

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
March 19, 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 started out by stating that she had met with Dr. Arbogast on Tuesday and there was a question she had forgotten to ask him. For our employees, do they have an option to not be enrolled in our insurance and receive that money? Dr. Arbogast stated he thinks that there has to be a certain number in our pool. She told School Board members that the stabilization fund has restored 89.46% of our money that was cut. She said that they were going to be asking for a step increase of 1.8% for teachers and a 1.8% raise for all other employees. She stated that our insurance would be increasing by 9%, so a single person would be paying \$466 per month. Without a step increase or any additional money, the employee's take home pay would be a lot less. The Superintendent stated that the school division pays for the individual employee's insurance, which is \$466 per month. He also stated that a letter would be coming out soon about the insurance plans, which will include information on any changes to the policies and the period for open enrollment. Mrs. Meekins stated that she was aware that the School Board probably knew that the step increase that they are asking for is not keeping up with the cost of living. With the stabilization money coming in, it is your opportunity to give teachers the step increase. She stated that surveys show that we lose the vast majority of our teachers within the first five years, so we have to be able to keep up with the cost of living. She asked Dr. Arbogast how he was planning on using the stabilization funds. Dr. Arbogast stated that he is going to use this money for those areas he has been told it could be utilized. The United States Education Department states that local education agencies can use the stabilization funds to pay salaries to avoid laying off teachers and employees, modernization, renovation or repair of facilities, or any activity that is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, IDEA, Adult Education and Family Literacy, or the Carl Perkins Education act. This money should be invested in ways that do not result in unsustainable continuing commitments after the funding expires. She stated that she will be giving them a formal step scale once she gets the staffing figures from Dr. Arbogast.

Mr. Etzler spoke to the School Board members regarding the budget and read statements from several Giles High School teachers regarding the economy, food prices, pay increases, etc.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Kristi Gordon – EEMS, Pat Fullen – EEMS, Kristen Corboy – EEMS, Amy Miller – EEMS, Kim T. Mills – MMS, McCreery Mann – NHS, Anne Wheeler – GHS.

The Superintendent and Board members presented a plaque with a resolution to all of the individuals who helped with the cleanup process at Eastern Elementary/Middle. This resolution was approved at the February 12, 2009 board meeting. The resolution read as follows:

**RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HELPED WITH THE FLOODING
AT EASTERN ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL**

February 12, 2009

WHEREAS, the Giles County School Board acknowledges the hard work of all the individuals who helped clean up the damage in the Kindergarten rooms caused by the water leak, and

WHEREAS, the Giles County School Board is very appreciative of the hard work put forth in the clean up, and

WHEREAS, the Giles County School Board is deeply appreciative of the time and effort put forth from many individuals, and

WHEREAS, the Giles County School Board wishes to publicly express its support, appreciation, and recognition of all individuals involved in getting the Kindergarten rooms cleaned and back in order,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Giles County School Board hereby recognizes, acknowledges, and expresses its appreciation to all the individuals who put forth their time and efforts to clean up and get the Kindergarten rooms back in order at Eastern Elementary/Middle School on this day, February 12, 2009.

Greg Canaday, the principal at Eastern Elementary/Middle School, Rick Franklin, the principal at Narrows Elementary/Middle School, and Rex Gearheart, the principal at Narrows High School were presented with a plaque for their respective school. Each school was recognized for receiving the 2009 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award from the State Board of Education.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Rick Franklin, Mrs. Donna Ralph, and several students attended the School Board meeting on behalf of Narrows Elementary/Middle School. Mr. Franklin was very pleased to share with everyone what happens in their fifth grade science class almost every day. He read an excerpt from a published science lesson plan manual from the Covanta Energy Teacher Challenge that Mrs. Ralph was a part of last year. This excerpt stated that Mrs. Ralph loves her job, has the opportunity to teach students, and how wonderful students are to her. Mrs. Ralph is a 5th grade teacher at Narrows Elementary and started off by saying that “Interactive Notebook” is the main component of their science program. Mrs. Ralph continued by stating that research shows that hands on science and minds on science are the best ways to teach science. Next, she stated that her students had just finished up a SOL unit on the changing earth, rocks, rock cycle, and plate tectonics. The students demonstrated several labs and discussed with the board what they learned from each. These labs included topics on the layers of the earth, fossils, and plate tectonics. The last lab that was demonstrated was about plate tectonics. Graham crackers and vanilla icing were used to demonstrate the hot molten lava and the earth’s plates. For this lab, the School Board members and Superintendent acted as the students, and the students acted as the teachers. The students asked the School Board members and Superintendent to demonstrate convergent boundaries, divergent boundaries, and transform boundaries. Both students and teachers did a wonderful job! The School Board members and Superintendent commended this group for a wonderful job!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2009
- Special Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2009
- Bills in the amount of \$ 386,053.48
- Payroll, February 27th and March 13th, 2009
- Revenue for February 2009
- Expenditure for February 2009
- Appropriation Request for April 2009
- Additional Fields Trips 2008-2009

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** Emily Ricketts – EEMS Guidance Counselor (effective 09-10 school year), David St.Clair – GHS Custodian (effective March 16, 2009)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation:** Vicki Vaught – GHS Custodian (effective February 16th, 2009), William Pyles – MMS Custodian (effective March 10, 2009)

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement:** Sherry Kelley – EEMS Teacher (effective end of 08-09 school year), Susan Kirby – MMS Teacher Assistant (effective end of 08-09 school year), Barbara Meredith – EEMS Bus Driver (effective end of 08-09 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements:** Rusty Kelley – GHS Assistant Varsity Girls Track Coach, Chris Niece – GHS Assistant JV Baseball Coach

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Melanie Hart – MMS, Sherri Songer – EEMS Library/Classroom Support

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

The School Board confirmed the following ***Substitute Bus Drivers***: Shirley Cox, Angela Vaught

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

The School Board approved increases and changes in the fee schedule for the 2009-2010 school year for both high schools. These prices reflect an increase in art fees for both high schools, an increase in exploratory fees for Giles High, and an increase in parking permit fees for both Narrows and Giles High.

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

The Board Chairman stated that the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation was completed about a month ago and all School Board members were very complimentary of the good job that he does.

School Board members and the Superintendent commended the seven students and Sandra Kelley for winning 1st place at the State level for the Real World Design Challenge. They also thanked the Department of Energy for paying for their trip to Nationals. The team was leaving on the 20th to head to Nationals in Washington D.C. Good Luck was wished to them by the School Board and the Superintendent! A resolution was approved to be presented at the next board meeting for the accomplishments of this team. Congratulations!

School Board members and the Superintendent commended the Junior Parliamentary Procedure team that ranked Gold at the VA State FFA Contest approximately two weeks ago. This is the second year that the junior team has made it to the final round and ranked Gold. The team consists of the following members: Alisha Hudson, Jordan Walkup, Trevor Shrader, Cody Blankenship, Emily Galliher, and Jake Vaughn.

A board member distributed several handouts from the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. The 2009 Regional Science Fair Winners from the Governor's School include the following: Dawn Mercer – 1st Place (Animal Sciences), Cari Squibb – 2nd Place (Animal Science), Amanda Rodgers – 1st Place (Biochemistry), Kaslin Fields – 2nd Place (Biochemistry), Kelsey Hayes – 1st Place (Microbiology), Justin Farmer – 3rd Place (Physics and Astronomy). Special Awards were presented to Kelsey Hayes and Dawn Mercer from United States Naval Science. Congratulations were conveyed to the Southwest Virginia Governor's School 2009 Regional Virginia Science Olympiad Winners. Cari Squibb and Amanda Rodgers won 1st place in Herpetology and Amelia Tyler and Amanda Rodgers won 5th place in Cell Biology. Lastly, a handout was distributed with information regarding the 2009 AMC (American Math Contest) Results. Matthew Stallings ranked with a 90 on the recent AMC 12 contest.

School Board members and the Superintendent commended the educational feature by NEMS students and Mrs. Ralph!

School Board members and the Superintendent commended the Narrows High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team for being a State Semifinalist. They represented Giles County very well!

A School Board member commended the choir from NEMS for the wonderful job they done singing at the GEA Credit Union meeting.

The Superintendent read a list of winners from the FBLA Spring Conference, which was held on March 6, 2009 at Pulaski County High School. The GHS winners at the Regional Competitions and their events are as follows:

Business Ethics – 3rd Place – Elizabeth Loveday, Kelsey Frazier

Computer Problem Solving – 1st Place – Alexis Ayers

Cyber Security – 2nd Place – John Honosky

Economics – 3rd Place – Steffan Frazier

Emerging Business Issues – 2nd Place – Chelsea Cole, Ashley Sadler, Sierra Davis

Impromptu Speaking – 3rd Place – Jeffrey Flack

Networking Concepts – 2nd Place – Todd McCracken

Public Speaking II – 2nd Place – Janie Milliron

Web Site Development – 2nd Place – Harmony Trip, Alex Vest, April Link

The Superintendent read names of individuals who placed in the state HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) competitions on February 28th. The First Place Health Education Team Presentation consisted of the following: Sierra Davidson, Shayla Dennis, Amanda Seymour, and Nikki Simpkins. Also, Victoria Saunders placed fifth in Medical Photography. The four individuals from the first place team qualified for nationals.

The Superintendent shared with the School Board that the Academic Fairs would be going on during the next couple of weeks at the elementary schools. This week he has had the opportunity to visit Macy's academic fair, which consisted of approximately 340 very impressive projects.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved an increase in breakfast and lunch prices for the 2009-2010 school year. There will be a \$.10 increase for students and a \$.25 increase for adults.

The School Board accepted and approved the bid from Time Technologies for services provided in IFB #3-2009 (scoreboards).

The School Board approved a field trip for Tabitha Young for the Giles High School FBLA State Leadership Conference/Competition to Reston, VA from April 17th – 19th.

The School Board approved supplemental contracts for the following: Larry Greer – NHS Senior Class Sponsor, Margaret Christle – NHS Yearbook Sponsor, Faye Nicholson – NHS Yearbook Sponsor, Teresa Lowe – NHS SCA Sponsor, and Michael Etzler – GHS Newspaper.

The School Board approved insurance plans for the 2009-2010 school year. These plans will be Anthem Key Advantage 300 and Key Advantage Expanded with vision services added.

The School Board approved the recommendation from Giles High School and the Athletic Boosters to name the track in honor of Coach Rusty Kelley and his historic accomplishments coaching the Girls Track and Field at Giles High School for the past 29 years.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 14th, 2009.