

**News Release**  
**March 18, 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**

Gloria Hurt, GEA President, attended the board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She stated that the last few weeks have been incredibly tense while waiting for the cuts to come out of Richmond. GEA believed that it was extremely important for our school employees to feel as if they had some control over the uncontrollable circumstances. In addition, she stated that allowing people to provide cost saving ideas can sometimes provide them with some level of comfort. After she spoke to Dr. Arbogast, GEA asked all Giles County employees to submit cost saving ideas that could be developed into a list that she could present to the School Board. She asked that before the School Board and Superintendent make their final financial decisions, to please closely examine the list of recommendations made by the employees. In addition, she stated that the take home pay for a Giles County teacher with fourteen years of experience paying health insurance for there family is approximately fourteen hundred dollars a month. In closing, she stated that she trusted that the School Board and Superintendent will investigate every possible way to protect our students and staff during these budget cuts.

**\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Officer Teddy Vaughn – MMS, Michael Etzler – GHS.

The Superintendent and Board members presented a plaque to Jay Williams for his exemplary service in the area of student safety. On March 12, 2010, at approximately 8:00 am, Jay Williams stopped his school bus on Route 460 in Pembroke to load students (it was a foggy morning). In the rearview mirror of Jay's bus, he noticed a trailer truck approaching his bus extremely fast. The truck was not able to stop in time and jack-knifed. When Jay saw this, he feared the truck would hit the car stopped behind the bus, which in turn would hit the school bus. In an instant, Jay quickly decided to move the bus forward to avoid being hit. This prompt decision saved damage to our bus, and even more important probably saved multiple injuries. The trailer truck did strike the car behind the bus sending the two passengers to the hospital. The bus was never touched by the car or by the trailer truck. This was all recorded on the school bus digital camera system which was turned over to the police for their investigation. We are honored to have Jay Williams as a school bus driver for Giles County Public Schools.

**\*Educational Feature**

Mr. Brown, GHS Principal, opened the educational feature by stating that he brought Mrs. Kristin Radford, GHS English 12 Teacher, and several of her NRCC English students to present to the board. Mr. Brown stated that the target audience for this activity is Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. Giles High School partners with Macy McClagherty and Eastern Elementary/Middle School for activities such as the one that Ms. Radford explained. Ms. Radford shared with the board that each year, her students are divided into groups of 4 or 5 and are asked to compose their own original children's story. They then have to turn that story into a script format, assign roles, create props and costumes, and finally perform these creations at Eastern Elementary/Middle School for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. This project incorporates creativity, implements writing skills, develops public speaking skills, promotes teamwork/cooperation and most importantly, the group has a good time! Justin Farmer, Janie Milliron, Hannah Ruark, Emily Fields and Steffan Frazier presented their very own children's story, called "Dennis, the Donkey."

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2010
- Bills in the amount of \$ 358,166.03

- Payroll, February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Revenue for February 2010
- Expenditure for February 2010
- Appropriation Request for April 2010
- Additional Fields Trips 2009-2010

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Jeff Clark – Special Education Transportation (Current Substitute Bus Driver), Brian Moretz – Temporary Contract/Biology Teacher-GHS (Current Long Term Sub – over 90 days)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation**: Kamryn Robinson – MMS Preschool Teacher (end of 09-10 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: Mary Andrews – NEMS Teacher (effective end of 09-10 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements**: Michael Williams – GHS Baseball

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

The School Board approved the 2010-2011 School Calendar that was designed and agreed upon by consensus of the School Calendar Committee.

The School Board approved policy revisions as recommended by the VSBA Policy Services and administration.

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

Mr. Buckland commended Eastern Elementary/Middle School for all the things they did for him during School Board member appreciation month. During School Board appreciation month, each school adopted a board member.

Mr. Buckland commended the Superintendent on another wonderful evaluation from the School Board members. The Superintendent is evaluated annually from the School Board. This year, he received an average of 4.16, which is out of 5. The School Board appreciates the job that he does on a daily basis!

A board member thanked and commended all those who were involved in the academic fair.

A board member commended 5 bus drivers who took her CPR class.

Board members thanked the GEA President, Gloria Hurt, for compiling a list of cost saving ideas provided by the faculty/staff from each school for the upcoming budget.

A board member stated that this was the time of year for colleges to visit the Governor's school. Virginia Tech and Radford are the only two schools that visit and after looking at the student's records, they will accept or not accept the students then and there. There are 6 students from Giles that applied to Virginia Tech that were accepted.

A board member discussed a policy from the governor's school regarding home school students being allowed to attend governor's school. After being discussed, it was decided that home school students are not allowed to attend governor's school.

A board member commended the 16 students from Giles County that made the honor roll from Virginia Tech!

A board member stated that it has been an extremely difficult winter!

Board members commended the wonderful educational feature provided by several of Ms. Kristin Radford's NRCC English students!

A board member stated that he was highly impressed with how NEMS students conducted themselves during the Character Counts assembly that he attended!

The Superintendent informed School Board members that the Governor's School calendar has been altered due to the number of snow days missed. These changes include the ending dates of the six weeks, parent-teacher conferences, second semester exams, and the last day of school.

The Superintendent commended the spelling bee winners from each school. The winners are as follows: Chandler Burton – Narrows High School, Luke Munsey – Giles High School, Isaac Ganoe – Narrows Elementary/Middle School, Leah Perdue – Macy McClaugherty School, and Amber Bradley – Eastern Elementary/Middle School. In addition, Amber Bradley was the division winner and also placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the Regional bee.

The Superintendent commended the winter athletes from the high schools. The Narrows High School boys basketball team made it to the 2nd round of Region C play, and the girls advanced to the State Quarterfinals.

The Superintendent announced the SkillsUSA District winners from the Giles Tech Center. The chart is listed below. Congratulations to all these individuals!

<i>District VII -Contest</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Finish</i>
<b><u>3D Visulazation &amp; Animation</u></b>		<b>(State) 2 Teams Per District</b>	
3D Visulazation & Animation	<i>Giles</i>	James Meadows	1
3D Visulazation & Animation	<i>Giles</i>	Justin Silver	1
<b><u>Architectural Drafting</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Per District</b>	
Architectural Drafting	<i>Giles</i>	Chad Robertson	1
Architectural Drafting	<i>Giles</i>	Alex Lane	2
<b><u>Auto Service Technology</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Per District</b>	
Auto Service Technology	<i>Giles</i>	Zeke Snider	3
Auto Service Technology (Post Secondary)	<i>Giles/ Post Grad</i>	Josh Mccraw (Post Secondary)	(1st PS)
<b><u>Cosmetology</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Per District</b>	
Cosmetology	<i>Giles</i>	Stephanie Haymore	3
<b><u>Current Events</u></b>		<b>(State) No Restrictions</b>	
Current Events	<i>Giles</i>	Tom Hart	1
Current Events	<i>Giles</i>	Chad Robertson	2
Current Events	<i>Giles</i>	James Meadows	3
<b><u>Metals</u></b>		<b>District Only</b>	
Metals	<i>Giles</i>	Justin Cox	1
<b><u>Nail Care Technology</u></b>		<b>(State) 2 Per District</b>	
Nail Care Technology	<i>Giles</i>	Ashley Meadows / Fallon Klecak(M)	2

<b><u>Plumbing</u></b>		<b>(State) 3 Per District</b>	
Plumbing	<i>Giles</i>	Raymond Gusler	3
<b><u>Poster</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Per District</b>	
Poster	<i>Giles</i>	Michael Wolfe	2
Poster	<i>Giles</i>	Tom Hart	1
<b><u>Precision Machine Technology</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Per School</b>	
Precision Machine Technology	<i>Giles</i>	Andy Warden	2
<b><u>Promotional Flyer</u></b>		<b>(State) 2 Per District</b>	
Promotional Flyer	<i>Giles</i>	Ciara Meredith	2
<b><u>Quiz Bowl</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Team Per District</b>	
Quiz Bowl	<i>Giles</i>	Alex Lane -Team 1	3
Quiz Bowl	<i>Giles</i>	Michael Acord - Team 1	3
Quiz Bowl	<i>Giles</i>	James Meadows - Team 1	3
Quiz Bowl	<i>Giles</i>	Chad Robertson - Team 1	3
Quiz Bowl	<i>Giles</i>	Justin Silver - Team 1	3
<b><u>Related Technical Math</u></b>		<b>(State) No Restrictions</b>	
Related Technical Math	<i>Giles</i>	Tom Hart	2
<b><u>Technical Drafting</u></b>		<b>(State) 1 Per District</b>	
Technical Drafting	<i>Giles</i>	Tom Hart	2
Technical Drafting	<i>Giles</i>	Michael Acord	3

The Superintendent informed School Board members of the Statewide Tornado Drill last Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and stated that the times had been changed for some of the schools due to SOL testing.

The Superintendent commended Giles High School FBLA students on their recent accomplishments. Giles High School had 23 students and two advisors, Mr. Jerry Huffman and Mrs. Tabitha Young, attend the FBLA Spring Regional Conference at Pulaski High School. The following students were recognized in the following categories: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Maya Williams (Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures), 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jacob Roach (Networking Concepts), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Joey Cutler and Travis Robertson – Management Information Systems, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Justin Silver (Business Law), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Justin Loveday (Computer Problem Solving), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Cierra Collins (FBLA Principals and Procedures), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Phillip Parr (Global Business), and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Brennah Carr (Word Processing I).

The Superintendent commended Narrows Elementary/Middle School on their recent cafeteria and immunization record audit. Auditor Diane Surbier with the Virginia Department of Vehicles commented on the cafeteria audit stating that, “this is really as good as it gets, thank you for your organization and cooperation”. The cafeteria staff, Mrs. Katrina Orey, and Mrs. Christy Lawson were commended on their help with the audit. The immunization audit was complete with 100% compliance. Mrs. Peggy Bronnenkant, with

assistance from Becky Weiss, were methodical and correct throughout the process. Thanks to these individuals for all their hard work and dedication on these audits!

**\*In Other Action**

The School Board confirmed graduation dates for Giles and Narrows High School. Narrows High School graduation will be held on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Giles High School's graduation will be held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. If there are any more days missed due to inclement weather, these dates could possibly be altered.

The School Board approved insurance plans for the 2010-2011 school year. These plans will be Anthem Key Advantage 500 and Key Advantage Expanded.

The School Board approved a change in Macy's 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip from May 26-28<sup>th</sup> to May 11-13<sup>th</sup>.

The School Board approved additional Check Runs for February 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$513,313.83.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement for Robert Patteson (NHS JV Baseball).

The School Board approved the resignation of Ross Thompson – NHS Band Director (effective end of 2009-2010 school year).

**\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.