

**News Release**  
**December 9, 2010**  
**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**

*Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**\*Public Comments**

Sheriff Morgan Millirons spoke regarding a new program, called RAD (Rape, Aggression, Defense). All of the materials for this program were purchased by Mr. James Tyler, Carilion Giles Community Hospital Administrator. The sheriff's department started this program last year with some of the female teachers at Macy McClaugherty. In addition, several classes have graduated from this program in Giles County. This past spring, Giles High Schools seniors were the first ones to graduate from the RAD program in Giles County. They are the only sheriff's office in the state of Virginia teaching the RAD program to high school students and the only one in southwest Virginia teaching it at all. There is no fee to take this class. Currently, the sheriff's department is teaching this program to a 10<sup>th</sup> grade class at Narrows High School during their physical education time. Recently, two 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes graduated from the RAD program at Giles High School, which contained about 35 girls. Sheriff Millirons appreciates the support of the School Board and Superintendent for the Sheriff's department to bring this program into the schools. There are 5 RAD instructors from the Sheriff's Department, 2 from the Pearisburg Police Department, and one from the school system. The program is between 9 and 9 ½ hours and usually contains between 15 – 20 females.

**\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Norma Trenar – MMS, Tami Hall – MMS, Kim Squibb – MMS, Mary Ann Graham – MMS, Teresa Santolla – EEMS, Teresa Austin – EEMS, Robin Hundley – EEMS, Amy Martin – EEMS, Carolyn Martin – EEMS, Amber Stevers – EEMS, Theresa Beckner – GHS, W.R. Johnston/GHS Golf Team – GHS.

The following students were recognized for their outstanding artwork and winning this year's Christmas Card Contest: Jasmine Holency – EEMS, Kaylin Graham – NEMS, Caroline Hicks – MMS.

**\*Educational Feature**

Mary Henderson, School Health Coordinator, as well as several of her school nurses, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the educational feature. Mrs. Henderson was happy to have several of her nurses with her in attendance at the School Board meeting. She had asked her nurses to prepare information for the Superintendent and School Board members regarding "a day in the life of a school nurse," which was given to them prior to the board meeting so they could review it. Health issues have become much more of a problem with students than they used to be. With the increased number of medical needs, a certain level of expertise is required. Medically fragile student conditions may include asthma, seizures, catheterizations, blood pressure monitoring, allergies, diabetics, etc. There are laws in the schools that require the nurses to monitor Virginia physicals, immunizations, and require audits. Last year, through the teamwork of many individuals during the crisis of H1N1, we were able to conduct school immunizations and get through this issue. There are too many situations that can come up that require immediate professional attention and medical care. We are blessed in our schools because the School Board values school nurses and sees the need to put school nurses in our schools. Mrs. Henderson realizes that budgets are tight, but nurses are not a place where schools can afford to cut corners. Any student that visits the school nurse during the day is logged into a computer program, called SNAP. From August 30<sup>th</sup> to December 7, 2010, there have been 10,444 clinic visits. The clinic visits entail screenings, medication administration, injuries, treatments, etc. The nurses love their jobs, welcome the challenge, and can live up to the challenge! School Board members thanked Mrs. Henderson for the reports and information that was given to them!

Mrs. Paula Tibbs, Gifted Education Coordinator, and Mrs. Rebecca Phillips, Director of Southwest Virginia Governor School, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the educational feature. Mrs. Tibbs stated

that we are very fortunate to offer the quality of education that we do in Giles County. In particular, she shared with the board that the new gifted regulations state that she needs to be more specific with what is offered at the secondary level. As secondary principals have stated before, we are very proud to have students graduate every year that have the ability to enter college as a junior. One program in particular that we are very proud of is the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. We currently send 20 students to the governor's school. Currently attending are 11 juniors and 9 seniors. Mrs. Phillips, Director of Southwest Virginia Governors School, attended the meeting to go over the day to day life of a governor's school student. She showed a PowerPoint presentation showing the school/students, giving the history, reviewing the classes/schedules, discussing the college credit opportunities, and conversing about activities that these students can participate in, such as field trips, math contests, science fair, science Olympiad, etc. Overall, there are many benefits in attending the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. School Board members commended Mrs. Phillips on the enlightening presentation! Mrs. Tibbs thanked the School Board for their support of Gifted Education! Gifted Education is very important to students in Giles County!

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2010
- Bills in the amount of \$562,824.51
- Payroll, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Revenue for November 2010
- Expenditure for November 2010
- Appropriation Request for December 2010
- Additional 2010-2011 Field Trips

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: John Whittaker - Substitute Bus Driver, Regina Montgomery – Substitute Custodian/Cafeteria

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

The School Board approved a resolution to refinance the short term bonds that were obtained for the renovation projects (GTC & EEMS). As information, short term financing was obtained (bonds) for renovation. It was anticipated that the literary fund would be used; however, since money has been removed from the literary fund, these bonds needed to be obtained. In addition, the short term bonds term is up at the end of December, therefore, refinancing of these bonds is necessary at this time. This refinancing does provide the opportunity to utilize the literary fund within the first five years if money is placed back into the literary fund. These "new" bonds are 2.4% fixed rate for five years. If we are able to utilize the literary fund in the future, that rate would be 2%.

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

The Superintendent commended Lisa James for being one of 10 semifinalists in the Elementary Category for the McGlothlin Award. Round two involves submitting a lesson plan with video by mid-January. The field of 10 will be narrowed down to 3 finalists in February. Round three is a video/teleconference interview with a panel from The McGlothlin Foundation in March or April. In 2010-11, two prizes of \$25,000 will be available from the McGlothlin Foundation to award a Kindergarten-Grade 5 public school teacher and a Middle/High School public school teacher who each excel in their fields. A requirement of the awards is: \$10,000 is to be used, within a year, for international travel to broaden the thinking and experience of the winning teachers, further enhancing their excellence as professional educators.

The Superintendent thanked the Sheriff's Department for their help & work on the RAD training that our young ladies in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade are receiving. This is a great opportunity for our students!

The Superintendent thanked the ladies who presented the educational features!

Mr. Whitehead distributed some handouts on the Southwest Virginia Governor's School.

The Superintendent commended the Giles High School drama team for placing 6<sup>th</sup> in the state competition. From what he gathers, the competition at the state level was very tough.

The Superintendent shared enrollment information. The November 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 enrollment was 2491. He shared information as to why there has been a decrease in enrollment. Many of the students that have left have transferred to another school district in or out of state.

**\*In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Resignation of Wesley Woodyard – MMS Custodian (effective December 6<sup>th</sup>).

The School Board approved a Volunteer Agreement for Robbie Patteson – NHS Volunteer Asst. Baseball.

The School Board approved GTC Surplus (2 Powermatic Wood Lathes – Model 90).

The School Board approved an additional Eastern District Bus Route to be effective on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. The Superintendent recommended to the board that we add another bus route to the eastern area of the county, which will affect EEMS and GHS. Some of our buses have been approaching their maximum capacity over the past few weeks and Mr. Houck does not see that changing for the continued year. In addition, Mr. Houck has worked with the bus drivers on the Eastern end to make changes to help with this issue. Unfortunately, what this did was increase the time for students on the bus.

**\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.