

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
October 23, 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 attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She thanked Dr. Arbogast for meeting with her on a monthly basis to discuss GEA concerns and also for meeting with the GEA during the school systems budget meetings. The GEA requested an amendment to the school system's current sick leave policy that would allow employees to use one of their current sick leave days as a bereavement day to attend the funeral of a non-family member. In addition, Mrs. Meekins stated that she is still not sure how the budget is going to be, but she gave the School Board members a handout with a website on it to keep track of the Virginia General Assembly on a daily basis. Mrs. Meekins also discussed the Virginia Retirement System rates with the School Board. In closing, she thanked the School Board members for their time and asked if they had any questions.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Steve Brady – NHS, Ashley Mann – NHS, Tammy Costner – MMS, Norma Trenar – MMS, Vontez Johnson – GHS, Vicki Vaught – GHS, Roger Shaver – GHS, Mike Smith – GHS, David Martin – GHS.

***Educational Feature**

Paula Tibbs attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Gifted Education program. There were four Giles students who attended the School Board meeting as well. These students included Kaslin Fields, Patrick Mahaney, Katelyn Osborne, and Harmony Tripp. Mrs. Tibbs began by thanking the School Board and Superintendent for the new Art Teacher position. Kaslin Fields then introduced herself and the rest of the students in Japanese. Kaslin has had three years of Japanese and plans to apply to the Foreign Language Governor School program that will be held during the summer of 2009. These four students attended a summer residential Governor's School for Theater Art's program from July 6 – 26 at the University of Virginia's College of Wise. During this program, the students took three field trips to the Paramount Theater, to the Blackfriar's Playhouse, and to the Frontier Culture Museum. All the students explained to the School Board that this was an absolutely wonderful experience and they would love to attend again. Mrs. Tibbs discussed the evaluations, assessments, and social/residential experiences of the program. This was the first year for this program and plans are to continue offering it in the future. The School Board thanked Mrs. Tibbs and her students for a wonderful educational experience.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2008
- Bills in the amount of \$ 274,214.53
- Payroll, September 30th and October 15th, 2008
- Revenue for September 2008
- Expenditure for September 2008
- Appropriation Request for November 2008
- 2008-2009 Advisory Committees
- 2008-2009 Field Trip Requests
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Sherry Wall – NEMS Title I Teacher (effective October 6, 2008), Anita Perdue – MMS Title I Teacher Assistant (effective October 6, 2008)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation:** Melissa Conley – NHS Bookkeeper (effective October 27, 2008)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Tammy McGuire – GHS Color Guard/Band, Ben Woodyard – NHS Assistant Football & Baseball

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

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

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

The School Board approved a new Evaluation Form for Librarians. All employees are evaluated on a yearly basis by their Supervisors. In years past, Librarians have been evaluated using the Professional Employee (Teacher) form. Recently, the Librarians and Assistant Superintendent met to prepare an Evaluation Form specifically for Librarians.

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**

Board members commended Mrs. Tibbs and her students on their Gifted Program Educational Feature.

A board member commended Mrs. Vaden and the Giles Tech Center for their hard work on the Reality Store. Also, thanks to the Rotary for helping out with volunteers!

A board member stated that the first six weeks of Governor's School was over and Parent/Teacher conferences have been held. A handout was also distributed to other board members and the Superintendent. This handout congratulated students from the Governor's School who was chosen to attend the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools in Math, Science, and Technology (NCSSSMST) Conference in Rochester, New York from October 23-26, 2008. There were three students from Giles who attended the conference.

A board member stated that the budgets meetings thus far have been very informative.

A board member stated that they had the pleasure of having lunch at Macy for National School Lunch Week.

Another board member stated that they also had the pleasure of having lunch at Macy and they were very impressed with the behavior of the children.

The Superintendent stated that the first grading period ended on October 13th and report cards were released on October 21st. In addition, parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 6th and 7th.

The Superintendent informed School Board members about the SOL writing test that was given October 20th – 22nd.

The Superintendent commended the Giles High School Golf Team for finishing second in the State. W.R. Johnston was also named the Region Coach of the Year. Congratulations to both the team and coach for their accomplishments!

The Superintendent commended the Giles High School Band for being 2nd runner up to the Grand Champion out of 12 teams at their competition on Saturday, October 18th in Beckley. They were 2nd in their division overall and received the highest score that they have ever gotten at a competition.

The Superintendent commended Tonya Vaden for her hard work on the Reality Store. This event was held on October 15th at the King Johnston Community Center for 9th and 12th graders. There were over 50 volunteers from the community who participated in this event for our students. The Superintendent

also thanked all of those individuals who volunteered their time during this day to make this a successful activity for our students.

The Superintendent stated that during National School Lunch week, a couple of our cafeterias served over 3,000 lunches. This event went well at our schools!

The Superintendent commended Mrs. Tibbs and her students who presented the Gifted Program Educational Feature.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved an additional field trip for W.R. Johnson and the Model U.N. students to travel to Norfolk on February 11-14, 2009. There will be 12 students involved in this trip.

The School Board approved additional surplus from Macy, which includes 6 overheads, 6 record players, and 5 cassette tape players.

The School Board approved the proposal from Mr. Gearheart to allow Mr. Ross Thompson permission to apply for a Schott Foundation Grant to purchase new band uniforms for the students.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Friday, November 21st at 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with school tours for American Education Week.