

**News Release**  
**February 15, 2011**  
**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**

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*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. Bobby Lilly spoke regarding the Ten Commandments. He stated that he has spoken with several members of the Giles County Bar Association over the last couple of weeks and shared with the board that he doesn't officially speak for the Bar Association because they have not formally met as a group. However, some of them have been kicking around some ideas that they wanted to at least bring to the School Board's and Superintendent's attention and get guidance to make sure they (Bar Association) are going about it the right way. He understands that there has been a good bit of interest about the Ten Commandments issue. One of the things that struck some of the members of the local bar was if there was a need or more interest in someone putting together a broader based display that talked about how the moral codes that the founding fathers had gotten translated and codified into a new workable set of laws and a new constitution for this new country. Several members of the bar or the whole bar would be interested in putting together some sort of proposal and doing the research that might be appropriate. They want to look at the things that they bring to the table such as legal expertise and also would love to look at things like the SOL's that may be applicable for the Junior and Senior levels as well and to make sure the display not only encompasses the documents that are already there but also can give a fair historical picture to the legal situation/legal scene at the time the country was founded. They are prepared to put together a formal proposal, but this is not something that is going to be able to come about in a week or 10 days. The Bar Association envisions this taking a little bit of time to put together and when they have a formal proposal with a set of documents that may include things like the Mayflower Compact, as well as the documents that are already on the wall. Mr. Lilly wants to make sure that they are looking at the right procedure. Their assumption is that the School Board and Superintendent would want them (Bar Association) to present a formal proposal with some degree of specificity to the Superintendent that way there would be an opportunity for counsel to look it over and any other input from any other groups that may be interested in this issue. Then, at some time, they would be in a position to make a formal presentation to the bar. As far as the display, the Bar Association would like to finance and put together and give it to the school system. Mr. Lilly wanted them to be aware that that's the idea they are playing with. He knows there has been a lot of interest and there may be other groups that are looking into doing things as well. They wanted to make sure we didn't overwhelm the school board. Their thinking is that if this is something that would be of interest and assistance, our thinking is we will put a formal proposal together and present to the Superintendent. Mr. Buckland stated that if they tie it to the SOL's, it would be of great benefit. Mr. Lilly stated that from time to time, local attorneys do get calls from Government teachers to come and speak and comes up at career fairs. Pulaski has actually put together a formal program that he has started doing with government classes. They are in the planning stages with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade tying in with some of the Civics SOL's. If there is a need or issue that they can assist with, they are certainly happy to do that. I have spoken directly with Phillip Steele, current President of the Giles County Bar Association and have spoken with some of the other members, but they have not had the opportunity to meet as a group. The feedback he is getting is good. Mr. Gollehon asked if he was speaking of an educational display for each of the schools. Mr. Lilly stated that he was correct. It could encompass not only things like the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the Mayflower Compact, but could also encompass quotes from some of the founding fathers concerning their thoughts on the topics and issues that they really had to wrestle with when this started. They were dealing with a brand new frontier. They needed to take the best of English common law, the moral compasses and codes that each of them brought and figure out how to turn this into a new set of laws and acknowledge that with rights come responsibilities. Mr. Gollehon stated that the Magna Carta might be the start of it all. Mr. Lilly agreed. The Magna Carta is a document that has also been displayed in schools with that specific purpose. He wants to make sure that the display is small (not dominate the lobby) and enhance the SOL's. Dr. Webb thinks that tying these documents into the SOL's is a critical component. Dr. Arbogast stated that once we receive something from Mr. Lilly, he will communicate it with our attorney and get guidance from him on whether we need to alter it.

Gloria Hurt, GEA President spoke on behalf of the GEA. "Some 250 school employees, parents, and activists attended yesterday's Valentine's Day rally. Dr. Rayfield Vines, president of the Virginia NAACP, stated "There is a proposal on the Hill to build good roads, but where is the proposal to build good minds?" Sen. Ed Houck, who serves on the Senate budget conference committee, noted that last year, lawmakers were struggling to fill a \$2.5-billion hole in the state budget. This year, he says, "We have money. The question is: Where do we spend it?" GEA continues to encourage our members to contact our legislators and voice their concerns. The damage that was done to our schools must be repaired. As an association we would like to see the single subscriber paid at 100% , the SB continuing to pay our 5% VRS contribution, our salary scale unfrozen , a salary increase, a policy adjustment which allows sick leave days to be used for non-family member bereavement day(s), and an alteration in the point values awarded to professional development activities. For example, a mentoring teacher would receive 90 points instead of the 45 which are currently awarded for having a student teacher in the classroom. We appreciate your continued efforts on our behalf and we look forward to the positive changes which you will provide for us in the upcoming year. Thank you for your time today."

### **\*Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Wal-Mart (Cheryl Craft), Bucyrus Corporation (Grant Snider), Patrick Enterprises (Mark Collins), Thelma Yost – Macy McClaugherty School

Mr. Eric Gentry, Giles County Board of Supervisors Chairman, attended the meeting to distribute certificates to School Board Members in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month.

On behalf of the School Board, Amanda J. Tickle, School Board Clerk, was presented with a certificate by the School Board Members for School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

### **\*Educational Feature**

Mr. Jared Rader, MMS principal, and Mrs. Tracey Ferguson, MMS Librarian, as well as several students attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Macy McClaugherty School educational feature. Mr. Rader discussed a recent snow day where 3-4 students came to school and had a "reading" challenge. This plays a part with a new program that Mrs. Ferguson has introduced, which is the new Accelerated Reader online program. Accelerated Reader has been around for many, many years. The school has now upgraded to the new "online" version. Although the tests are online, the students can only take the tests at school. Accelerated Reader is a supplementary program that helps the school encourage its students to read. The students read a book and then take the test, which will award them points. Teachers require different things, such as a certain number of books or a certain amount of points. With the new web based program for AR, they pay \$5 per student to have access to the web based version, opposed to \$3 per test, which is what they used to pay. In the past, the library only had access to tests for the books they had in the library. Now, the students have access to the database with all the tests, so they went from approximately 10,000 to approximately 140,000 tests. This has opened up so many book choices for the students and Mrs. Ferguson and the students are very excited about this new program. Several students then demonstrated different aspects and concepts of the new program on the Smart Board, including the rewards for the top readers.

Sheriff Millirons, along with the School Resource Officers, attended the meeting to update the School Board and Superintendent on what they do on a daily basis in our schools. He wanted to do a RAD presentation; however, they are not allowed to do this for the general public and would get in trouble with the national charter. Sheriff Millirons thanked the School Board for allowing them to come to the meeting and be with them. He then introduced the five School Resource officers from each school, who have a total of 84 years' of law enforcement experience. Their goal is to have a friendly face when the kids come to school and allow them to have a safe environment and feel welcome. The School Resource officers do programs at the schools that include the following: drug awareness, child identification, DARE, computer/internet safety, school bus safety, etc. Last year, a new program was started with the senior girls at the high schools to help them prepare for their future and college. They also have a program with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to help them prepare for high school. The RAD program with the girls in the school system has really taken off! They offer it to any female in the county that wants to take it. Officer Wilburn spoke about the RAD program. He shared that RAD is a course designed for women, originally for the college campus. Most of the instructors are in law enforcement, but there are others, such as GHS Guidance Counselor Shelly Boggess. There were 3-4

participants that went in the spring of last year to become an instructor. Their goal is to teach all 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in both Giles and Narrows high school. There are approximately 70 students that have been taught so far. A portion of this class is classroom, which includes risk awareness. The class is taught during the PE classes. If it saves one person, the class is well worth it! Officer Bowman thanked the School Board for allowing them to be at the schools. Each one of the School Resource officers represents where they live and where they are from. He stated that we are all like family in the school system and very community orientated. He thanked the School Board for his job!

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2011
- Special Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 564,212.70
- Payroll, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011, and February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- Revenue for January 2011
- Expenditure for January 2011
- Appropriation Request for February 2011
- Additional 2010-2011 Field Trips

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation**: Stephanie Webster – JV Softball Coach (NHS)

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: Carolyn Painter – GHS English Teacher (effective end of 10-11 school year), Terri Beckner – GHS Librarian (effective end of 10-11 school year)

The School Board confirmed all **Substitute Teachers to Date (after January 18<sup>th</sup> training)**.

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contract**: Melissa Conley – NHS Varsity Softball Assistant, Renee Jessee – NHS JV Girls Softball Assistant

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreement**: Gwynn Hamilton – EEMS Class Support, Jerry Huffman – GHS Track

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

The Superintendent commended NHS for their recent SOL testing scores. The test scores are as follows: English Grade 8 Writing – 100%, English Grade 8 Reading – 100%, English EOC Writing – 85.19%, English EOC Reading – 87.50%, Math Algebra I – 82.69%, Math Geometry – 93.33%, Math Algebra II – 87.50%, Science Grade 8 – 92.11%, Science (Earth) – 78.38%, Science (Biology) – 80.00%, Science (Chemistry) – 100%, History (World History I) – 62.16%, History (VA&US Hist) – 87.76%.

The Superintendent thanked both Giles High School and Macy McClaugherty for lunch during school tours the last two weeks.

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Marion for his work over the weekend with the All District Chorale program, which was held at Giles High School. Friday, they had over 200 students come in from over 24 schools to practice Friday and perform Saturday evening. Some students were housed in Giles County, while others stayed at hotels in Dublin. Approximately 50 stayed in Giles County.

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Millirons, Mr. Rader, Mrs. Ferguson and the School Resource Officers for presenting the educational features.

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Etzler and the Spartanian staff for the copy of the Spartanian.

The Board Chairman commended the Superintendent for his most recent evaluation, which was an average of 4.35 out of 5. We have an excellent Superintendent! Mrs. McMahon thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Meade for all of their hard work over the last couple months.

Mrs. McMahon thanked those individuals in the community who housed some of the All District Chorale students last weekend. This event was so well organized by Joyce and Larry Marion.

Mrs. McMahon thanked Mrs. Hurt, GEA President, for the job that she does, as well as her professionalism.

Board members commended both educational features provided by Macy and the School Resource Officers! Accelerated Reader has really come a long way. Thanks to the School Resource officers for all they do and the programs that they do within the schools.

Dr. Webb commended Narrows High School on their SOL scores.

Mr. Whitehead discussed information on the Southwest Virginia Governor's School and the 2011 Science Consortium Award winners from Giles County. Giles County students represented well! Eighty percent of Giles County students won an award. Thirty won place awards, which included nine from Giles High and four from Narrows High. Three individuals won Research Awards, which included two from Giles High and one from Narrows High. Seven Giles County students will participate in the Regional Science Fair. Avery Mahaney, GHS student, was second place in Biochemistry. Breannah Carr, GHS Student, was honorable mention in Chemistry. Neileen Polintan, NHS student, was third place in Chemistry. Alec Frazier, NHS student, was first place in Computer Science. Alex Shelor, GHS student, was honorable mention in Environmental Science. Sara Stallings, GHS student, was first place in Environmental Science. Alex Eaton, GHS student, was first place in Mathematical Sciences. Gabrielle Stiff, GHS student, was honorable mention in Medicine and Health Sciences. Elena Anderson, GHS student, was first place in Medicine and Health Sciences. Ben Shockley, NHS student, was honorable mention in Microbiology. Justin Vaught, GHS student, was first place in Microbiology. Tyler Meredith, GHS student, was second place in Plant Sciences. Lindsey Trent, NHS student, was first place in Psychology: Learning and Perception. Michael Heim, GHS student, won a research award in Consumer Science. Michael Squibb, GHS student, won a research award in Environmental Sciences. Robbie Wills, NHS student, won a research award in Engineering. Many "place" winners will progress to the Blue Ridge Regional Highlands Science Fair to be held March 4-5. Winners from the regional fair will go on to the Virginia State Science Fair. Students will submit research papers to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. If accepted, students will be invited to the annual meeting, which is May 24-26 at the University of Richmond. Four SWVGS students participated in Capitol Day 2011 with the Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools (FOVGS) to speak with Delegates and Senators about the importance of Governor's Schools.

Mr. Gollehon stated that it was good to see Teachers of the Month in the Spartanian. It's great to have them recognized!

Mr. Buckland recognized his fellow board members. The public does not realize all that they do.

**\*In Other Action**

The School Board approved an additional field trip for Giles High School (Tabitha Young/Craig Johnson) to travel to Reston, VA for the FBLA State Leadership Conference. Funding will be provided by FBLA.

**\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at Giles High School. The Quarterly Dinner Meeting with Administrators will follow at MMS at 5:30.