

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
August 22, 2008**

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

The School Board Chairman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – June 26, 2008
- Bills in the amount of \$ 427,799.20
- Payroll, July 15th and 31st, and August 15th, 2008
- Revenue for July 2008
- Expenditure for July 2008
- Appropriation Request for August 2008
- Appropriation Request for September 2008
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignations**: Jodie Conley – GHS 8th Grade Cheerleading Coach (effective July 30th), John Maddy – NHS Band Instructor (effective August 1st), Brad Boyd – NHS Varsity Head Softball Coach (effective July 16th), Mike Yost – GHS Bus Driver (effective June 30, 2008)

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: Neil Schmidt – GHS Biology Teacher (effective August 4th)

The School Board confirmed the following **Terminations**: Darlene Sadler – MMS Custodian (effective July 9, 2008)

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Transfer of Michele Fields to a different bus route - GHS, Jerry Hodges – MMS Custodian (effective August 1st), Transfer of Dee Meredith from MMS to EEMS Teacher Assistant (effective 08-09 school year), Marlene Bailey – NHS Head Custodian (effective August 1st), Joilene Horton – NHS Art Teacher (effective 08-09 school year), Eric Ruppert – MMS Elementary Teacher (effective 08-09 school year), Kamryn Robinson – MMS Early Childhood Special Education (effective 08-09 school year), Transfer of Joseph James from MMS to EEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective 08-09 school year), Cassandra Miller – MMS Elementary Teacher (effective 08-09 school year), Donna Darnell – GHS Bus Driver (Effective 08-09 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Sarah Woodyard – NHS JV Volleyball, Kellie Hutchison – NHS 8th Grade Volleyball, Marilyn Mustard – NHS Varsity Volleyball, Jason Thomason – GHS Assistant Varsity Football, Neil Schmidt – GHS Varsity Girls Soccer, Chris Bales – GHS Assistant Varsity Football, Shelly Boggess – GHS 8th Grade Cheerleading

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements**: Donna Akers – NHS Cross Country, William Greer – GHS Band, Jeffrey Turner – NHS 8th Grade Football, Chris Hughes – NHS Strength & Conditioning, Bryan Hughes – NHS Strength & Conditioning, Brad Whitehead – GHS Head Junior Varsity Boys Basketball

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Sally Shupe – EEMS Classroom Support

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Custodian**: Marranda Dalton

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Driver**: Mike Weiss

The School Board accepted the proposal from Center for Rehabilitation & Development (CRD) for

services specified in RFP #10-2008 (speech services).

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

The Superintendent introduced 15 new teachers for the 2008-2009 school year, and the School Board joined them in a continental breakfast provided by the Giles County Chamber of Commerce with Barbara Stafford, Executive Director, hosting the event. New teachers are:

Lauren V. Green (effective January 08) - **Giles High School**

Margret Journell - **Eastern Elementary/Middle School**

Stacy Cunningham - **Giles High School**

Katherine A. Peery - **Giles High School**

Amaris L. Meredith - **Narrows Elementary/Middle School**

Mark Jones - **Giles High School**

Jason R. Thomason - **Giles High School**

Stephen L. Guenzi - **Macy McClaugherty School**

Patricia A. Pennington (effective January 08) - **Narrows Elementary/Middle School**

Rex A. Gearheart - **Narrows High School**

Jessica B. Gwaltney - **Narrows High School**

Kristen H. Corboy - **Eastern Elementary/Middle School**

Jessica M. Lowry - **Macy McClaugherty School**

Cassandra Miller - **Macy McClaugherty School**

Eric M. Ruppert - **Macy McClaugherty School**

Kamryn Robinson - **Macy McClaugherty School**

Annis Joilene Horton - **Narrows High School**

Robin Haga (effective September 07) - **Narrows Elementary/Middle School**

Shana Midkiff - **Giles High School**

Ross Thompson - **Narrows High School**

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

The School Board approved four resolutions from the Virginia Retirement System to adopt the 403(b) plan document. Recently, the Internal Revenue Service issued Revenue Ruling 2006-43 giving governmental employers until January 1, 2009 to demonstrate "formal authorization" of their pick-up plans. A pick-up plan allows the Virginia Retirement System member contribution (5%) and member payments for the purchase of prior service to be treated on a pre-tax basis under IRS Ruling 414(h). The ruling requires VRS to conduct a full audit of pick-up plan resolutions and obtain formal resolutions from each VRS employer receiving this letter. While another resolution was enacted in the past, we still must formally reaffirm the pick-up plans to meet the requirements of the new ruling. These affirmations will bring VRS records up to date and ensure that all employers have on file with VRS an executed resolution for each in proper form.

The Superintendent introduced a new program to School Board members, called Interactive Achievement. This program is another tool that can be used within the classroom to help teachers prepare students for the SOL's. It will also provide data to teachers that will allow them to determine what area the students need to focus on for remediation. The questions for this program show up in the same format as the SOL questions. The content of the program is also similar to the SOL tests. In addition, teachers are able to submit their own questions if they wish, but the company already provides questions for them. The Superintendent is anxious to see how beneficial this new program will be for our students.

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

The board chairman stated that we may have to look at cutting fuel. The athletic teams can't keep operating the programs they have with their current budget and with the current cost of fuel.

A board member thanked the Board of Directors from the Pembroke Telephone Cooperative for their donations to Eastern Elementary/Middle School for the purchase of new Smart Boards.

Board members commended the maintenance crew for all of their summer projects.

A board member stated that she had recently spoken to a graduate of Giles County and an honor graduate of Radford University. The board member stated that the individual had stated that without the help of one of our administrators (Scott Meade), her life would not be what it is today. He helped turn her life around.

A board member stated that the Governor's School opened up on August 11th with an enrollment of 170 students. The next Governor's School board meeting will be held on September 2nd.

A board member stated that summer has come and gone.

Board members commended the School Board Office and Administration for doing a great job filling all of the vacancies.

A board member commended Narrows High and Narrows Elementary/Middle for being so clean and bright. Because of this, everyone will have more pride in their school.

The Superintendent stated that he continued to anticipate that all 5 schools will be fully accredited based on unofficial results. AYP will be officially released on August 27th.

The Superintendent stated that the bulk fuel tanks are not in yet, but he is hoping that they will be in soon.

The Superintendent reminded School Board members of the Pre-school Conference on Thursday, August 28th at Narrows High School.

The Superintendent informed School Board members that he planned to certify with the Department of Education that they all received and reviewed copies of the school crisis plans unless anyone had any questions or concerns.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the **Retirement of** Amy Johnson – EEMS 4th/5th Grade Teacher (effective July 1, 08).

The School Board approved the **Resignation** of Michele Fields – GHS Bus Driver (effective September 1, 08).

The School Board approved the **Employment** of Shana Midkiff – GHS Biology Teacher (effective 08-09 school year).

The School Board approved the **Employment** of Ross Thompson – NHS Band Director (effective 08-09 school year).

The School Board approved the **Employment** of Mary Lynn White – MMS Special Education Teacher Asst. (effective 08-09 school year).

The School Board approved **Surplus from EEMS** - 3 overheads, Type writer, Opaque, Record player, 8mm film projector, 2 film projectors, 2 filmstrip drawers, 1 drawer, 1 filmstrip projector.

The School Board approved the Substitute Teacher List to date. All substitutes on the list completed all required paperwork and attended the substitute training on August 21st.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, September 18th at 4:00 p.m. and the Quarterly Dinner meeting will be at 5:30 at the Giles Tech Center.