

**Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
NEWS RELEASE
September 17, 2009**

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Recognitions**

Mr. Jeff Young, Giles County Public Schools Network Administrator, was presented a plaque from the School Board for being recognized as the 2009 Educational Technology Leader in Region VII by the Department of Education.

***Public Comments**

Ms. Gloria Hurt, GEA President, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. Ms. Hurt stated that she was proud to be a part of our school system that once again had all schools fully accredited. She is concerned about the ongoing economic crisis and stated that she would like for the School Board to help work against the proposed budget cuts. Mrs. Hurt stated that the proposed SOQ changes will affect the classroom due to cuts in support staff. In closing, she stated that she wanted to propose a team of several individuals such as the Board of Supervisors, School Board, teachers, Professional Advisory Council members, etc. to help with the preparation of the budget to face the new challenges. She thanked the School Board for their continued support and for allowing her to speak.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Forest Fowler, Mrs. Donna Davis, Dani East, Valerie Burton, and Crystal Osborne attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Giles Tech Center educational feature. Mrs. Donna Davis, Giles Tech Center LPN Nursing Instructor, introduced the Phase II Practical nursing students that were present and then let them explain what the program offered to students and adults. Dani East stated that the program is not only cost effective, but it is a great program with small class sizes, which is beneficial to the students. Valerie Burton reiterated what Dani stated and added that the program is very practical, flexible, and affordable. Crystal Osborne then went through a PowerPoint with Valerie Burton on what they study during the first semester of the Phase II Practical nursing program. Valerie informed School Board members of many places that they visit to gain valuable knowledge, including the following: Home Health, Hospice, Carillion Transport, Operating Room, and Physical Therapy. She then proceeded to inform the School Board of many clinical sites that they assist with, including the following: Giles Dialysis, Adult Day Services, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Giles Free Clinic, Montgomery Regional Hospital, Lewis Gale Behavioral Health, Tender Loving Care, Head Start, and several nursing home facilities. In closing, Valerie thanked the School Board for the opportunity to be in this program and for the renovation. She was very excited for the upcoming students, because of the new classrooms they will have once renovation is completed!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2009
- Bills in the amount of \$ 269,874.68
- Payroll, August 31st and September 15, 2009
- Revenue for August 2009
- Expenditure for August 2009
- Appropriation Request for October 2009
- 2009-2010 PAC & Calendar Advisory Committees
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Sara Clemons – MMS Elementary Teacher (effective for the 09-10 school year), Melissa Dolinger – SBO Accounts Payable Clerk (effective September 9, 2009), Larissa Wurtz – MMS Guidance Counselor (effective September 14, 2009), Gretchen Carlson-Hagee – NHS/GHS Special Education Teacher/Transition Coordinator (effective

September 8, 2009), Charles Burton Jr. – NHS Custodian (effective September 28, 2009), Sherry Townsend – MMS Special Ed. Asst. (effective September 14, 2009), Transfer of Melissa Light – NEMS Special Ed. Asst. to Title I Assistant

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignations:** Jason Thomason – GHS Special Education Teacher (effective September 1, 2009 contingent upon a suitable replacement)

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement:** Jean Montgomery – NEMS Title I Teacher Asst. (effective October 1, 2009), Kitty Martin – NEMS Bus Driver (effective September 8, 2009)

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Stephanie Webster – NHS Asst. Girls Softball, Dusty Stump – GHS Asst. Varsity Football

The School Board confirmed the following **Supplemental Contracts:** Rhonda Colavecchio – GHS SCA, Michael Etzler – GHS Newspaper, Cecilia McFaden – GHS Annual/Head Senior Class, Mitch Reed – GHS SCA

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements:** Don Hall – NHS JV Football Asst. Coach

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Sally Shupe – EEMS Classroom Support, Charles Waselchalk – NHS

The School Board confirmed the **Substitute Teachers** list to date.

The School Board confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers:** Donald Vaught

The School Board confirmed the following **2009-2010 MACC Coaches:** Gary Hinson – NHS Science, Sherry Miller – NHS Head Coach & All Around, Larry Greer – NHS Social Studies, Alleta Morrison – NHS Math, Betsy Wood – NHS English, Lynn Williams – GHS Social Studies, Diana Blanton – GHS All Around/Science/Head, Carolyn Painter – GHS English, Earl Ventry – GHS Science & All Around, Katherine Peery Wright – GHS Math

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

The Superintendent shared opening school information with board members which included enrollments for the first week of school. The enrollment for the first day of school was 2530. The enrollment for the sixth day of school was 2569.

The School Board approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration.

The School Board approved the lease agreement between Giles County Public Schools and New River Community Action. The lease agreement made and entered into July 1, 2009 between the Giles County School Board and New River Community Action, Inc. grants the Lessee use of the property known as the "Agriculture Shop" located on the grounds of Narrows Elementary/Middle School for educational purposes.

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

A School Board member thanked all the individuals, who helped get everything organized during the water problems in the County at the start of school.

A School Board member thanked the coaches and volunteers for everything they do for our students.

A School Board member commended all the great pictures in the school sections that have been in the Virginian Leader.

A School Board member discussed a new program for seniors at the Governor's School. This program involves scientists who come from Virginia Tech to Research "Drama".

A School Board member also informed board members about a new program for juniors at the Governor's School. This program is a class dealing with study skills.

School Board members congratulated Jeff Young for receiving the 2009 Educational Technology Leader in Region VII from the Department of Education. They also thanked him for all of his hard work!

School Board members commended the Tech Center Practical Nursing students for a wonderful educational feature! It was outstanding!

A School Board commended the progress of the renovation, especially the football facilities.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved additional Volunteer Agreements for the following individuals: Jerry Eaton – EEMS PTA & Classroom Activities, Alice Hudson – EEMS Library Support, Amy Maxey – EEMS Library Support, Anthony Ratcliffe – GHS Volunteer Football Coach/Sub.

The School Board approved the Resignation of Jason Thomason (GHS Assistant Varsity Football Coach – effective September 1, 2009).

The School Board approved the Lions of Virginia Bland Music Scholarship Program. The Lions Clubs of Virginia sponsors an annual music competition for musically gifted high school age students funded by the Lions of Virginia Bland Music Scholarship Program and named for celebrated African American composer and instrumentalist James A. ("Jimmy") Bland, one of the greatest and most prolific writers of American folk songs. The purpose of the foundation is to promote cultural and educational opportunities for the musically talented young people in Virginia (primarily of high school age). This goal is achieved through progressive competitions, beginning in February, at the local Lions club level, and culminating in may in a competition among 12 finalists The Bland Program oversees the running of the competitions and also provides \$18,000 to the 12 finalists. The scholarships must be used for college tuition, music lessons, summer music programs or other music education endeavors. As tuition and lessons are extremely expensive, the Bland Program provides needed assistance to these talented, hard working music students and their families.

The School Board approved a document by the Montgomery County Health Department to allow the health department nurses to administer the H1N1 vaccine to the students of Giles County Public Schools, with approval from the parent/guardian.

The School Board approved property as surplus between the Narrows Elementary/Middle School parking lot and Julian McCroskey's property line. This property amounted to .058 acres.

The School Board discussed and approved GASB 51, which is now required. Under this requirement, all computer software in the amount of \$5,000 and above must be considered as an intangible asset and be placed on the asset sheet.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 22nd at 4:30 p.m. in conjunction with the budget meetings.