope Palmer** – MMS, **Rosaleigh Bradley** – NEMS.

#### **\*Educational Feature**

On behalf of the EEMS Educational Feature, Mr. Canaday, Christy Jones, and Barbara St. Leger attended the meeting to introduce their new remediation program, called SOAR, which stands for Sensational Opportunities for Academic Readiness. Mr. Canaday began by thanking the School Board members and Superintendent for allowing them to present the Educational Feature. He informed the School Board members that he, as well as Mrs. Christy Jones and Mrs. Barbara St. Leger, were there to discuss the new remediation program at EEMS that was developed due to the loss of the Title I funding last year. He thanked the School Board for supporting the funding of this program. Mrs. Jones informed School Board members that this new program allowed students to develop academic and self esteem skills. This program is tailor made to the school and to each grade, which makes it a little different from the previous Title I program. Meetings were held with each grade level before beginning this program so that the teachers could share their concerns and comments about what their students needed. All teachers in each grade level agreed that the program should focus on Math & Reading. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. St. Leger discussed how the SOAR program worked for each individual grade level and informed School Board members of the different resources that were available for Reading and Math. They closed by thanking the School Board members and Superintendent for allowing them to share this presentation.

#### **\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2007
- Special Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2007
- Bills in the amount of \$ 411,794.70
- Payroll, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Revenue for November 2007
- Expenditure for November 2007
- Appropriation Request for January 2008

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment: Lena Tate** – EEMS Custodian (effective

November 19<sup>th</sup>), **Bonnie Mosley** – NEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective November 26<sup>th</sup>).

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation: Krisha Kees** – NEMS Special Education Teacher (contingent upon a suitable replacement)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements: Mark Jones** – GHS Assistant 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers: Rusty Stump**

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Custodians: Richard Scherrep** (current GHS student).

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

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

The School Board approved a motion to table the approval of the 2008-2009 school calendar until the January board meeting. A board member voiced concerns about the four hour early releases in the calendar. The Superintendent informed the School Board members that he would discuss this with the calendar committee at their next meeting, which is scheduled for next week. The Superintendent also discussed the possibility of starting school prior to Labor Day only for the 2009-2010 school year due to the fact that Labor Day is not until September 7th. This was discussed at the previous calendar committee meeting and he told the committee that he would discuss this option with the school board. If the calendar committee would approve that option for the 2009-2010 school year, it would only be for that year and all other years would be discussed individually. The Superintendent asked the School Board members if the 2009-2010 calendar could be approved to start prior to Labor Day only for that one individual year and then every other calendar could be individually evaluated based on the particular days for that school year. The School Board felt that this was an appropriate way to handle the 2009-2010 calendar, as well as future calendars. The School Board will discuss the calendars more at the January board meeting.

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

The School Board approved the December 14, 2007 payrolls.

The School Board approved the Volunteer Agreement for Jean Vogler (EEMS Classroom Support).

The School Board approved the Volunteer Agreement for Sandra Webster (EEMS Library Support).

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

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.