

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
March 13, 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**

Sonya Meekins, GEA President, attended the board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She first thanked the School Board members again for allowing her to be there. She stated that it seems like it's been a very long year. She thanked Dr. Arbogast for speaking with her on a monthly basis and also thanked the School Board for listening to her comments and concerns each month. Ms. Meekins stated that she was aware that there is a substantial amount of rebenchmark money coming to Giles County. She requested that the School Board use this money for salary increases. The number one priority of the GEA is to get raises for all employees. She stated that Giles County has a very good benefit package and that she was no longer going to request that the seven year cap on experience be changed after speaking with Dr. Arbogast. Dr. Arbogast clarified that the seven year cap on experience for teachers was in place so that the school system could offset the cost to offer insurance to retiree's. As of right now, the GEA is no longer going to negotiate the seven year cap. She stated that the GEA would still like the board to consider the bereavement day request where employees would have the option to use one sick day for a non-family emergency. She concluded by stating that Montgomery County is supposed to receive an 8.9% increase, while Floyd County was proposing a 5% salary increase.

Mr. Buckland stated that the School Board intends to do all they can to help out. He stated that as far as salary, Giles County is probably in the middle of Southwest Virginia. He also stated that the School Board did not have to apologize for the benefits that employees are receiving because they are great benefits. He again told Mrs. Meekins that they would do everything that they can.

Mr. Tom Huffman, spoke in opposition of the Cumberland Park Project. He wanted to commend Mrs. McMahan for doing what was right when she made the motion at the last meeting to stop the Cumberland Park Project. He then stated that he was very disappointed in the rest of the School Board for not seconding Mrs. McMahan's motion and for not doing what is right for the citizens of Giles County.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Amy Gervich – MMS, Jeannette Vickers – MMS, Julie Sargent – MMS, Stephanie Bain – MMS, Clara Whittaker – MMS, Rebecca Osborne – MMS, Kim Eaton – MMS, Ann Hively – MMS, Suzanne Blankenship – EEMS, Paul Johnson – NHS.

Lynn & Linda Hayes, owners of The Inn at Riverbend, were recognized for their Community Support.

The Giles FFA Junior Parliamentary Procedure Team was recognized for ranking Gold at the Virginia State Contest. Members of the team include Alisha Hudson, Jordan Walkup, Matt Hall, Nicole Stump, Blake Williams, and Garret Blankenship. After the FFA was presented with their plaque, the team demonstrated an example of the Parliamentary Procedure that they have to perform. In the real contest, they don't know what problem they will have prior to entering the contest site.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Fowler, Dusty Stump, Tonya Vaden, and welding student, Rosie Crawford attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Giles Technology Center educational feature. Rosie Crawford shared a PowerPoint presentation with the School Board members regarding "Women in Welding." Rosie is the first full-time female student to take two years of Welding at the Tech Center. Women in Welding started around 1941. Welders are needed to keep up with today's technology. She stated that Welding could be a very lucrative career. She also stated that Welding was exciting and that it could lead to high-level employment in various industries. She stated that Rosie the Riveter was a symbol for women who

became welders in 1941 during World War II. These women started mainly working in shipyards or weapon industries building tanks, ships, airplanes, and anything that focused on the war. Today, for women in welding, they are offered better benefits. In addition, there is a new clothing line coming out designed especially for women welders. She stated that women do have some disadvantages because they feel like they have to prove themselves over and over each time they are on the job site. They also have to carry heavy welding lines up and down stairs and ladders. But, there are also advantages for women. Women have steadier, lighter hands, flexible wrists, and are more patient and determined than men. She stated that in her second year of welding she has learned a lot. She has learned to apply everyday knowledge to what she does. There is more out there than sitting in a classroom and she is confident about her welding work. She stated that it is no longer a "man's world." After graduation, Rosie plans to attend New River Community College to major in Police Science, but she wants to minor in Welding.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2008
- Bills in the amount of \$ 118,439.12
- Payroll, February 28th, 2008
- Revenue for February 2008
- Expenditure for February 2008
- Appropriation Request for April 2008
- Additional Fields Trips 2007-2008

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Transfer of Ashley Bales from MMS Elementary Teacher position to EEMS Elementary Teacher position for the 08-09 school year, Transfer of Traci Ferguson from MMS Kindergarten Teacher position to MMS Library position

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation**: Candace L. Merix – MMS Teacher Assistant (effective March 14th)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements**: Marc Brutus – GHS Assistant JV Soccer

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Julie Hoeksema – NHS Assistant Track, Todd Meredith – NHS Girls Tennis, Anna Swenty – NHS Assistant Track, Gary Lowery – NHS Varsity Track

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers**: Joel Rader

The School Board accepted the proposal from Ricoh for services specified in RFP #2-2008 (duplicating paper).

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

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

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

A School Board member stated that we have come a long way over the years with FFA!

A School Board member was curious as to how the staff at the SBO and School Board Chairman did at the NEMS Character Counts Assembly, "Are you Smarter than an NEMS Student." The Superintendent and School Board Chairman stated that they did well!

Tonya Vaden was commended for all of the work she is doing with the "Reality Store." This will be an excellent experience for the kids!

A School Board member questioned whether the issues on the bus driver minutes were taken care of? The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent stated that work orders were placed to fix these problems.

A School Board member stated that now was the time for 10th graders to visit the Governor's School. He stated that approximately 290 students have visited the Governor's School.

A School Board member distributed handouts from the Governor's School regarding the 2008 Regional Science Fair Winners and the Research Papers Submitted to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science.

School Board members stated that they were very impressed with the FFA.

Anna Swenty was commended for being a very active Track coach!

A School Board member stated that both presentations were very good!

The Giles Tech Center was commended for doing great work!

The Superintendent stated that Spring Sports had begun at our high schools.

The Superintendent informed School Board members about the State Tornado Drill on March 18th at 9:45 for Tornado Preparedness Day.

The Superintendent informed School Board members about the retirement of Pat Duncan, Director of the Southwest Virginia Governor's School.

The Superintendent commended the FFA & Giles Tech Center presentations!

The Superintendent informed School Board members that there are 4 girls who will be attending Girls State, 2 boys who will be attending Boys State, and 2 boys who will be attending Junior Law Cadet.

The Superintendent commended the students that attended the State HOSA conference several weeks ago. The students who placed in the conference were: Kiva Widrig & Jessica Comer – First Place in Health Education (Post Secondary), April Link & Victoria Saunders – First Place in Health Education (Secondary), and Adrienne Stowers – Third Place in Extemporaneous Poster HOSA Theme.

The Superintendent commended the members of the FBLA who attended the Regional Spring Conference. Giles High School had four students who placed in four areas. Reedy Frye was a 3rd place winner in Help Desk, Todd McCracken was a 3rd place winner in Networking Concepts, Thomas George was a 2nd place winner in Banking and Financial Systems, and Justin Williams was a first place winner in Marketing. Thomas George and Just Williams will be competing at the state level in Reston, VA.

The Superintendent informed the School Board members about SACS (Southern Association of Colleges & Sciences) being present at both high schools. Every 5 years, schools must be reviewed to make sure they are in compliance with SACS regulations.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the March 14, 2008 payrolls.

The School Board approved the **Special Meeting Minutes** from February 29th, 2008.

The School Board approved the **Retirement** of Carl Gusler – EEMS Bus Driver (effective end of 07-08 school year).

The School Board approved **Volunteer Agreements from NHS** for Bryan Patteson – Varsity Baseball, Sara Tate – Assistant Varsity Softball, Ben Woodyard – Head JV Baseball.

The School Board approved the Employment of Robyn Taylor – NHS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective March 13, 2008).

The School Board approved Gene Smith as a **Substitute Custodian**.

The School Board approved a one year rollover of RFP #5-2007 for wrecker services. The current vendor is Lee's Body Shop.

The School Board approved the following surplus items:

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|------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| 1988 | CHEV | ACTIVITY | VAN/BUS | 2GBHG31K7J4155833 |
| 1985 | CHEV | BLUEBIRD | SCHOOL BUS | 2GBHG31M3F4158642 |
| 1989 | FORD | WARD | SCHOOL BUS | 1FDNB70K2KVA09245 |
| 1989 | FORD | BLUEBIRD | SCHOOL BUS | 1FDNB70KXKVA55390 |
| 1989 | FORD | BLUEBIRD | SCHOOL BUS | 1FDNB60H7KVA09210 |
| 1991 | GMC | BLUEBIRD | SCHOOL BUS | 1GDG6P1P2MV500361 |
| 1991 | GMC | BLUEBIRD | SCHOOL BUS | 1GDG6P1P1MV500366 |

The School Board approved the 2009-10 school calendar as proposed by the calendar committee.

The School Board approved Anthem Key Advantage 300 and Key Advantage Expanded for employee health insurance for the 2008-2009 school year.

As information, the Superintendent stated that as of now, the last day of school will be a four hour early release on June 6th.

The School Board approved the recommendation of the School Board Chairman to prepare a resolution to honor Mrs. Pat Duncan, Director of the Southwest Virginia Governor School.

The School Board approved the recommendation of Mrs. McMahon to investigate the development of a policy for adopted mothers to be given time off to bond with their new child. During this investigation, information will be gathered to ensure adopted mothers and fathers are treated fairly.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, April 10th, 2008.