

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
January 15, 2009**

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Organizational Meeting - 2009**

- JB Buckland was appointed as School Board Chairman for 2009.
- Ronald Whitehead was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2009.
- The Board set the third Thursday of each month as the Board meeting day.
- Amanda Price was appointed School Board Clerk for 2009.
- Barbara Perkins and Dr. Terry Arbogast, II were appointed Deputy Clerks for 2009.

***Public Comments - General**

Mr. Michael Etzler attended the School Board meeting to speak about the upcoming budget. First, he stated that it was hard for him to urge the School Board members to find ways to fund salary increases for school personnel while Governor Kaine has proposed budget cuts. He wondered what was going to happen in the school system to make up for the huge loss of funding. The thought of personnel and pay cuts, and the possibility of increased workloads create worry and stress for everyone. He reminded the School Board members that too many teachers struggle to live from one pay period to another. The thought of losing pay, benefits, or even a job is terrifying for them. He suggested looking to eliminate waste within the school system budget and gave examples of such things that could be eliminated. In closing, he stated that he did not envy the School Board and Superintendent when having to make these tough decisions for the upcoming budget, but he urged them to allow faculty and staff to have a voice and input in the decisions.

Ms. Sonya Meekins attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She stated that it was doom and gloom time and we needed a bailout. She didn't think the shortfall would be as bad as the current statewide proposal. In addition, she stated that this shortfall would not only effect this year, but it would also affect us for the following years. She urged the School Board and Superintendent to meet with or call our delegates and senators. Ms. Meekins stated that the budget impact would affect the community, as well as our staff. She encouraged the School Board to consider using last year's rebenchmark money to help with the bailout, and to work closely with the Board of Supervisors because they can be the ones to help with the bailout. She also stated that we need jobs before we do buildings. In closing, she stated that the GEA compensation committee would be willing to work with them on the budget.

***Educational Feature – Eastern Elementary/Middle School**

Physical Education Teacher, Lea Beth Bowers, and Principal, Greg Canaday, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Eastern Elementary/Middle School educational feature. Teresa Link, Physical Education Teacher Assistant, also attended the meeting. Mr. Canaday informed School Board members that they had a great P.E. program at Eastern. Mrs. Bowers then proceeded with the educational feature by showing a wonderful PowerPoint Presentation about the Integrated Physical Education program at Eastern Elementary/Middle School. She thanked the School Board and Superintendent for allowing her to attend workshops to see and learn new things for her classes. She explained the three learning modalities, which are visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. She shared with the board that the best way to teach children is by using all three of these modalities. The PowerPoint presentation listed the advantages of exercise and physical activity. Mrs. Bowers then showed the School Board all the different games and exercises she incorporates in her lessons. These games and exercises are correlated to the SOL's in the classroom. Some of the games she mentioned include the following: Road to Success, States and Capitals, Border Hockey, Skipping through Numbers, P.E. Counts, Bowling for Dollars, PuzzleMania, Meteor Shower, Bombs Away, Horseshoe Hoops, and Home Base. The School Board members had fun playing several games with Mrs. Bowers. The School Board members and Superintendent thanked Mrs. Bowers and Eastern Elementary/Middle School for a wonderful presentation.

***Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Tammy Barnett – EEMS, Linda Vaught – MMS, Venita Skidmore – MMS, Michele Blankenship – MMS, Cindy Stafford – MMS, Tammy Riggs – MMS, Darlene Cunningham – MMS, Jane Hazelwood – MMS, Meagan Jones – NHS, Christina Collins – GHS, Jodie Conley – GHS, Jane Crank – GHS, Annissa Dudding – GHS, Amy Hill – GHS, Paula Lee – GHS, Ruth Ann Moore – GHS, Nancy Noble – GHS, Elizabeth Shaver – GHS, Steve Wilson – GHS, Brenda Caldwell – NEMS

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2008
- Special Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2008
- Bills in the amount of \$ 389,961.98
- Payroll, December 19th, 2008 and January 15th, 2009
- Revenue for December 2008
- Expenditure for December 2008
- Appropriation Request for February 2009

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** William Pyles – MMS Custodian (effective January 6, 2009)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreement:** Kenneth Abel – GCTC

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements:** Sarah Woodyard – NHS Assistant Track, Donald Epperley – GHS Basketball, Stanley Lucas – GHS Baseball

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

The School Board approved the 5 year contract from VSBA for Policy Services. Virginia Code § 22.1-253.13:7 (C) (part of the Standards of Quality) requires the Board to maintain and follow an up-to-date policy manual and further requires that all policy manuals shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. During the term of the policy services contract, VSBA will provide the following continuing services to the Board: a. – a policy manual; b. – update services including, but not limited to, new and revised policies based on statutory law, case law, agency rules and regulations and Attorney General opinions; c. – distribution of new and revised policies as required; and d. – day to day availability of VSBA staff member/attorney to answer questions regarding policies.

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

A School Board member asked the Superintendent a question about a utility bill at Giles High School.

A School Board member asked how the new bus routes for the Eastern District were going. Mr. Meade stated that there were a couple items that needed to be addressed, but overall, the bus routes were going really well.

A School Board member stated that the enrollment was up from this time last year.

School Board members commended the wonderful educational feature by Eastern Elementary/Middle School.

A School Board member stated that the Director of the Governor's School was getting ready for the Science Fair Projects. The Director thinks that these projects are going to be better than previous projects due to a lot of extra thought and effort.

A School Board member stated that even though it is a difficult time for the budget, they don't want to have to use the RIF policy.

A School Board member stated that they would continue to give feedback to the staff during the budget process.

A School Board member commended Eastern Elementary/Middle School for doing such a good job with the P.E. program.

A School Board member stated that they have been a teacher before and they know how it feels to be threatened in economic times such as the ones we are facing. They feel like the Board will do everything they can to help.

A School Board member stated that they felt like the Giles High School band has made tremendous strides over the last several years. They really enjoyed their Christmas concert.

The Superintendent stated that the SOL scores for Narrows High School looked great! It has been a good start for NHS and GHS!

The Superintendent commended the winners from the Martin Luther King Poster and Essay Competition. There were six students recognized for their posters, and 3 recognized for their essays. There were four first place winners for the poster competition.

The Superintendent informed the School Board members about three schools being recognized by the state Board of Education. The Board of Education approved an incentive program in July of 2007, called the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program, to reward and recognize fully accredited schools and school divisions making significant progress toward academic excellence. The VIP incentive program awards points to the schools and divisions based on the percentage of students achieving at the advanced level on Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments and progress made toward educational goals advocated by Governor Timothy M. Kaine and adopted by the board. The schools receiving this award were Eastern Elementary/Middle, Narrows Elementary/Middle, and Narrows High School. Congratulations to these three schools for this recognition.

The Superintendent informed the School Board members about a "Code Red Letter" that would be going home to students within the next week. This Code Red Letter is a little different than the previous one that was sent out at the beginning of the year, because this letter will collect contact information and allow this information to be classified by their school groups.

The Superintendent commended the Eastern Elementary/Middle School Physical Education program. It was a wonderful educational feature!

The Superintendent informed the School Board members about Principal Appreciation Week, which was January 12th – 16th.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Athletic Coaching Contract for Mark Jones – GHS 8th Boys Track Coach.

The School Board approved RFP's for Renovation Projects to include the demolition of stadiums, putting the bleachers back, and lighting at Narrows High School.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be *Thursday, February 12th at 3:30 p.m.* in conjunction with the School Board Retreat.