

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
February 12, 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, attended the board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She first thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Buckland for coming to the schools recently to give them an update on the budget. Next, she asked the Superintendent questions from the GEA since she has not had the chance to meet with him this month. The first question she asked was, "What is the total savings of not moving up on the step scale next year"? Dr. Arbogast stated that he doesn't know that right off, but he would get that for her. She stated that when the economy does come back, going back on the step scale would be greatly appreciated. The next question that she wanted to know was if people complete their masters, will they continue to receive their supplement. Dr. Arbogast stated that they will continue to receive this supplement. She then asked who paid the \$500,000 in architect fees for the renovation, the School Board or the Board of Supervisors. The Board Chairman stated that neither one paid for them. We contract the architect firm to prepare the plans and then after they are prepared and approved by the State Department of Education, they will be put out to bid. We will get a copy of the plans, along with the architect and contractor. The next question was regarding the renovations. She asked if we could really justify continuing with the renovation based on the economy. The Board Chairman replied by asking "could we really afford to not" continue on with the renovation. In addition, Mrs. McMahon explained the condition of EEMS, especially the heating and air conditioning. Many parts cannot be replaced now due to their age. We are in a situation now where it needs to be done. Ms. Meekins asked that if the Tech Center really needed to be done as well. The Board Chairman stated that the Tech Center was first occupied in 1968. He stated that we really couldn't pick a better time to do renovation due to the lower price of supplies and the interest rates being down. We have already saved on the two stadiums. Dr. Webb referred back to the heating and air system at Eastern and stated how big of a problem it is. Next, Ms. Meekins asked if staff were still going to be offered their extended contracts. Dr. Arbogast stated that contracts would not be cut down, but extra days during the summer may be cut out or reduced. Last, she stated that House Bill 2632 was passed. This bill requires the State to set up a state wide health insurance pool for school divisions. If this rate is different, will the School Board take advantage of or consider changing? This could potentially save money for the school system. The Board Chairman stated that it would depend on the rate and timing of the insurance. We are going to get the best program we can for the dollar. The Superintendent is not sure how quickly we could get out of the insurance program we are in now. The Board Chairman stated that they still plan to do everything they can to not have to eliminate jobs.

Mrs. McMahon questioned Judy Hartley and her comments regarding the Board of Supervisors having more money to give the school system if we would have only asked for it. Mrs. Hartley stated that she had checked with Chris McKlarney and that was not said. It was construed somewhere down the line. Mrs. McMahon stated that Mrs. Kidd looked through minutes and recordings, and there was nothing said related to that. Mrs. Meekins stated that she had thought that was what she had heard, but that information was not passed along to the other GEA members because it had not been confirmed. Mrs. McMahon also stated that she had spoken with Mr. Brown to make sure he addresses the issue of student-teacher ratio with Mrs. Beckner to make sure she knows that there is not much different in student-pupil ratio at both high schools. Mrs. McMahon stated that overall, the student-teacher ratio is about the same. Amongst all the classes at the schools, it balances out.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Rusty Kelley, Denise Osborne, Marlene Bailey, Sherry Kelley, Officer Teddy Vaughn, Tammy Brown, and Jeff Young.

Mr. Ricky McCoy, Giles County Board of Supervisors Chairman, attended the meeting to distribute certificates to School Board Members in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month.

On behalf of the School Board, Amanda J. Price, School Board Clerk, was presented with a certificate by the School Board Members for School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Jared Rader, principal of MMS, attended the School Board meeting, along with Kay Wise, Erin Halsey, Venita Skidmore, Linda Vaught, Marcia Murray, Kevin Riley, Christopher Mitchell, and many students, to present the Educational Feature for Macy McClagherty. First, Mrs. Halsey's 3rd grade class sang songs that went along with their lessons regarding 3 ancient civilizations, which were Greece, Rome, and Mali. Next, Logan Bradley distributed a program to the School Board members that outlined the presentation from the second grade students. Kevin Riley and Ms. Kay Wise's second grade class presented the School Board members with two special dances. The dances were the "Heel and Toe" and the "Chimes of Dunkirk." These dances are English Country dances that date back 300-400 years ago. Each dance teaches song format, respect, cooperation, listening and following oral directions and participation. The second and third graders did a wonderful job with their presentations! The School Board members commended the teachers and students for their presentations.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2009
- Bills in the amount of \$ 506,778.60
- Payroll, January 30th, 2009
- Revenue for January 2009
- Expenditure for January 2009
- Appropriation Request for March 2009
- Additional Fields Trips 2008-2009

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: Pat Fullen – EEMS Special Education Teacher (effective end of 08-09 school year), Martha Dunn – EEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective end of 08-09 school year), Patti Gregg – EEMS Guidance Counselor (effective end of 08-09 school year).

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers**: Sonny Dunn.

The School Board confirmed all **Substitute Teachers to Date (after January 22nd training)**.

The School Board accepted the bid from RIS for services specified in IFB #1-2009 (duplicating paper).

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

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

A board member commended the EEMS Cares Project Team for doing a breakfast for EMS & First Responders.

Board members and the Superintendent commended Anna Swenty for receiving a grant to purchase GPS systems for her classroom.

A board member thanked and commended the Credit Bureau of Virginia Foundation for their grant in the amount of \$3800 to the PE Department at Macy.

A board member thanked and commended Food Lion for their grant money to Macy.

A board member commended the Giles County Sheriff's Office and Officer Vaughn for the recent Internet Safety class that was taught at Macy. Another Internet Safety class will be held in the future at Eastern Elementary/Middle.

Board members and the Superintendent commended the Educational Feature!

A board member stated that they appreciated the effort from Dr. Arbogast and Mr. Buckland for going to the schools to discuss the budget with them. Many compliments have been received.

A board member stated that it had been a very informative day with the School Board retreat. It was nice talking with the principals. They do a great job with our children!

A board member stated that Amanda Rogers from Giles High School submitted a paper to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science on her project last year. In that project, she received 1st place during the 1st level, 2nd place at the regional level, and 3rd place at the state level. Any student that goes through with this can submit a paper to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science on their project. If their paper is selected, they have the opportunity to defend it and possibly win awards. Her paper was presented so well that she is going with one of the teachers from the school this week to Chicago to defend her paper for the American Association for Advancement of Science. She is the only student to represent the State of Virginia at this facility. She will also get the pleasure of having breakfast with several Nobel Prize winners.

A board member stated that this year, the first level of the science fair was held last month at NRCC. This is only for Governor's School projects. The next level will be held the end of this month at NRCC, which is the Blue Ridge Regional Science Fair. Handouts were distributed for the 2009 Science Fair Awards from the Governor's Schools.

The Superintendent recognized the 2009 Teacher of the Year nominations as follows: Kim W. Gardner – Narrows High School, Kevin Riley – Eastern Elementary/Middle, Cathy Webb – Narrows Elementary/Middle, Kevin White – Giles High School, and Kim T. Mills – Macy McClougherty.

The Superintendent shared SOL scores from GHS & NHS with School Board members. The scores looked great!

The Superintendent thanked and commended Macy teachers for bringing the students for the educational feature!

The Superintendent stated that it was a good, informative day for the first day of the retreat.

The Superintendent thanked all of the staff at Eastern Elementary/Middle for all of their understanding during the flooding of the Kindergarten rooms. He also said that he really thinks the combining of services for County and School Board really helped with the cleanup process.

The Superintendent and Board members plan thanked all of the individuals who helped with the cleanup process at Eastern Elementary/Middle and approved a resolution to be presented at the next School Board meeting.

The Superintendent read a list of SkillsUSA participants from the Giles Tech Center. He commended this group of students on their achievement! The names are as follows:

Action Skills – Rachel Lang (2nd place)

Cosmetology – Amber Martin (2nd place) and Doricha Jones (3rd place)

Current Events # - James Meadows (2nd place) and Devan Vest (3rd place)

Nail Care Technology – Contestant A – Cynthia Sadler (3rd place), Model A – Ariel Meekins (3rd place), Contestant B – Shanna Fletcher (2nd place), and Model B - Kerston Robbins (2nd place)

Occupational Scrapbook # - Ariel Meekins and Christina Duncan (3rd place)

Precision Machining Technology – Afton Porterfield (3rd place)

Promotional Flyer – Donald Sirry (1st place) and James Meadows (2nd place)

Quiz Bowl – Devan Vest, Travis Scott, Chad Robertson, Alexander Lane, and Donald Sirry (3rd place)

Spelling # - Chad Robertson and Travis Scott (3rd place)

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the February 13th Payrolls.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement for Brandon Webb (GHS Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach).

The School Board approved Surplus from NHS Ag Shop (Dewalt Radial Arm Saw & Metal Turning Lathe).

The School Board approved David Thompson to be an Assistant to Ride with Special Education Assistant.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement for Steve Wilson (Assistant Varsity Girls Softball Coach).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 19th, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The Quarterly Dinner Meeting with Administrators will follow at MMS at 5:30.