

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
May 17, 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, was unable to attend the board meeting due to the meeting starting earlier. However, on behalf of the GEA members, she sent a letter to Dr. Arbogast and the School Board members thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the employees of Giles County Public Schools during the budget process. She stated that the GEA set out this school year to accomplish several tasks and they were able to meet their goals with the help of Dr. Arbogast and the School Board members. She also thanked them for a cooperative and successful school year and stated that she looked forward to working with them in the future.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: **Karen Yolton** – GHS, **Pat Bayless** – GHS, **Dave Roberson** – GHS, **Phyllis Radford** – GHS, **Steve Ragsdale** – GHS, **Kent Miller** – NHS, **Tracey Yates** – MMS, **Kim Squibb** – MMS, **Marcia Murray** – MMS, **Michelle Blankenship** – MMS, **Beth Sparks** – EEMS, **Suzanne Williams** – EEMS, **Brenda Metro** – EEMS, **Toma Eaton** – EEMS, **Linda Henderson** – EEMS, **Nancy Matlock** – NEMS, **Bobbie Skeens** – NEMS.

The following individuals were recognized for their participation in the 2007 Blue Ridge Regional Art Show: **Justin Saunders** – GHS, **Gary Fields** – GHS, **Harley Wilson** – NEMS.

***Educational Feature**

Mrs. Michele Thompson, Special Education Supervisor, showed a PowerPoint presentation to the School Board members of Jessica Morris's preschool class. She stated that she always keeps her eyes open for exciting and interesting things in different classrooms when she visits the schools. Mrs. Thompson commented that "actions speak louder than words" prior to showing this presentation. Jessica Morris put the PowerPoint presentation together, but was unable to attend the board meeting. The board members thanked Mrs. Thompson for the presentation and agreed with her comment.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2007
- Special Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2007
- Special Meeting Minutes - April 19, 2007
- Bills in the amount of \$ 335,393.26
- Payroll, April 30th and May 15th, 2007
- Revenue for April 2007
- Expenditure for April 2007
- Appropriation Request for June 2007
- Confirmation of Resolution to Mountain Lake
- Confirmation of Surplus Items
- Special Education Annual Plan
- Career & Technical Education Funds
- Confirmation of Educational Technology Resolution (Use proceeds of the equipment notes to reimburse qualifying expenditures)
- Additional 2006-2007 Field Trips

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment: Angela D. Parker** – NHS Special Education Teacher (Effective for the 2007-2008 school year), **Suzanne J. Baker** – NHS Guidance Counselor

(Effective for the 2007-2008 school year), Transfer of **Pamela Cress** from MMS to NEMS - Special Education Teacher Assistant (Effective August 27, 2007), Transfer of **Danny Pyles** from GHS to MMS – Custodian (Effective May 7, 2007).

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement: James Meadows** – MMS Custodian (Effective April 19, 2007).

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Dale Meredith – GHS Softball, Mary Doug McDonald – EEMS Classroom Support, Sandra M. Fisher – EEMS Library Support.

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers:** Donna Darnell, Gary Kinder, Paul Johnson, Sue Perkins.

The School Board confirmed the proposal from Lee's Body Shop for services specified in RFP #5-2007 (wrecker services).

The School Board confirmed the proposal from Champion Auto Sales for services specified in RFP #6-2007 (purchase of driver's training vehicle).

The School Board confirmed the rollover of the following RFP's for one additional year: RFP #5-2004 (fleet insurance to State Farm), RFP #9-2003 (auditing services).

***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 amendment to policy GCJ-R on page three under "Usage."

The School Board approved the Jarrett Lane Scholarship offered by the Narrows High School Class of 2003 to honor the memory of Jarrett Lane. On behalf of the NHS Class of 2003, the Jarrett Lane Scholarship has been established in honor of a 2003 graduate of NHS and a senior at Virginia Tech whom lost his life on April 16, 2007. This scholarship is available to graduating seniors at Narrows High School that will be attending college in the fall of 2007. First priority for the scholarship will be given to students who are going to major in engineering as well as meet all of the requirements. If there are no graduates who intend to have a major in engineering, the scholarship will be open to all applications that meet the requirements. The scholarship shall not be less than \$500.

The School Board approved the following authorizations for the 2007-2008 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 2007-2008 school year, in the Superintendent's absence, as requested by the Virginia Department of Education.

The School Board approved the Sam Level Memorial Scholarship. The Sam Level Memorial Scholarship has been established by Narrows High School in honor of a former colleague, Mr. Sam Level. The purpose of this scholarship is to help and encourage the recipient to continue his or her education in a four-year, two-year, or vocational program. The faculty and staff of Narrows High School would like to award a scholarship, beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, to a graduating senior. They are hoping this will be a yearly scholarship. The amount of the scholarship may vary a small amount from year to year, but they believe they will have sufficient funds to award at least a \$250 scholarship annually.

The School Board approved the NHS Class of 1976 Memorial Scholarship. The NHS Class of 1976 Memorial Scholarship was established to help and encourage the recipient to continue his/her education. This scholarship is for a Narrows High School graduating senior continuing their education in a college, university, or professional training school. This scholarship is funded by members of the Class of 76 in memory of their deceased classmates. The recipient will be selected by the following: Scholastic

Achievement, Character, Service, and by the Selection Process, which includes need, citizenship, and academic.

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

A board member stated that they were glad that teachers have put in their thirty years of service, but stated that it was sad that we have to replace such great teachers.

Board members commended the educational feature from Mrs. Thompson, Special Education Supervisor.

The board chairman stated that our school system did well with our budget when comparing to other surrounding counties. He stated that he and the other board members were very thankful for our Board of Supervisors members.

A board member commended Celanese for their generous donation and educational support in having Mill Mountain Zoo come to the elementary schools as part of an Outreach Program.

A board member commended the Giles Technology Center students for their accomplishments in the State Competition. Several students will now be attending Nationals.

A board member provided handouts on information from the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. One handout was information on the Virginia Junior Academy of Science regarding student's papers that were accepted and had received recognition. There were four students from Giles whose papers were recognized. The other handout was the 2007 Virginia State Science Fair Winners. There were two students from Giles who placed first and second under the Zoology category.

A board member commended all of the students that participated in this year's art show.

A board member commented that it was hard to believe that some of the teachers are retiring.

The Superintendent recognized Trisha Young on behalf of all the schools. She has professionally handled the problems with testing and has also been filling in at Narrows High School as the site testing coordinator (STC).

The Superintendent informed board members that SOL testing was going on and stated that the scores looked good so far.

The Superintendent commended the students from the Giles Technology Center, who participated in the SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference in April, 2007. There were 16 students who competed at the state level in 20 contest entries. There were 12 entries that were fifth place or better and were recognized at the state awards ceremony.

The Superintendent commended Mrs. Thompson and the Special Education Department for the Educational Feature.

The Superintendent shared information with the board members regarding articles that were submitted from two of our schools to the VSBA Showcases for Success.

The Superintendent commended all of the artwork that was submitted by our students.

The Superintendent thanked the Board of Supervisors for all of their support during the budget process.

***In Other Action**

The School Board confirmed the employment of Vontez Johnson – GHS Custodian (Effective May 14, 2007).

The School Board confirmed the resignation of Tracey Yates – MMS Title I Teacher (Effective end of the 2006-2007 school year).

The School Board confirmed the request to have SCI Roofing complete the roofing job at Macy.

The School Board confirmed additional surplus items as recommended by Mr. Graham.

The School Board approved an additional Jarrett Lane Scholarship. This scholarship was established in April 2007 by a 2003 Giles County graduate of the Southwest Virginia Governor's School to honor the memory of Jarrett Lane, a 2003 graduate of Narrows High School and the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. The funding of this scholarship is generated by donations from the 2003 graduates and their families, teachers, local business leaders, and others in our community and nation.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Friday, June 29th, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.