

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting**

NEWS RELEASE

October 18, 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 to speak on behalf of the Giles Education Association. She began by thanking the Superintendent and School Board members for everything they did during the last budget cycle. She then stated that the GEA and the GEA compensation committee have met several times this year. The GEA continues to grow and so far the numbers are up to 232 people and are still increasing. She thanked Dr. Arbogast for meeting with her and other members on a monthly basis. The GEA members are completing a survey consisting of 14 questions to see exactly what the members feel the GEA should have as priorities for this year. She stated that this year is a new bench mark for the state and she hopes that Giles County will receive its fair share. She stated that she wanted the Superintendent and School Board members to continue working with her.

Michael Etzler also attended the meeting on behalf of the GEA. He first thanked the Superintendent and School Board members for everything they had done for them and stated that he was very happy to be a part of this school system. He urged School Board members to keep teachers pay increases at the cost of living. He also stated that he wants to stay a teacher, but he is beginning to wonder if he can remain a teacher if the pay rate for teachers doesn't increase.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: **Carol Spangler** – EEMS, **Martha Dunn** – EEMS, **Angela Rice** – EEMS, **Marsha Kessinger** – EEMS, **Tammy McGuire** – EEMS, **Stacie Bolen** – EEMS, **Pat Fullen** – EEMS, **Kristi Gordon** – EEMS, **Amy Miller** – EEMS, **Robin Haga** – EEMS, **Thelma Yost** – MMS, **Joyce Marion** – MMS, **Tommy Lang** – GHS, **Vontez Johnson** – GHS, **Roger Shaver** – GHS, **Michael Smith** – GHS, **Vicki Vaughn** – GHS, **Anna Swenty** – NHS, **Julie Hoeksema** – NHS.

The **Marching Virginians from Virginia Tech** were recognized for their attendance and performance during the Narrows High School football game. Those present at the meeting were David McKee – Band Director, Jason Christensen – Instrument Supply Officer, Kate Pereira – Librarian Officer, and Joshua Seager – Executive Officer.

***Educational Feature**

Several School Resource Officers attended the board meeting on behalf of the Educational Feature. Officer Teddy Vaughn, Macy School Resource Officer, spoke first and informed School Board members about several items that have been going on at Macy. Officer Vaughn stated that they had recently had an intruder drill and it was very successful. The planned intruder was detected and they went into "Code Blue", which is a school lockdown. He stated that the new locks at the school work very well. Officer Vaughn also informed School Board members about a new fire drill procedure that was implemented at Macy this year in the event there was ever a fire in one of the classrooms. He also informed School Board members about a reward program that was implemented this year for students "doing something good." A teacher can nominate a student for doing something good and Officer Vaughn will then give them a "ticket", which entitles them to a certificate from Officer Vaughn, as well as being entered for a chance at a \$10.00 gift certificate. Officer Vaughn is working with the PTO to help with the gift certificates.

Officer Chris Neice, Eastern Elementary/Middle School Resource Officer, first stated that the main goal of the School Resource Officers was safety and security for all students and staff. He stated that they are always searching for ways to help with safety and security at the schools. In order to help enforce the safety and security, Officer Neice continues to receive training. He has attended DARE school and has also completed Soft Target Training. Officer Neice has also performed an intruder drill at EEMS. He stated that an armed School Resource Officer is good to have in each school and he continues to review

the crisis plans in place to see if any changes need to be made. As information, numbers have been placed on the classrooms in case there is an emergency. This will help first responders to know which room they need to go to. Officer Neice and Mr. Canaday are currently working on a procedure in the event a kidnapping were to occur. Officer Neice is teaching DARE, Class Action, and Bullying Prevention in the school.

Officer Jerry Gautier, Narrows Elementary/Middle School Resource Officer, reiterated the same information as the other School Resource Officers about safety and security in the schools. Officer Gautier stated that he appreciates the locks on all the doors. He also stated that he is constantly doing a lot of walking and looking, staying on alert.

Officer Jon Bowman, Narrows High School Resource Officer, reiterated the information that the other SRO's had shared with the School Board members. After the events of the past week at Narrows High School, he shared with the School Board members that the School Resource Officers wear "many hats" in the school and are constantly learning life lessons. Officer Bowman thanked School Board members for all of their support. It is greatly appreciated!!

Mr. Buckland and other School Board members thanked the School Resource Officers for doing such a wonderful job! Mr. Buckland stated that he never thought we would have a School Resource Officer in every school, but we do thanks to lots of help and support from many people.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2007
- Bills in the amount of \$ 234,435.65
- Payroll, September 28th and October 15th, 2007
- Revenue for September 2007
- Expenditure for September 2007
- Appropriation Request for November 2007
- 2007-2008 Advisory Committees
- 2007-2008 Field Trip Requests

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment: Donnie Burton** – GTC Head Custodian (effective October 5th).

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation: Dawn Duncan** – MMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective September 19th).

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement: Larry Sadler** – GTC Head Custodian (effective September 28th).

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements: Mary Doug McDonald** - EEMS Classroom Support, **Charlene Sharpe** – EEMS Classroom Support, **Melissa Williams** – EEMS Classroom Support, **Connie Sublett** – EEMS Class/Library Support, **Kevin Davis** – NHS, **Beth Santolla** – MMS, **Marie Church** – MMS PTO/Copying, **Tammy Costner** – MMS Copies/Academic Fair, **Holly Clark** – MMS.

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Supplemental Contracts: B. Lynn Williams** – GHS MACC Social Studies.

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

The Board Chairman stated that Mr. Spencer deserves credit for working on the grants for the School Resource Officers.

A Board Member thanked the School Board Office for all they have been dealing with this week with the MRSA cases.

A Board Member commended the Macy Mentors for such a wonderful program.

A Board Member wished the FFA the best of luck as they travel to the National FFA Convention.

A Board Member commended the publication that the Giles Tech Center put together.

A Board Member stated that the Governor School was adding another math class.

A Board Member stated that colleges have been coming to visit the Governor's School and this was the first time that UVA has been to the Governor's School.

A Board Member gave out handouts to the Superintendent and other Board Members regarding the 2007 NCSSSMST student conference. These handouts included names of students who were attending and the schedule.

A Board Member commended the School Resource Officers in saying that they were an integral part of all of our schools. The children have become very comfortable around the officers.

A Board Member commended the Sheriff's Office for all of their cooperation this week with the events at Narrows High School.

A Board Member commended all of the staff at Narrows High School for everything they have done in the last week dealing with the MRSA issues.

A Board Member commented that the School Resource Officers do a wonderful job!!

A Board Member commended the GHS band on their success at their recent competitions.

The Superintendent informed School Board members about the events at Narrows High School that have occurred over the past week. He explained that approximately two and a half to three weeks ago, the first case of MRSA was confirmed and on Tuesday, October 16th, the second case of MRSA was confirmed. A letter went out to Narrows and Giles High School students on September 25th to provide factual information about MRSA/skin infections and to provide some precautions that could be taken to help minimize the risk of skin infections. An additional letter was sent out on October 17th to all students in each of our schools in order to inform parents about the two diagnosed cases of MRSA at Narrows High School. The Superintendent stated that they have gone above and beyond the health department recommendations. As information, Clorox germicidal wipes have been ordered for all teachers in all of the schools and Clorox germicidal spray has been ordered for all buses. In addition, we do have other cleaning supplies that are used by our schools, which are on the EPA's list of registered products effective against MRSA. He also stated that we have been in contact with the health department from day one. In addition, hand sanitizer was sent by Mr. James Tyler, Carilion Giles Memorial Hospital Administrator, to Narrows High School.

The Superintendent informed School Board members that official results came from the state informing us that all five schools are fully accredited.

The Superintendent informed School Board members that the SOL writing tests begin next week.

The Superintendent informed School Board members that parent/teacher conferences were coming up soon. He stated that the first six weeks ended on Monday and report cards would go home next Tuesday, October 23rd.

The Superintendent stated that School Bus Safety Week is next week.

The Superintendent recognized the Maintenance Personnel. He stated that he received a letter from Helen Gillespie, Wellness and Senior Programs Director at the Giles Wellness Center, recognizing the Maintenance Personnel for assisting with work at the Wellness Center. Mrs. Gillespie stated that the

facility needed extensive repair work and the job was estimated to take a minimum of 2 days, but the staff completed the work in little more than a day. Mrs. Gillespie was very grateful for all of their hard work.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the **Employment** of Linda Vaught – MMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective 10/15/07).

The School Board approved the **Termination** of Melissa Lucas – MMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective 10/15/07).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Friday, November 16th at 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with school tours for American Education Week.