

News Release
December 15, 2011
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 spoke on behalf of the GEA. Ms. Hurt thanked the School Board again for the bonus that employees received last month. It was appreciated financially and boosted the morale. GEA's biggest concern right now is to save jobs and to continue providing health insurance for the employees. They acknowledge the difficult times of funding that the School Board will face. It's going to be another tough year. At this point, there are many "unknowns" about state funding. A second main concern of GEA is an across the board raise for all employees. In addition, another priority for GEA is to reinstate the teacher salary scale. Mrs. Blanton prepared a spreadsheet that shows what teachers would have been "worth" if the 2008-2009 salary scale would have still been in effect. The cost to the school board to "reinstate" this scale would be approximately \$600,000. The GEA has conducted a survey for all support staff about their views on the "experience" base salary scale for their job classification. Out of the 78 surveys that were returned, 74 of those employees were in favor of an experience base pay scale for job classifications for teacher assistants, secretaries' custodians, etc. GEA supports the implementation of pay scales for support staff job classifications with the following standards: (1) The pay scale for any job classification consists of 10 or more steps, where each step is a specific dollar amount and each step is a uniform percentage more than the step before it; (2) Once the pay scales are phased in for employees, they would progress up the scales based only on completed years' work experience in that job classification; and (3) The pay scales must not cause a reduction in any employees salary. The initial phasing of the pay scales may require some employees to receive a higher dollar amount adjustment than others. GEA believes the best resources a child could have in their education is highly qualified teachers and support staff. The best way to ensure the children in this county have the most high qualified professionals/support staff is to compensate them fairly. Ms. Hurt thanked the School Board for their time.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Linda Henderson – EEMS, Crystal Ramos-McCall – EEMS, Kelsey Blankenship – EEMS, Sarah Woods – EEMS, Toma Eaton – EEMS, Toni Robertson – EEMS, Lori Evans – EEMS, Ashley Robertson – EEMS, Jenny Hogan – EEMS, Suzanne Blankenship – EEMS, Suzanne Williams – EEMS, Christy Jones – EEMS, Lee Ballagh – EEMS, Debbie Vest – MMS, Kathy Pyles – MMS, Bonnie Martin – MMS, Mary Trenar – MMS, Eva Woodyard – MMS, Kristie Perkins – MMS, Jeanine Gentry – MMS, Jean Gray – NEMS, Julie Kennett – NEMS, Margery Terrill – NEMS, Gladys Burton – NEMS, Amber Collins – NEMS, Kim Thompson – NEMS, Frances Breedlove-Croy – NEMS, Brenda Caldwell – NEMS, Teresa Lowe – NHS, Jane Garrett – NHS.

The following students were recognized for their outstanding artwork and winning this year's Christmas Card Contest: Hunter Sartin – MMS, Afton Thompson – EEMS, McKinna Huffman – NEMS.

***Educational Feature**

Ms. Betsy Wood and several students attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the NHS educational feature. Ms. Wood and her students discussed their 2nd block Appalachian Culture class that is taught at Narrows High School. The students learn a lot during this class, including how things happened/occurred "back then." The students shared a PowerPoint about their class, which showed pictures of them making apple butter, learning to crochet, learning to make "country" ornaments, etc. There was also a PowerPoint of Mr. Riffe coming to speak to their class about how funerals were conducted back in the early 1900's. The students took a trip to the coal mine on the money they raised from selling their apple butter. They seemed to really have enjoyed the trip and all that they learned! At the close of their presentation, the students

showed the School Board some of the things they have started to crotchet, as well as give everyone on the board a pint of their apple butter that they made. The School Board really enjoyed their presentation!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$610,041.66
- Payroll, November 30th & December 15th, 2011
- Revenue for November 2011
- Expenditure for November 2011
- Appropriation Request for January 2012

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Lori Hansen – EEMS School Class Support, Steve Davis - GHS Boys Basketball

The School Board approved the updated **2011-2012 Substitute List** to date.

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

Dr. Arbogast stated that Mr. Woolwine took students to the All District Band competition and he commended Megan Yopp (trumpet) and Sierra Ogden (clarinet) for making All-District Band!

Dr. Arbogast stated that Jessica Gwaltney took a group of students to the New River Federation FFA Contest. Joey Smith, Christian Ballard, Kelly Dent and Wyatt Robertson placed 1st in Agriculture Mechanics. In the Junior Age Group, C.J. Ferguson, Hunter Stables, Levi Meadows and Justin Pennington placed 1st in Agriculture Mechanics. Wyatt Robertson received the highest score in the competition.

Dr. Arbogast commended the Giles High School drama team. Last Tuesday, December 6th, he had the opportunity to see the drama production. Students did a great job! He thanked Mrs. Johnson for all of her hard work. The drama team placed 2nd in the district competition and 4th in the regional competition. They also had 5 total acting awards that were won by their students! Congratulations!

Dr. Arbogast discussed the recent cafeteria audit. Last week, a representative was here from DOE to do an audit. This person reviewed records here and went to NEMS to observe and review their records. Following these reviews, she had nothing but praise about our cafeteria program, especially at NEMS, where she said everyone was very friendly and conscientious. In addition, she stated that Mrs. Burton takes great pride in her work! Special thanks to NEMS cafeteria and Mrs. Lawson for a great audit!

Dr. Arbogast discussed the NHS SOL writing results. The results for 8th grade was 96%, end of course was 87%. After Christmas break, more SOL tests will begin.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Coach Jeff Williams for being named Three Rivers District Coach of the Year. Also, Brad Kessinger was named offensive player of the year. Congratulations to the other players who received awards as well!

Dr. Arbogast commended the Martin Luther King Poster/Essay contest winners from Eastern Elementary/Middle School. In the poster contest, Kaitlyn Rice (3rd grade) placed 1st, Jonah Williams (1st grade) placed 1st, Savannah Shillinger (1st grade) placed 2nd, and Sarah Smith (4th grade) placed 1st. In the essay contest, Joseph Nielson (7th grade) placed 1st.

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

Mr. Whitehead shared information regarding the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. The Cipherring Time Trials is a national contest consisting of ten rounds in which students have three minutes to answer three free-response questions covering topics from arithmetic to calculus. The contest emphasizes self-assessment and prioritization, as students must decide which questions to attempt in each round based upon the topics covered and levels of difficulty. Students receive 0, 3, 7 or 10 points per round for answering correctly 0, 1, 2, or 3 questions respectively. Scrap paper may be used but calculators, computers, and cell phones are prohibited. Carson Squibb, from Giles High School, scored 29. Other high scores were earned by Madonna

Yoder (score of 58 from Eastern Montgomery High School), Ferris Ellis (score of 46 from Marion), and Andrew Vaccaro (score of 43 from Radford). Last year, juniors with scores of 57 or above and seniors with scores of 64 or above received awards, although this is not necessarily a predictor of this year's scores; we have to wait to hear this year's score cutoffs.

School Board members and the Superintendent were very impressed with the Appalachian Culture educational feature from Narrows High School! Thanks to Ms. Wood for all of your hard work and to the students for participating.

Mrs. McMahon commented that she has been to several social functions lately and she's had several comments from parents and grandparents on the quality of teachers that we have. Our teachers are much appreciated and they go beyond their call of duty to help students.

School Board members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the following buses as surplus:

59	1999	INTRNTL	BLUEBIRD	SCHOOL BUS	1HVBBAAN2XH225870	37733L
36	1997	INTRNTL	BLUEBIRD	SCHOOL BUS	1HVBBAAPXVH443862	30624L

The School Board approved the revision to policy JO (Student Records) as recommended by VSBA.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Agreement for Jody Bragg – NHS Athletic Volunteer.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 19th at 4:00 p.m.