

*News Release*  
*September 16, 2010*  
*Giles County Public Schools*  
*School Board Meeting*

*Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II*

*Division Superintendent*

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**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**\*Public Comments**

Gloria Hurt, GEA President, spoke on behalf of the GEA. She again discussed the jobs bill that was passed. She wants to give NEA credit for being instrumental in making the jobs bill money available to our localities. NEA got the bill introduced, made sure the bill helped school employees, gathered the 60 votes necessary in the US Senate, and got Speaker Pelosi to call the house back into session in August to finish the job. They are very excited about the success of this jobs bill. The Va. Department of Education released funding estimates in a Superintendent's Memo on September 10<sup>th</sup>. GEA would like to mention the hardships that the budget cuts have created for them. They hope the funds will go back into the schools to rehire and retain employees. Again, the GEA would like to help with input as recommendations are being made about the jobs bill.

Mr. Buckland thanked Ms. Hurt. He stated that he would assume that she would get the opportunity to make recommendations during her monthly meeting with the Superintendent. He stated that they were pleased with the jobs bill. From his understanding, they have about 23 months to spend the funds. On behalf of Mr. Buckland and the rest of the School Board members, they appreciate the work of GEA.

**\*Educational Feature**

Mr. Franklin first opened for Narrows Elementary/Middle School by stating that he appreciates the Board's efforts during the past budget season, especially their effort to protect our teachers. He shared with the board that Mrs. Garland, the Speech Language Pathologist at Narrows Elementary/Middle School, recently presented a workshop for the staff at Narrows Elementary/Middle School. Her presentation provided information to the staff detailing the duties of a Speech Language Pathologist. In summary, during Mrs. Garland's PowerPoint presentation at the board meeting, she explained what a speech-language pathologist was, where a speech-language pathologist can work, what services they can provide and the roles and activities of a speech-language pathologist. The presentation was very enlightening and informative. In addition, she also explained speech sound production, fluency, language, and augmentative/alternative communication. The presentation was well received and enjoyed by the School Board and Superintendent.

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2010
- Bills in the amount of \$ 925,182.16
- Payroll, August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 15, 2010
- Revenue for August 2010
- Expenditure for August 2010
- Appropriation Request for September 2010
- 2010-2011 PAC & Calendar Advisory Committees
- Confirmation of Field Trips

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Cassie Chafin – NHS Math Teacher (effective 10-11 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignations**: Vontez Johnson – GHS Custodian (effective September 3rd)

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Don Epperley – GHS Head JV Boys Basketball, Mark Jones – GHS Head 8th Boys Basketball & Assistant Track Coach, Scott Keaton - GHS JV Boys Soccer

The School Board confirmed the following **Supplemental Contracts**: Mitch Reed – GHS SCA, Diana Blanton – GHS MACC (All Around, Science, Head Coach), Cecilia McFaden – GHS Annual & Head Senior Class, Rhonda Colavecchio – GHS SCA, Michael Etzler – GHS Newspaper, Carolyn Painter – GHS MACC (English), Brenda Williams – GHS MACC (Social Studies), Earl Ventry – GHS MACC (Science & All Around), Katherine Wright – GHS MACC (Math)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements**: Colin Munsey – GHS Cross Country/Track

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Sharon Farmer – GHS Ticket Taker/Concessions, Mike Williams – GHS Asst. Varsity Baseball Coach

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

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

The School Board approved a new music class at NHS, as proposed by Steve Brady and Tim Woolwine. Mr. Tim Woolwine, NHS Music Director, is requesting consideration of a new music course at NHS. The new course would serve as an exploratory class for different aspects of music and performance. Students would have the opportunity to investigate three major areas which would be covered each 6 weeks. The class will also serve as a recruitment tool for band and choir and would be a way for students to be exposed to the very basics which they can use as a foundation in band and choir. The School Board members are willing to give the class a try; however, they stated that they would eventually like to see a choral class begin in the future. This new class will begin during the second semester at Narrows High School.

The Superintendent recognized Mr. Franklin and his staff for meeting AYP. Congratulations on a job well done!!

The Superintendent congratulated all schools and stated that all five are officially accredited this year for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Congratulations to everyone on this accomplishment!!

The Superintendent commended Diana Blanton, GHS Biology Teacher, for being named Region VII Teacher of the Year. This is a great recognition for Mrs. Blanton and is the second year in a row that Giles County has had the Region VII Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Blanton will now compete for State Teacher of the Year next month in Richmond.

The Superintendent updated the School Board members on the opening school enrollment information. The enrollment for the fifth day of school was 2519, enrollment for September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was 2509. The enrollment for September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 was 2560 and 2536 as of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

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

School Board members and the Superintendent commended the very informative educational feature that was presented by Mrs. Melanie Garland!

School Board members commended the Narrows High School Hall of Fame Induction.

School Board members commended Mrs. Blanton for her achievement as Region VII Teacher of the Year. Good luck to her as she travels to Richmond next month to compete for State Teacher of the Year!

Mr. Buckland commended Dr. Arbogast and his staff for all their hard work during August & September with the opening of school and the school bus route changes. He stated that during these changes with the bus routes and other changes during the budget cuts, "if it's broke, we will fix it."

Mrs. McMahon commended W.R. Johnson, GHS History Teacher and Golf Coach, for being named Timesland Coach of the Year!

Mrs. McMahon commended Josh McCann, 2007 GHS Graduate, on his recent achievements. Josh was on Mrs. Layton-Dudding's State Champion Horse Evaluation Team and State Champion Livestock Evaluation Team

where he placed nationally. He also won several other awards at the State and National levels in many other events. Josh applied for his American Degree, which is the highest honor that can be achieved as an FFA member. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages students to grow, achieve, and establish themselves in an agricultural career. Mrs. Layton-Dudding only knows of 4 people from Giles who achieved their American degree and three of them have been her students. With the American degree, there is an additional award that you can apply for called the Star Award. Josh has been chosen as one of only four finalists for the Star in Agriscience. Josh has earned a \$2,000 scholarship and the chance to travel abroad. In October, he will go through an interview process to hopefully end up as the American Star in Agriscience award recipient. What a wonderful accomplishment for both Josh and Mrs. Layton-Dudding!

Mrs. McMahon commended Mr. Whitehead on his address to teachers during the pre-school conference!

Mrs. McMahon stated that the new Technology Center sign looks great!

Dr. Webb stated that he is real pleased that Mrs. Hurt has agreed to be their liaison again this year.

Mr. Whitehead distributed a handout with information about a Narrows High and Governor School student. Rebecca Phillips, Governor School Director, quoted "Since the work in Alaska has allowed our students to collect very interesting data that have the potential to provide greater insight into concerns regarding global warming, we plan to continue to be involved in this research project with Radford University. Plans are being made for another trip in the spring of 2012. To prepare for that, Robbie Wills, from Narrows High School, is creating a new instrument to aid in data collection. He is working to build a system that would allow data coordination between the Ohm mapper (the instrument that measures the depth of the ice) and the thermochrons (which measure the surface temperature of the ice). The instrument that Robbie is building will integrate a GPS so that the exact locations of data collection will be recorded and matched between the Ohm mapper and thermochrons. Robbie's instrument will be constructed on an Arduino platform. An Arduino is a tool for the design and development of embedded computer systems. It consists of a simple open hardware design for a single-board microcontroller, and uses a standard programming language. The work on this instrument will allow Robbie to gain experience in constructing small electronics, coordinating control of and data input from multiple devices, and offer programming experience. He will have the challenge of not only creating a working instrument that satisfies the research need, but also will have to make sure that it is constructed in a manner that will ensure that it is operational at exceedingly low temperatures like those in Alaska where it will be used. Robbie's enthusiasm for this project is evident. He spent several days at our school during the summer writing the research proposal and practicing soldering techniques. We are looking forward to seeing the finished product later this year." What an accomplishment for Robbie!

The Superintendent and School Board members commended Mr. Jeff Dinger, Virginian Leader reporter, for his support for local school board work and for the public school students in the community. He was selected by the School Board for the VSBA Media Honor Roll.

The Superintendent informed School Board members of Constitution Day, which is/was September 17<sup>th</sup>. He informed them that the schools were planning several activities for this day.

The Superintendent commented on the jobs bill that Ms. Hurt discussed earlier in the meeting. He did receive information from the Department of Education stating that the jobs bill had been approved. The estimated total coming to Giles County is \$653,179 dollars. These funds can be used through September 2012, but there are some stipulations on these funds, as explained in the Superintendent's memo. The Superintendent will get input from GEA and the School Board members on how these funds should be utilized.

The Superintendent stated that November is "VSBA Take your Legislator to school month." There was discussion on inviting our legislators to come tour our schools and/or inviting them to lunch.

#### **\*In Other Action**

The School Board approved the employment of Craig Johnson – GHS Business Teacher (effective date: TBD) and Ben Woodyard – NHS Custodian (previous RIF T.A. – effective September 14, 2010).

The School Board approved Volunteer Agreements for Andrea Guynn – All Schools (Coaching, FOCUS, etc.) and Judy Ray – NHS Athletics/Ticket Taker.

The School Board approved an Athletic Coaching Contract for Mitch Reed – GHS JV Baseball.

The School Board approved a Field Trip for W.R. Johnston/Golf Team (14 individuals) to travel to Piankatank River Golf Course either on 9/18 or 9/25 to have a practice round at the state site.

The School Board approved a modification to the personal leave policy for staff to be able to carry over up to 5 personal days per school year.

**\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in conjunction with the budget meetings.