

**Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting  
NEWS RELEASE  
March 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 School Board and Dr. Arbogast for listening to her concerns and comments every month. She told the board members that the GEA endorses the proposal that was given to them by Dr. Arbogast last week. This proposal included an increase in supplemental contracts, an increase in the masters, the longevity, and the doctor's degree supplements, an increase in the hourly wage rate for teachers and teacher assistants who sign work agreements, and placing teacher assistants on a salary scale. She also stated that the proposal included changing the sick leave policy for family members from 3 to 5 consecutive days. Another proposal mentioned was changing the ½ time Art teacher to a Full Time Art teacher at GHS. In addition, Ms. Meekins stated that she appreciated the hard work from Dr. Arbogast in preparing the salary scales. She strongly encouraged the School Board to adopt the proposal that Dr. Arbogast introduced to them. She again thanked the School Board for their time.

**\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Tami Hall – MMS, Norma Trenar – MMS, Connie McCall – EEMS, Suzanne Williams – EEMS, Barbara St. Leger – EEMS, Lea Beth Bowers – EEMS, Toma Eaton – EEMS, Betsy Wood – NHS, Millie Lawrence – NHS, Jane Garrett – NHS, Toni Chidester – NEMS, Lisa James – NEMS, Kerry Dowell.

**\*Educational Feature**

Kim Smith, Agriculture Teacher at Narrows High School, attended the board meeting on behalf of the NHS educational feature. Ms. Smith was very excited to be at the board meeting to brag about her class and her FFA program. She stated that her goals were to prepare students for the future, to incorporate SOL's, and to instill students with a sense of good character and responsibility. As far as enrollment, there has been an increase in total students, as well as an increase in new students entering the program. Ms. Smith showed the School Board pictures of a research project involving genetically modified plants and also showed pictures of some shop projects, which included chairs and tables. She discussed some career development events that the FFA has attended, such as forestry judging, agriculture mechanics, small engines, horse judging, livestock judging, and tractor driving. The FFA also participates in community service projects, such as Toys for Tots and the Animal Rescue Ink Cartridges project. Trenton Miller, Vice President of the Narrows FFA Chapter, spoke to the School Board telling them how his leadership abilities have prospered from FFA. He also told them that he has attended many leadership conferences, which have helped prepare him for college and his future. Sienna White, Secretary of the Narrows FFA Chapter, spoke to the School Board about her experiences in FFA. She told them that she has participated in the forestry and horse judging career development events. The board chairman thanked Ms. Smith and her students for a great educational feature!

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2007
- Bills in the amount of \$ 172,168.09
- Payroll, February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Revenue for February 2007
- Expenditure for February 2007
- Appropriation Request for April 2007

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: **Randall Weddle** – GHS History Teacher (effective for the 2007-2008 school year), **Meagan T. Jones** – NHS Math Teacher (effective for the 2007-2008 school year), **Brandon Webb** – GHS Math Teacher (effective for the 2007-2008 school year), **Kristin Radford** – GHS English Teacher (effective for the 2007-2008 school year).

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignations**: **Brandon Hollie** – NHS Basketball & Baseball Coach (effective February 16, 2007), **Lou Ann Morris** – MMS Title I Teacher (effective end of the 2006-2007 school year).

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: **Lisa Johnston** – EEMS T-TAC Instructional Conference, **Angela Rice** – EEMS T-TAC Instructional Conference.

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements**: **Bret Nicholson** – GHS Assistant Boys & Girls Soccer.

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: **Curt Gervich** – GHS Girls Tennis Coach, **Joseph Ferrell** – NHS Head J.V. Baseball.

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Custodians**: **Mark Perdue** (All schools).

The School Board confirmed the proposal from Stable Foundation for services specified in the RFP conducted by OWPR.

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

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

The School Board approved an increase in breakfast and lunch prices of \$.05 for the 2007-2008 school year.

The School Board approved increases and changes in the fee schedule for the 2007-2008 school year for both high schools.

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

The board chairman made a motion to pass a resolution to the Virginian Leader for all of their hard work. We are very fortunate to have them. The resolution will be board approved at the April board meeting.

A board member was happy to see that there were two submissions made to VSBA for the Showcase for Success.

A board member commended the SRO's who went beyond their call to assist PULSAR on their retreat at Mountain Lake.

A board member distributed handouts to other board members from the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. These handouts contained information about students who were the 2007 Regional Science Fair Participants and Winners and students who submitted papers to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. There were many students from Giles County on these handouts.

A board member read an article that was in the Virginian Leader about Wyatt Hall, a governor school student from Newport.

A board member shared information with other board members about Pat Duncan, Director of the Southwest Virginia Governor's School, by stating that she was willing to come help any teacher in any subject area if needed.

Board members commended the educational feature by Narrows High School. They were glad to see the students interacting with the SOL's.

A board member stated that the FFA is a good, strong program in our county. It seems to help with public speaking and increases self esteem.

The Superintendent informed board members that the SOL writing test was conducted last week.

The Superintendent commended the winners from the Giles Technology Center who participated in the 2007 SkillsUSA District Championships. There are 19 students eligible to compete in the state competition in April.

The Superintendent read names of the winners from the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) State Leadership Conference that held March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The third place team in Health Education consisted of Jessica Colmer, Kiva Widrig, Tiffany Blankenship, and Sara Robbins. Katherine Cady received first place in Nursing Assistant Skills. Tiffany Blankenship received fourth place in Nursing Assistant Skills and Kiva Widrig received fifth place in Nursing Assistant Skills.

The Superintendent commended Dustin Rakes, GHS band student, for getting third in All State Band tryouts. Unfortunately, they only take the top two to All State Band.

The Superintendent commended Jackie Evans from the Giles Technology Center for being the first to complete the pilot program with the Microsoft Virtual Academy (Network+ courseware).

The Superintendent congratulated the GHS Varsity Boys Basketball team and the NHS Varsity Girls Basketball team for a wonderful season as they both advanced into the regional playoffs.

The Superintendent recognized Corbin Vierling of the Virginian Leader for all of her hard work. Corbin has now accepted another job and will be leaving the Virginian Leader.

The Superintendent informed board members about Celanese making a donation to Mill Mountain Zoo, which in turn allows Mill Mountain Zoo to come to our elementary schools to do a presentation. The presentation is part of the Mill Mountain Zoo Outreach program.

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

The School Board approved the following **Substitute Custodian**: Tambria McCraw (All schools).

The School Board approved the following **Volunteer Agreement**: Tambria McCraw – Macy.

The School Board accepted the proposal from KLC School Partnerships for services specified in **RFP #2-2007** (school aged child care).

The School Board approved the following **Employment**: Erin “Corey” Mawby – GHS Special Education Teacher (effective for the 2007-2008 school year).

The School Board approved the ending date of school to now be June 11<sup>th</sup> due to the February 19<sup>th</sup> make-up day being missed due to inclement weather.

The School Board approved the following **NHS Athletic Coaching Agreements**: Brad Boys – Head JV Softball, Melinda Fleeman – Head Varsity Softball, and Jimmy Joe McCroskey – Head Track.

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

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.