

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
December 11, 2008

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Brenda Metro – EEMS, Officer Chris Niece – EEMS, Debbie Vest – MMS, Bonnie Martin – MMS, Kathy Pyles – MMS, Jane Dalton – MMS, Eva Woodyard – MMS, Dennis Kidd – NHS, Kevin White – GHS, W. R. Johnston – GHS.

The following students were recognized for their outstanding artwork and winning this year's Christmas Card Contest: Brandon Chapman – MMS, Jasmine Wood – NEMS, Tyler McCormick – EEMS.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Brown, Mr. Binkley, Mrs. Scheid, and several drama club students attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GHS Educational Feature. Mr. Brown started out by stating that following the renovation of Giles High School several years ago, the drama program was revisited due to student interest. Recently, the drama club chose to participate in the VHSL one act play competition for the first time. These students won the district competition, and placed fourth in the regional competition at James River. Mr. Brown commended the students for all of their accomplishments thus far. Mrs. Scheid then introduced all of the actors, and asked one of the students to share the awards that several of the students received as recognition for their performance at their competitions. The drama students performed a portion of their play, which was called, "The Most Clichéd Elevator Play in the History of the Universe," for the School Board members.

School Board members commended the students for doing a wonderful job!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Revised Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2008
- Bills in the amount of \$ 369,645.71
- Payroll, November 30th, 2008
- Revenue for November 2008
- Expenditure for November 2008
- Appropriation Request for January 2009

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Tabitha Stevers – MMS Cafeteria Monitor

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: Jane Hazelwood – MMS Custodian (effective January 2, 2009)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation**: Stacie Bolen – EEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective December 31, 2008)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements**: Bryan Patteson – NHS Head JV Basketball & Head Boys Baseball, Sydney Lindsey – NHS JV Assistant Basketball

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Alice Hudson – EEMS Library Support

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Bryan Pruett – NHS Assistant

Varsity Girls Basketball, Maurice Milton – GHS Varsity Boys Track Coach

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

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

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

A board member stated that the meeting at Anna's with our legislators on Tuesday was great; however, they did not come out of the meeting very happy after discussing the upcoming budget. They also stated that the Governor could either be asking for a 5, 10, or 15% cut in the budget.

Board members stated that they were very impressed with the cleanliness of the schools and the behavior of the children during their school visits.

Board members enjoyed the visits to the schools!

The Board members thoroughly enjoyed the educational feature from the drama students. Several board members mentioned that they knew that a lot of hard work had gone into preparing for the play performances.

A board member thanked the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and School Board Clerk for organizing a meeting with our Legislators, our School Board members, and several Board Members from Craig and Bland counties. This was a very productive, informational meeting with lots of good feedback. The legislators were very pleased to have met with everyone. We are keeping our fingers crossed on the budget!

A board member asked a question regarding the Safety Audit Memo that was on the Superintendent's Working Documents in the Board Book. In the Safety Audit Memo, a concern from the committee was the need to have more security cameras in our buildings and the need for updated locks on the interior and exterior doors. A board member wanted to know how much these security cameras and new locks cost. The Superintendent stated that the cost of the cameras depended on the number. He also stated that we have been currently working to make sure all of the locks are updated.

A board member stated that they had recently talked to the Director of the Governor's School. Mrs. Phillips stated that Virginia is pushing to form Science Olympiad Teams along with other Governor's Schools. This is a National Competition and teams compete by solving a problem that is presented to them at the competition. The Governor's School has one team of 8 volunteers. Out of these 8 volunteers, 5 of these students are from Giles High School.

A board member mentioned a program called "Real World Design", which is sponsored by the Federal Department of Energy. For this program, the task is to design a commercial airliner that has the ability to take off, land, and consume less fuel than normal commercial airliners. There are two teams involved in this from the Governor's School. Also, there is a team from the Giles Tech Center that is involved.

The Superintendent thanked the drama students for the wonderful educational feature.

The Superintendent stated that it was a good day for school tours.

The Superintendent informed the School Board members about the Fall SOL Writing tests. There were several students from GHS to do retakes, with 16 of them passing. In addition, the average pass rate at NHS after retakes was 91%.

The Superintendent commended the combined choir from Eastern Elementary/Middle School and Macy McClaugherty School for their concert. 6th and 7th graders were part of a combined choir and 7th graders were part of the band. They put on an excellent concert! Mr. Riley and Mr. White were commended for doing a wonderful job!

The board chairman discussed with other board members how we are continuing to be proactive and combine services between the School Board and County employees. In another effort to operate more

efficiently, Rhonda Tickle and Gail Vaught have moved from the County Administration Office to the School Board Office. These two ladies will assume the duties of Mrs. Spangler's position (Business Manager) in April after she retires. They will continue doing the work they did for the county, but will now be taking on Mrs. Spangler's duties. The County Administrator, Chris McKlarney, and School Superintendent, Dr. Arbogast, have worked on this over the past six months. As information, maintenance services for the School Board have already been combined and continue to work well. Approximately \$350,000 has been saved since maintenance services were combined in July, 2007. The board chairman stated that as of now, the Business Manager position will be on a trial basis, but he looks for more combining of services in the future. Mrs. Spangler will be working with the two ladies to determine which duties each person will be doing. Although the two new employees will be School Board employees, the County will be working with the school system 50/50 on salary and benefits. The board chairman commended the Superintendent and the County Administrator for working out this agreement.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the December 15, 2008 payrolls.

The School Board approved the employment of Kendra Lane – EEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective January 5, 2009).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 15th at 4:00 p.m.