

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
February 15, 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, GEA President, attended the board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She thanked the board for allowing her to speak at the meeting. She reminded the board that she had given them a budget proposal and statistics regarding salaries for teachers at an earlier board meeting. She also informed the board that within the next few years, Giles County would be losing several veteran teachers due to retirement and commended Montgomery County for having their own job fair. Lastly, she told board members to keep the GEA in mind as far as salary and told them that it was now in their hands. Mr. Buckland commented that the School Board has a great relationship with the Board of Supervisors and also stated that the board will keep them in mind. He thanked Ms. Meekins for attending the meeting and told her she was welcome to come back any time.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Tammy Brown – PE Teacher (MMS), Ellie Miller – Librarian (MMS), Lisa Johnston – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Debbie Poff – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Dee Meredith – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Carol Spangler – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Martha Dunn – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Angela Rice – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Marsha Kessinger – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Juanita Sweeney – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Heather Frazier – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Sharon Wilson – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Dorothy Williams – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Barbara St. Leger – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Teresa Link – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Paula Parsell – Teacher Assistant (EEMS), Tammy McGuire – Teacher Assistant (EEMS).

Mr. Howard Spencer, Giles County Board of Supervisors Chairman, attended the meeting to distribute certificates to School Board Members in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month.

On behalf of the School Board, Amanda J. Price, School Board Clerk, was presented with a plaque by the School Board Members for School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

***Educational Feature**

Randall Westbrook, the instructor for the Automotive Service Technology program, and student, Amy Henderson, attended the board meeting on behalf of the Giles Technology Center. Ms. Henderson showed the School Board the "All Data Online" program that the students use in the Automotive Technology program. Mr. Westbrook stated that you pay a yearly subscription for this program, but you automatically get updates for it as they become available. With this program, you can put in the year, make, and model of a vehicle and you are able to look up all the information on that particular vehicle. Some of the areas that you can look up include maintenance, diagnostic trouble codes, technical service bulletins, specifications, diagrams, and locations. This program can allow you to look at vehicles as far back as 1981. Vehicle dealerships used to be the only places that could get access to this program. Mr. Westbrook stated that they are currently working with AutoZone and Napa to be able to order their parts online. Mr. Westbrook also stated that the class has received some donations of vehicles, motorcycles, etc. from the public. Once they receive these donations, they begin working on the vehicle in an attempt to fix them. Once the vehicle is fixed, the vehicle may be sold or used for other purposes around the Tech Center. Board members thanked Mr. Westbrook and Ms. Henderson for showing them this interesting program.

Mr. Howard Spencer attended the board meeting on behalf of the Giles County Partnership for Excellence Foundation. Mr. Spencer gave the board members an update on activities and information from the Partnership. He thanked everyone for their continued support, especially Mr. Meade, since he works directly with him. The mission statement for the Partnership is to "assist participants achieve their full potential." Mr. Spencer stated that he has a great relationship with schools and the business communities. He stated that WIA funding would be reduced as well as staff, but commented that Giles County has the highest per capita income, as well as the lowest poverty level. In August, Eastern Elementary/Middle School completed Positive Action Training. In addition, the Partnership awarded a grant to Narrows Elementary/Middle School for the purchase of Science equipment. Mr. Spencer also stated that the Roanoke Times newspaper has been purchased for all of Mr. Greer's Government classes at Narrows High School. Furthermore, Mr. Spencer continues to operate the VEC office in Narrows. Mr. Spencer shared that there will be a new homeless shelter located near Fletchers Coal Yard in Narrows as a replacement for the old shelter. Mr. Spencer stated that this will be an added attraction. There are currently 48 young men and woman participating in the Hammer program. This program has been going on for about 6 years and these individuals have been an asset to lots of people. These individuals have built new homes all over the county and have also done renovations for several individuals. There have been 7-8 new structures built for individuals throughout the county. Mr. Spencer has been in the Partnership since 1991 and he began this program because he has always enjoyed helping people.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2007
- Bills in the amount of \$ 477,162.80
- Payroll, January 31st and February 15th, 2007
- Revenue for January 2007
- Expenditure for January 2007
- Appropriation Request for March 2007
- Additional Fields Trips 2006-2007

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** Pamela Cress – MMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective February 5, 2007).

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement:** Michael Biggs – NHS Math Teacher (effective end of the 2006-2007 school year), Pamela Warden – EEMS 4th Grade Teacher (effective end of the 2006-2007 school year).

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignations:** Mark Wilburn – GHS JV Girls Softball Coach (06-07 school year), Jeremiah Tuggle – GHS History Teacher (effective end of the 2006-2007 school year).

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Beverly Hall – EEMS Library Assistant, Mike Davidson – GHS Baseball.

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements:** Jennifer Butler – GHS Assistant Girls Track, Mark Wilburn – GHS JV Softball, Amy Gervich – GHS Assistant Girls Tennis.

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Dusty Stump – GHS Head JV Softball.

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

The School Board confirmed the proposal from JanPak for services specified in RFP #1-2007 (duplicating paper).

The School Board completed the annual evaluation for Dr. Arbogast, Superintendent. The Board Chairman commented that the Board is extremely pleased with his performance thus far and that he is becoming a stronger Superintendent. All evaluations by the Board were above average. They were all great evaluations!

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

The School Board approved the 2007-2008 school calendar that was designed and agreed upon by consensus of the School Calendar Committee.

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

A board member commented that it seems that the school system is going well this year.

A board member commented that they enjoyed the afternoon of the first part of the school board retreat.

A board member stated that they think it would be an advantage to them for some members of PULSAR to attend a board meeting to do a presentation. This would help them to understand what PULSAR is really all about.

A board member commended the SOL scores for Narrows High School. There were several perfect scores!

A board member commended the lunch provided to them by Narrows Elementary/Middle School for the retreat.

A board member discussed accreditation and stated that it comes from hard work from all school employees.

A board member commented that the first part of the retreat had been a very informative day. They were only half way through, but they think that splitting up the retreat into two days is the way to go.

Board members commended the educational feature provided by the Giles Technology Center.

A board member stated that it was always interesting to see Howard Spencer attend the board meeting to discuss the Giles County Partnerships for Excellence Foundation.

A board member commended Macy McClaugherty School on their "Movie Night." They stated that it was very interesting and they were surprised to see the number of participants. During this night, the students brought items for our troops that are to be sent from the VFW Post 6000.

The Superintendent informed board members that remediation programs have now started at all schools.

The Superintendent informed board members of some calendar events that were taking place at the schools this month.

The Superintendent informed board members of the make-up days that students will now be attending due to the inclement weather.

The Superintendent recognized Mary Henderson for all of her hard work with the Carilion Grant. All categories either met or exceeded the criteria.

The Superintendent commended Randall Westbrook and Amy Henderson from the Giles Technology Center for a wonderful educational feature.

The Superintendent stated that a parent had come in last week to inform him of information about members from the FFA at GHS that was in a magazine called "FFA New Horizons." There was a gold-rated team in the horse evaluation, which included Tara Hughes, Josh McCann, Shelley Patton, and Kala Smith. Josh McCann was the 18th high individual. These individuals received a \$500 college scholarship at the National Convention to a college or university of their choice. Shanan Worrell placed as under the silver-rated team in the job interview category. Giles County placed 1st in Livestock Judging with team members Josh McCann placing 1st, Amy Henderson placing 3rd, Wyatt Hall placing 7th and Courtney Price placing 9th.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the **Employment** of Erica Gautier (Special Education Teacher Assistant - Eastern Elementary/Middle School), effective February 14, 2007.

The School Board approved a **Volunteer Agreement** for Dale Ryder (Eastern Elementary/Middle School PULSAR).

The School Board approved the **Retirement** of Stephen Ragsdale (Math Teacher at Giles High School), effective end of the 2006-2007 school year.

The School Board approved the **Employment** of Kristen Smith (Guidance Counselor at Giles High School), effective for the 2007-2008 school year.

The School Board set the graduation dates for Giles and Narrows High School. Narrows High School will be graduating June 8th and Giles High School will be graduating June 9th.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 15th, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. and the Quarterly Dinner Meeting with Administrators will follow at MMS at 5:30.