

**News Release
October 21, 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**

Mr. Jay Williams, retired GCPS bus driver, spoke regarding the time students were getting home in the evenings from the school bus, due to the layoffs of several bus drivers last school year. He wanted the School Board to consider putting a bus driver back in the Eastern District. He said there are many kids getting home after 4:30 in the evenings, even with only living about 3 miles from the school. The kids in Pembroke got home last year between 3:20 and 3:30. He said 2-3 buses have been cut from the Eastern District in the last couple years. He said it's not fair for the kids to have to wait that long to get home in the evenings. Mr. Williams said he has talked with Mr. Houck, Director of Transportation, and he stated that we could use another bus on the Eastern District; however, he stated that Mr. Houck says that the "buck stops here" with the School Board. Mr. Buckland stated that he does not like to contradict Mr. Houck. He also stated that as they said last spring, "If it's broke, they will fix it." Mr. Buckland then stated that if another bus needs to be put on the Eastern District, then that recommendation would have to come from the Superintendent. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Houck has made some adjustments, but taking two buses away in the Eastern District is just too much. Mrs. McMahon stated that she knows from talking to other teachers that there are some problems with the layoffs of several bus drivers; however, the savings for the school system is approximately \$160,000. The buses are more crowded and bus duty is longer. Mr. Williams realizes that things are tight, but he feels that the only way to get the students home earlier in the Eastern District is to put another bus on the road. Dr. Webb asked Mr. Williams if he thinks that things have gotten better since the first week of school. Mr. Williams stated that there is no doubt that things are better since the start of school. He stated that things are always crazy on the first day of school. Mr. Buckland stated that Mrs. Lawson completed a survey of bus times, salary, benefits, etc. with surrounding counties and we were very comparable to other counties, especially with benefits and salaries. Mr. Williams closed by saying he hoped the School Board would consider his request. He then stated that he had one other thing to ask. He asked the Superintendent how many people lost their jobs in the spring? The Superintendent stated that it was approximately 35 people who lost their jobs. Mr. Williams then asked how many people have been brought back. The Superintendent stated that he could not say without looking at his list. Mr. Williams stated that he heard that the people coming back do not have benefits. Mr. Buckland and Dr. Arbogast stated that if the person did not have benefits last year, then they wouldn't if they came back under a work agreement; however, if the person was full time, had benefits, and was being brought back for a full-time position, then they would have benefits. Mr. Williams hopes that the School Board will consider restoring the individuals that were laid off this past spring.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Lisa Johnston – EEMS, Debbie Poff – EEMS, Carol Spangler – EEMS, Angela Rice – EEMS, Marsha Kessinger – EEMS, Juanita Sweeney – EEMS, Heather Frazier – EEMS, Sharon Wilson – EEMS, Dorothy Williams – EEMS, Teresa Link – EEMS, Dee Meredith – EEMS, Barbara St. Leger – EEMS

***Educational Feature**

On behalf of the Giles Tech Center, Mr. Fowler (Director of Career/Technical Education), Shelia Rice (Phase I/CNA Nursing Instructor), and three students, Samantha Akers, Larissa Bragg, and Lisa Burgess, attended the board meeting to present the educational feature. Mrs. Rice began by thanking the School Board for their wonderful, new facility! It is simply phenomenal. They have had comments from the State that the Tech Center is the best facility that they have seen in Virginia. The students are really privileged to have the Tech Center. Mrs. Rice stated that it truly is a privilege to teach at the Tech Center! To begin, Larissa spoke about the LPN program and what they currently are covering in class. She stated that they are learning about assessing the patient, establishing a relationship with the patient, as well as

doing some community involvement things including blood pressure screenings at Wal-mart and Rite Aid. Also, they do different things with HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), which is a club that medical field students can be members. The students also do a Thanksgiving Meal for a family, and buy Christmas presents for a family. They enjoy doing what they do. Next, Samantha Akers spoke about the work in the CNA program. With the CNA program, they have more of a chance to develop a relationship with their patients. They can get more comfortable with them as compared to an LPN. They do vital signs, range of motions, and activities of daily living. Lisa Burgess then spoke regarding the "ATI" program. It's a program that can be used in both Phase I and Phase II. Nursing is different than any other subject that you can take. You have to memorize and understand the material. Then, you need to be able to take that information, analyze it, and then use it to make judgments for patient care. This program also allows the Phase II students to work at home on tutorials to help them understand a subject that they may not be familiar with. This program helps to give the students a wealth of knowledge that they need to be successful on the "NCLEX." The program can go to the glossary on the program to help them better understand and pronounce terms. The system can be accessed 24 hours a day by students and teachers and is very, very helpful. Mrs. Rice stated that they have gone completely online with their curriculum, which allows them to do their testing online. Board members and Superintendent thanked Mrs. Rice and her students for their presentation.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2010
- Bills in the amount of \$ 631,884.84
- Payroll, September 30th and October 15th, 2010
- Revenue for September 2010
- Expenditure for September 2010
- Appropriation Request for October 2010
- 2010-2011 Advisory Committees
- 2010-2011 Field Trip Requests

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment:** Jessica Jewell – EEMS Elementary Teacher (effective 9/28/10), Wesley Woodyard – MMS Custodian (effective 10/1/10), David Martin – GHS Head Custodian (effective 10/1/10-current custodian @ GHS), Reinstatement of Tammy McGuire (previous RIF T.A.) – NHS Teacher Assistant (effective 10/1/10), Laura Mitchem – GTC Computer Technician (effective 10/18/10)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation:** Heather Himes – EEMS Elementary Teacher (effective 10/13/10-contingent upon a suitable replacement)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Sandra Webster – EEMS Library Support, Amy Maxey – EEMS PTA/Library/Class/Office Support, Gerald Eaton – EEMS PTA/Classroom Support, Kim Cook – EEMS Kindergarten, Terri Stevers – EEMS Office/Classroom Support, Teresa Jones – EEMS Classroom Support, Tammy McGuire – EEMS Classroom Support, Melissa Ramos – EEMS Title I Support

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements:** Seth Davis – GHS Boys Basketball

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Jerry Huffman – GHS Head Junior Varsity Football

The School Board accepted the bid from J.H. Pence for services specified in IFB #3-2010 (library millwork for EEMS).

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

The School Board approved a fuel Agreement between the County of Giles, Giles County School Board, Giles County Public Service Authority and the Town of Pearisburg. The County of Giles, Giles County School Board and Giles County Public Service Authority operate a fuel storage and dispensing system located at the School Bus Garage in the Town of Pearisburg. The Town of Pearisburg desires to purchase fuel for its vehicles at this facility and agrees to purchase their own fuel dispensing cards (\$3.00

each) and they will be invoiced monthly at the sellers cost at the time fuel is dispensed, plus \$.06 per gallon.

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

Mr. Whitehead gave Board members a handout, which contained information about the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. This handout quotes information from Rebecca Phillips, Director of the Governor's School. She states, "First, I will say that I think you should be really pleased with your selection process. All of the new juniors are doing well in classes and show the characteristics that students need in order to be successful Governor's school students. A few of our new juniors have struggled a bit as they transitioned to SWVGS this fall, but none of those students have been from Giles County. Secondly, we continue to be excited about several of the projects that have been proposed by Giles County students. Robbie Wills, from Narrows High School, is consistently working on the device to coordinate the ice data as I explained in the information for the last meeting. Alec Frazier, also from Narrows, has interesting leads on a few project ideas (he learned from last year to plan ahead and realizes it is wise to have at least one back up topic in mind in case another idea doesn't turn out). One of Alec's ideas involves testing the effectiveness of use of demonstrations in teaching physics. He would like to measure learning outcomes in a group taught with the demonstrations and in a group that does not see the demonstrations. A junior from Giles High School, Elena Anderson, has been visiting the National Archives with her parents to collect data from small, rural hospitals that operated during the civil war. The data she is acquiring has never been analyzed, so she plans to make several comparisons between the hospitals to see if any particular conclusions are evident. For example, did the prevalence of female workers in some hospitals have an effect on patient outcomes? Third, we are happy to be represented in the Friends of Virginia Governor's School (FOVGS) organization by a parent from Giles County. Mr. Bill Anderson has shown a great deal of interest in supporting SWVGS and agreed to be FOVGS representative. This is the first time that SWVGS has had a representative in this organization, based in Richmond, which acts to raise appreciation and support for Academic Year Governor's School at the state legislative level. We are really pleased to be one of six Governor's schools (out of the 19 total schools) that has a dedicated parent representative serving on FOVGS."

The Superintendent discussed renovation at both the Giles Tech Center and Eastern Elementary/Middle School. Renovation is about complete at the Tech Center. However, there are still items left on the punch lists that need to be completed and they are being worked on now. The contractors at Eastern Elementary/Middle are moving a little slower than the Tech Center. The kitchen was inspected last week; however, there were some items that needed to be taken care of in the kitchen. There are some things that the contractor needs to do to have that re-inspected. The work on the gym is moving along. They are still working on classrooms and painting.

The Superintendent congratulated the Giles High School Golf Team, who was District Champions, Region Runner-up, and State Runner-up. Tanner Carbaugh was named the Individual State Champion. Congratulations!

The Superintendent commended the Giles High School band. They competed at two competitions over the past two weekends and received superior ratings at both of these.

The Superintendent congratulated Steven Lester for being named Fox 21/27 Academic All-Star for the month. He will be aired in a story on the 29th of this month.

The Superintendent and Mrs. McMahon stated that The Reality Store was conducted last week at KJ for 9th and 12th graders and seemed to be a success!

A board member commended Nikki Pynn for taking students artwork to be displayed for "Art on the Lawn" in Pearisburg.

The Superintendent stated that over the past couple weekends, NHS has had students come in and do community service projects around the school. The students picked up trash around the neighborhood roadways as well.

The Superintendent commended Diana Blanton again for being named Region VII Teacher of the Year. The reception was held on October 15th in Richmond. Although she was not chosen as State Teacher of

the Year, we are very proud of her and proud to have her represent not only Giles High School, but Giles County as well.

National School Lunch week was last week. Elementary schools had a lot of visitors during the week for lunch.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved Additional Field Trips: Larry Marion-GHS/Chorale/Women's Chorus (April 7-11, 2011 to Chicago, Illinois by Commercial Bus) (April 28-30, 2011 to Virginia Beach, VA by School Car) (March 11-12, 2011 to John Battle High School by School Car) **All trips funded by Music Fees or Chorale/Choral Booster Funds.

The School Board approved the Employment of Joseph Tudor – GHS Custodian (effective 10/21/10).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on Friday, November 19th at 1:30 p.m.