

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
May 21, 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**

Gloria Hurt, 2009-2010 GEA President, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. As GEA President, her goal is to continue building an effective, working relationship with the Board of Supervisors, School Board, and GEA, to enhance the teaching environment for the teachers of Giles County. She has been asked to request to the School Board that they take a look at reinstating the longevity step for the veteran teachers. Withholding the steps this year takes an unequal effect for the veteran teachers. Teachers who were anticipating receiving the longevity step are losing 2000 dollars, plus a reduction in VRS and Social Security benefits the rest of their lives. This would affect 6 of our employees for the 2008-2009 school year and 8 people for 2009-2010. The GEA would like to thank the School Board in advance for their consideration of this request.

Mr. Roger Browning attended the School Board meeting to voice his concerns regarding the renovation/construction of the home team side bleachers at the Narrows High School football field. He stated that they were poorly designed prints to start with. He wanted to know what design they had now to protect the people from Narrows. He felt that it would be 15 to 20 feet before you would hit solid ground because of the fill. He stated that there needs to be something substantial to be able to support all the people on the bleachers. In addition, he stated that there is only two more months before they start practicing football.

The Superintendent and Dr. Webb explained the new proposal for the stadium bleachers. They explained that from the top down, it is about 30 feet in drop of elevation. The Superintendent stated that on the home side, they were planning on putting ram jacks in and driving them down until they hit solid ground. They are planning on 3 rows of ram jacks, with 6 sets on each row. The plan is to weld a metal cap on top of each set and put an I-Beam on top of each row. The proposed finish date for the bleachers should be the middle of July, depending on the weather. As information, the metal skeleton for the visitor side should be up very soon.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Suzanne Blankenship – EEMS, Nikki Pynn – MMS, Jerry Hodges – MMS, Billy McCraw – MMS, Mary French – MMS, Gloria Hurt – MMS, Kim Squibb – MMS, Michelle Skeens – NHS.

The following individuals were recognized for their participation in the 2009 Blue Ridge Regional Art Show: Katelyn Osborne – GHS, Emily Harrell – GHS, Katie Gabbard – EEMS.

***Educational Feature**

Michele Thompson, Director of Special Education, and Special Education Teachers, Heather Ursano and Rebecca Herman, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Special Education Department Educational Feature. The two teachers explained the learning process for the handful of students who have hearing impairment and stated that students are unique in how they learn. Hearing loss ranges from minimal to profound and no two students with a hearing loss are the same. The teachers showed a PowerPoint with three different hearing impaired students that demonstrated how they learn through different forms of instruction. The teachers also planned an activity with the School Board on "how well do you know your apple", which showed that none of the apples were the same. The School Board members were given an apple to examine and then were asked to place it in a basket. They then had to pick "their" apple out of the basket.

The School Board thanked the individuals from the Special Education department for a wonderful presentation!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2009
- Special Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2009
- Bills in the amount of \$ 434,581.27
- Payroll, April 30 and May 15, 2009
- Revenue for April 2009
- Expenditure for April 2009
- Appropriation Request for June 2009
- Special Education Annual Plan
- Confirmation of Educational Technology Resolution
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** Kim L. Mills - Transfer from MMS Title I Teacher to MMS 7th Grade Math/English Teacher (effective 09-10 school year), McCreery Mann - Transfer from NHS AEP to NEMS Special Education Teacher (effective 09-10 school year), Pat Pennington – Transfer from NEMS Special Education Teacher to EEMS Special Education Teacher (effective 09-10 school year), Lindsey Carlson – EEMS Elementary Teacher (effective for the 09-10 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement:** Bonnie Davis – GHS Band, Renee Jessee – GHS Asst. JV Softball Coach

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contract:** Scott Keaton – GHS Head JV Boys Soccer

The School Board accepted the proposal from Advance Drug Testing for services specified in RFP #10-2009 (drug/alcohol testing for CDL holders).

The School Board accepted the proposal from Water Chemistry for services specified in IFB #9-2009 (water treatment services).

The School Board accepted the proposal from Dodson Brothers for services specified in IFB #8-2009 (pest management services).

The School Board accepted the bid from JanPak for services specified in IFB 7-2009 (janitorial & paper products).

The School Board approved the bid from Shelor for services specified in IFB #12-2009 (purchase of two vehicles).

***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 following authorizations for the 2009-2010 school year: The Chairman and Superintendent to accept RFP's and offer employment between School Board meetings, if needed, and Scott Meade, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum to sign documents for the 2009-2010 school year, in the Superintendent's absence, as requested by the Virginia Department of Education.

The School Board approved a scholarship from the Narrows Business and Professional Association. The Narrows Business and Professional Association was formed on August 29, 1989 by local business owners. This association is offering a scholarship to support two graduating Narrows High School seniors that will be enrolling in an accredited two or four year college, university, or vocational school by Fall 2009. The scholarship committee from the Narrows Business and Professional Association will review all

applications and a decision will be based upon information provided by the applicant. Scholarship money will be rewarded upon completion of the first term or semester with a proof of a passing G.P.A. presented to the scholarship committee of the Narrows Business and Professional Association.

The Board approved a one year contract of lease between the Giles County School Board and both Jesse Williams and Marcell Martin. The term of this lease shall be for one year, delivered at least thirty days prior to the date upon which termination is desired. The sole purpose of this lease shall be for the use of said land by the Lessee to cut the hay for their use. Access to said land shall be through adjoining property owned by the Lessee and not through the property owned by the Lessor. After the one year lease, there will be an RFP sent out each year to award the Giles High School hay field lease.

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

Due to two meetings that night, the Governor's School Junior/Senior Awards Ceremony and the Mountain Lake Chamber Banquet, the School Board members and Superintendent were unable to present comments or mission statement accomplishments.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the proposal from Center for Rehabilitation and Development for services specified in RFP #13-2009 (speech services).

The School Board approved two additional surplus buses from the garage. These buses will be taken to use for scrap or used as a trade in for new buses.

The School Board approved a new bus driver evaluation for the 2009-2010 school year.

The School Board approved the following additional Athletic Coaching Contracts (GHS): Rusty Kelley – Assistant Varsity Girls Track, Mark Hubbard – Varsity Girls Track.

The School Board approved an updated organizational chart for 2009-2010.

The School Board approved a field trip for Erin Burton (GHS) for GHS Volleyball Players to travel to the Penn State University Volleyball Camp from July 5-8.

The School Board approved the employment of Rebecca Herman – Itinerant Special Education Teacher, effective for the 2009-2010 school year (home school – NEMS).

The School Board accepted the bid from Mobile Modular for services specified in IFB #11-2009 (modular classroom units).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Monday, June 29th, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.