

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
October 22, 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, GEA President, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She opened by giving the board members information from the September 30th Virginia Board of Education hearing that was held at Pulaski High School, in which the GEA attended. She distributed a handout that contained the VEAs comments regarding the affects of the proposed support staff funding changes. She explained that as the Superintendent and School Board develop their tentative budget for 2010-2011, that they do everything in their power to protect the people that serve our students as the top of their list of priorities, reinstate the salary scale, and protect the value of the health insurance benefits. In closing, she thanked the School Board for listening to their concerns.

Steve Hall and Melissa Trotman from the American Cancer Society attended the School Board meeting to inform the School Board members about the American Cancer Society, including events, and general information. They brought packets to the School Board members with information about the Cancer Society, as well as ways to get involved, such as the Giles Relay for Life event in June 2010. They explained many reasons of how the American Cancer Society is beneficial to cancer patients. Since the Giles County Relay for Life started in 2002, the community has raised over 1 million dollars in support for cancer research, patient programs, and support services. They encouraged the schools, students, and staff to get involved in the Relay for Life program. In closing, Melissa stated that the more lives they save, the more birthdays they could celebrate.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Crystal Ramos-McCall – EEMS, Linda Henderson – EEMS, Barbara St. Leger – EEMS, Thelma Yost – MMS, Joyce Marion – MMS, Robyn Taylor – NEMS, Donna Stump – GHS, Crystal McMahan – GHS, Kim Tilley – GHS.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Rex Gearheart, Mrs. Anna Swenty, Mr. Gary Hinson and three Narrows High School juniors attended the School Board meeting to present the educational feature on behalf of Narrows High School. Mr. Gearheart first thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity to be here. In addition, he made a comment regarding the NEMS H1N1 vaccination clinic, stating that it could not have gone any better. It was a great effort put forth by Giles County Public Schools and the Health Department.

Mr. Gary Hinson, NHS Science Teacher, started off by thanking the School Board for the invitation as well. He stated that a lot of high school students do not go into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math like they have in the past and that he doesn't want this trend to continue. A project that he has incorporated within his Ecology class has the students create Biosphere projects. The students have to design an environment that they feel that they could enter, close and lock the door, and not come out for generations. They were given several ideas and had to put together and design an artificial environment, known as Biospheres. He brought along three students to show the School Board members the projects that they had created.

Mrs. Anna Swenty, NHS Science Teacher, started off by telling the School Board members that she was there to give them a debriefing about her latest adventure. She reiterated the problem with American high school students not going into Science as a career. Mrs. Swenty's husband saw a program announced back in the spring where the Northrop Grumman Foundation was sponsoring a program for any math or science teacher to apply and have the opportunity to experience zero gravity, like an astronaut would in space. Mrs. Swenty applied and received confirmation in July that she would have the opportunity to participate in this program and the Foundation paid for her to be able to do this.

She went on the flight the first of October. Mrs. Margaret Christle and Judy Hartley set her up with a little video camera, so she could film and give her students a de-briefing when she returned to school. She shared a video regarding her wonderful educational opportunity. In closing, she stated that it was a wonderful random experience!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2009
- Special Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2009
- Bills in the amount of \$ 4,419,908.83
- Payroll, September 30th and October 15th, 2009
- Revenue for September 2009
- Expenditure for September 2009
- Appropriation Request for November 2009
- 2009-2010 Advisory Committees
- 2009-2010 Field Trip Requests

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** Jackie Honaker – NEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective October 1, 2009)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation:** Brad Whitehead – GHS JV Basketball Coach (effective Sept. 28, 09)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Sherri Songer – EEMS Library Support, Kim Cook – EEMS Kindergarten Class

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Teddy Vaughn – GHS JV Baseball, Mark Wilburn – GHS J.V. Softball, Scott Keaton – GHS JV Boys Soccer

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

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

The School Board approved the Resolution of Surplus Property in Narrows, Virginia. The Giles County School Board has identified a parcel of property that is no longer needed and elimination of the parcel will also eliminate the need for maintenance, relieve liability, and may place the property back on the tax rolls.

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

The Board Chairman commended Forest Fowler, Jeff Young, and Cathy Webb for the awards they have received.

The School Board commended the GHS Golf Team for being state golf champions.

The Board Chairman stated that we have an excellent school system.

A Board member commended the Reality Store and its success. There were many interesting stories the teachers heard from the students. It was very “life like.” Tonya Vaden and the Giles Tech Center were commended on all the hard work!

A Board member commended Nikki Pynn on her help with the Art Council Display on a Saturday. She displayed work from students in the gifted art program. Lots of compliments were heard regarding the students work.

Board members commended the amazing educational feature by Narrows High School! It was also stated that we have great educators in Giles County!

A board member stated that we are thankful to have teachers that teach the way they do.

A board member commended Bobby Farmer from EEMS for being Teacher of the Month.

A board member stated that two students from the Governor School will be joining a field trip through Radford University to Alaska to do research by drilling into the ice to determine the depth of cold.

The Superintendent stated that the renovations were moving forward each day. The Giles Tech Center machine shop should be ready to move back into by November 6th.

The Superintendent stated that the H1N1 vaccination clinics have gone smoothly at the elementary schools. The staff was commended for all of their help and hard work!

The Superintendent congratulated the Giles High School Golf Team for winning the State Tournament.

The Superintendent commended Cathy Webb for being named the 2010 Virginia Teacher of the Year. In the last year, three staff members, including Forest Fowler, Jeff Young, and Cathy Webb have received exemplary awards.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved **Volunteer Agreements** for the following: Barbara Wilson – GHS General Volunteering, Sandi Webster – EEMS Library, Mary Doug McDonald – EEMS Teacher Support, Stacy Cunningham – GHS Assistant JV Girls Softball Coach & Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball, Judy Ray – NHS Ticket Sales, Dennis Martin – NHS (Driver for GCPS).

The School Board approved an additional **Advisory Committee** for Special Education.

The School Board approved additional **Field Trips** for the 2009-2010 school year.

The School Board approved the **Retirement** of Roger Shaver – GHS Custodian (effective December 1, 2009).

The School Board approved **Athletic Coaching Contracts** for the following: Mark Hubbard – GHS Varsity Girls Track, Mark Jones – GHS 8th Boys Track, Byron Hurley – GHS Boys Tennis, Bruce Frazier – GHS Head Boys Baseball.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on Friday, November 20th at 1:30 p.m. in conjunction with school tours for International Education Week.