

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**April 14, 2009**

*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, spoke on behalf of the GEA. She asked for clarification of the increase in our insurance premiums of 9% for next year regarding the amount being taken out of paychecks. She stated that since there was an increase, anyone that covered someone else under insurance other than themselves, then there would be more money coming out of their paychecks. Ms. Meekins then stated that there were 5 teachers with 29 years of experience, 4 teachers with 33 years of experience, and 2 teachers with 37 years of experience. She asked Dr. Arbogast if he could give the veteran teachers a longevity step. Ms. Meekins questioned how much Operational Funding from the state has increased in the last 5 years. She thinks the figure is \$5.1 million, but Dr. Arbogast said he would have to check the figure to be exact. Lastly, she asked the Superintendent when the last time the Board of Supervisors increased level funding. The Superintendent stated that he thought the last year that level funding was increased was in 2004, but he would have to double check to be sure.

**\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Amy Maxey – EEMS, Sandy Fisher – EEMS, Tammy McGuire – EEMS, Melissa Williams – EEMS, Melinda Ogle – EEMS, Suzanne Williams – EEMS, Christy Jones – EEMS, Margy Journell – EEMS, Jessica Lowry – MMS, Gail Austin – MMS, April Ayers – MMS, Anna Swenty – NHS, Officer Mark Wilburn – GHS, Ken Abel – GTC

On behalf of the School Board, the Narrows High Varsity Girls Basketball Team, were recognized for being the MED District Tournament Runner-Up, Region C Runner-Up, and a State Semifinalist. The team members consisted of Andi Guynn, Brittany Hughes, Cameron Snidow, Starla Reed, Savanna Burton, Kayla Craig, Katasha Davis, Morgan Buckland, Kaitlyn McCroskey, Spencer Lindsey, and Alicia Weatherly.

On behalf of the School Board, the Real World Design Challenge Students, (Giles Tech Center Drafting/Pre-Engineering) were recognized for Placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the State Competition for the Real World Design Challenge and Representing the Commonwealth of Virginia at the National Competition in Washington, DC on March 20-22. The team members consisted of Devan Vest, Kemper Fox, Steffan Frazier, Travis Scott, Ryan Shelor, Donald Sirry, and Elizabeth Daddazio. The coaches were Sandra Kelley and Ken Abel.

**\*Educational Feature**

The Real World Design Challenge team and coaches were in attendance to present the Giles Technology Center educational feature. The team members that were present were Devan Vest, Kemper Fox, Travis Scott, Ryan Shelor, Donald Sirry, and Elizabeth Daddazio. The two coaches, Sandra Kelley and Ken Abel, were also in attendance with the students. These students showed a PowerPoint containing information from the Real World Design Challenge project they submitted, which included the requirements and project additions. This group of students placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the State Competition for the Real World Design Challenge and represented the Commonwealth of Virginia at the National Competition in Washington, DC on March 20-22. Each student described the competition and the wonderful experience that they had during the competition. They showed exactly what they did at the National competition and showed their design of what they won at the State competition. A lot of hard work, dedication, and long hours were put in by the students and the coaches for both the state and national competitions. The School Board and Superintendent commended these students for such a wonderful job!

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2009
- Bills in the amount of \$ 241,965.85
- Payroll, March 31 and April 15, 2009
- Revenue for March 2009
- Expenditure for March 2009
- Appropriation Request for May 2009

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** Stephine Link – NHS/GHS Itinerant Health/PE Teacher (effective 09-10 school year), Danny Pyles Jr. – MMS Custodian (effective March 31, 09)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation:** C. Kay Lucas – GTC Nursing Instructor (effective end of 08-09 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Cindy Lang – GHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Track Coach

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Anita Doffin – GHS Parent (Spanish Trip)

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

As per the Code of Virginia that all reappointments must be made by April 15<sup>th</sup> annually, the Superintendent recommended, contingent upon receipt of notification of necessary funding, all personnel appointments, non-reappointments, and transfers as recommended by principals and administration of the Giles County Public Schools System for the 2009-10 school year.

The School Board approved the bid from Lee's Body Shop for services specified in IFB #5-2009 (wrecker services).

The School Board approved the proposal from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates for services specified in RFP #4-2009.

The School Board approved the bid from Lee Hartman for services specified in IFB #6-2009 (outdoor speakers for stadiums).

The School Board approved the Asbestos Abatement Bid from A & A Environmental, LLC.

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

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

The School Board approved the Local Plan Update/Budget for Career & Technical Education Funds and associated federal/state funding for next year.

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

A Board member commended the Giles Tech Center Real World Design Challenge team and stated that words couldn't express what the Tech Center does for Giles County.

A Board member stated that they felt like the School Board did the best that they could with the budget this year, considering the circumstances of the economy.

A Board member stated that they had the opportunity to judge academic fair projects with a P.A. student out of Roanoke, who stated that she was very impressed with the academic fair presentations.

A Board member commended the Superintendent for all of his effort with the budget this year.

A Board member commended Michael Etzler and the Spartanian staff for the recent Spartanian.

A Board commended the students and the staff on the play "Dracula" at Giles High School. It was a real success!

A Board member stated that there were visitors from South Africa to the Governor's School. The visitors were very impressed with how technology is integrated into the classroom.

A Board member distributed handouts from the Governor's School. One of the handouts included winners from the IT Game Programming Competition. The Super Space Monkeys team from Giles High School, which consisted of Wes Conley, Kemper Fox, and Matthew Stallings were named Honorable Mention. Another handout that was distributed includes more 2009 Virginia Junior Academy of Science papers that were accepted. The individuals whose papers were accepted are as follows: Cari Squibb (Giles) – Animal Behavior and Amanda Rodgers (Giles) – Chemistry. The last handout that was distributed contained information on the Science Olympiad Team members from the State Science Olympiad on March 21, 2009. Amanda Rodgers and Amelia Tyler were fourth place in Forensics, Amelia Tyler was on the second place team in Disease Detectives, Amelia Tyler and Cari Squibb were second place in Ecology, and lastly, Amanda Rodgers and Cari Squibb were fourth place in Herpetology.

A Board member stated that it was good to see the Narrows High School Varsity Basketball Team. They represented Giles County well at their state competition!

A Board member stated that the Real World Design Challenge students were great publicity for the Giles Tech Center!

Several Board members and the Superintendent commended all of the students for their academic fair projects, as well as the schools and their staff for all of their hard work. The projects were very impressive!

A Board member stated that it has been the most interesting year for presentations from the schools. A lot has been accomplished this year.

Board members and the Superintendent commended the Giles Tech Center students for such a wonderful educational feature!

The Superintendent commended the Narrows High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team for all of their accomplishments this season!

The Superintendent commended winners from the SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference from March. There were 8 students who competed at the state level in 16 contest entries. There were 5 entries that were fifth place or better and recognized at the state awards ceremony. The winners are as follows: Devan Vest – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Technical Drafting and Bronze Award Architectural Drafting Technical Exam, Travis Scott – Bronze Award Technical Drafting Exam, Chad Robertson – Bronze Award Technical Drafting Exam, and James Meadows – 5<sup>th</sup> place Current Events.

The Superintendent, as information, shared with the Board members that the waiver to start school prior to Labor Day was approved by the Department of Education.

#### **\*In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Resignation of Amanda Deane – Macy McClaugherty School Teacher (effective end of the 2008-2009 school year).

#### **\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

