

News Release
March 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**

Jessica Foster, MMS Parent, spoke regarding inappropriate discipline at Macy with certain students and the principal, Mr. Rader. There have been multiple incidents where children have been bullied and assaulted. When complaints are made to Mr. Rader, most calls have not been returned. She has been to the school board office and spoke with Mr. Rader multiple times. Mr. Meade has done his job with getting Mr. Rader to call her. The latest incident that happened was that her oldest child was scratched on the school bus by another student. He had put his book bag up to block the attack, which was unsuccessful. She called out to the school to talk to Mr. Rader and nothing was done about it. She got a call today that stated there were other students that he questioned, but not the witnesses that seen the incident. Things were said that her child had provoked the situation, which is untrue. Anytime a child threatens to kill another child in school and admits it to a police officer and no punishment is done, she finds that dumbfounding. Her kids have had their faults and have been disciplined, which she understands, but other kids do the same things and there is no discipline. She wants to know why. What is the favoritism in regards to this? She and her husband both work with the kids and have counselors to work with them to help them to not take matters in their own hands and reporting incidents to the appropriate people. When reports have been made, it is being blown off. Mr. & Mrs. Foster and their child's counselor had a meeting with Mr. Rader not too long ago. He told Tyler to address the issues with him and he would take care of it. That has happened multiple times and nothing has happened. It puts them in the position of "why should I tell my child to do what's right and when he does that, he sees no punishment to the child that has done something to them". When he come home that day and was bleeding, there should have been a punishment to the other child, and there was none. This bullying has to stop. These are all children and if they cannot learn from the adults that they look at as role models, then who is to do that? They have made phone calls that have never been returned. She got a phone call today telling her that other children were interviewed, but not witnesses to her child. Mrs. Foster feels that as a result of her and her husband being very vocal about things in the fact that their kids will defend themselves if they are hit, that is the reason that nothing has being done. She has made arrangements for someone else to transport her children home until something is done. In closing, she wants someone to take a look at this.

Mr. Elwood Lambert spoke on behalf of the Ten Commandments. He started out by thanking the School Board for being a positive influence on our kids. "I understand what you did in the meeting you had a couple weeks ago. I know that you are fighting many battles for this and I appreciate the fact that you are still open minded enough to discuss this. I went to a website with the religion freedom group and I was called something that I had never been called before in my life, "a bully." Last time I was here, I didn't demand anything and didn't intimidate anyone. I don't think anyone here are "bullies." We are just all hear to speak our mind and do what's right for our kids. You wanted support and I think you can see that the support is here. The kids have been "backing" behind it. They went out on a "walk out" last week to support this. They are in support of this. You asked for monetary help if it came down to fighting this in court and there is a fund already started for this such thing. Whatever it is you want to do, I think you have the backing of Giles County people. We would like to see the Ten Commandments put back up in whatever "favor" that you need to do to make it legal. We are not "bullies" and are not going to demand things, but we are asking for the right thing to be done."

Mr. Bobby Lilly spoke on behalf of the Ten Commandments. "Good afternoon. Thank you for another opportunity to address this group. As I mentioned last time when I was here, I'm not here on behalf of any specific organization. I am here as a parent. I am here as a son whose parents both graduated/retired, having worked in the school system. My sister taught in the school system and I was fortunate to work as a substitute teacher. As I followed the discussions over some of these issues the last couple months, I have been very excited to see the amount of interest. That is the type of discussion that our country was founded

on. As I indicated last month when I spoke to you, a number of individuals have come to me with some ideas and I have now put together a formal proposal for a display that I would like this board to consider. I recognize that you all will still like the opportunity to let counsel review the formal details of the proposal, but what I would like to present to you now is consistent with what all of our elementary schools will be doing in the next few weeks. Academic fair is coming up. Their task at the academic fair is to take a topic, whether it is social studies related or science and figure out how to explain that topic on a display board. I brought one. Now before I show you my display, let me explain a couple of things about the proposal. The proposal that I am asking you to consider is for a display of a set of documents which concern the foundations of law and government in our commonwealth and nation. The actual display that I would like to coordinate and we've had many donations from a number of individuals (some of which are here tonight) to help finance mounting and framing of these documents. I want to emphasize that space is a limited commodity. We could fill this entire auditorium with historical documents that are important to our country's founding. The set of documents that I am proposing would all be framed in all identical size frames, be mounted similarly, with some of them actually being facsimile documents and some being summaries of those documents. But, for the purposes of today, I have put some identifying labels on this display board. Now the actual documents would also be arranged in a way that would be appropriate for each of the locations where it would be displayed. The space available at Narrows High may not be the same configurations as the space available at Macy for example. The nine documents that would comprise the bulk of the display have at their heart in the very center the document that all of our students, elementary on up, recognize as the foundation and the beginnings of our country, the Declaration of Independence, adopted in 1776. You will see above and below the Declaration of Independence four other specific documents, which are directly related. The Mayflower Compact, which was the first governing document of Plymouth Colony, and was signed November 11, 1620, along with the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which was adopted by the fifth Virginia convention in June, 1776, just a month before the Declaration of Independence was signed. Those two documents directly influenced the writings of the Declaration of Independence. Coming on the heels of the Declaration of Independence is the Virginia Statute for Religious freedom. As all of our 7th grade students know, that document was one of three accomplishments that Thomas Jefferson felt proud enough about that he wanted those listed on his tombstone that our 7th graders see each year when they visit Monticello. That was drafted by Jefferson in 1777 and enacted in 1786. On the heels of that, and influenced by all four of those documents, was the Bill of Rights from the Constitution, which was ratified in 1791. That's the heart of what most people recognize as being the foundations of our country's law's and government. One thing that's interesting and important for us to recognize is that the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom are documents that are unique and particular to Virginia and those two documents are also specifically listed in our SOL's. On the left hand side of those 5 documents, I have listed a couple documents which were crucial influences to the formation of those codified walls, the Magna Carta, which was the English Charter established in 1215 and the Ten Commandments. Both of those sets of guidelines were part of the moral internal personal codes that our founding fathers followed and felt strongly about. Those were two of the significant influences that allowed the other five documents to be written. On the right hand side, I have included two contemporary manifestations of all of these principals. Mr. Gollehon will be happy to see the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem. Aside from the fight song, that is the one piece of music which every high school band plays more often. There were some seasons that we probably played that more often than we had occasion to play the fight song. The second image would be a framed picture of Lady Justice, that iconic image of blindfolded Lady Justice holding the set of scales that personifies the balance between truth and fairness that shows that our system of justice and our laws is meant to be blind and unbiased and reminds us that all of our rights have to be balanced with our responsibilities. That image of Lady Justice also brings us full circle. It's an image that we accept and recognize as a contemporary image, but it is also based on images from Greek and Roman mythology which pre date all of this. So, this is my proposal. It's a display about our foundations of law and government, centered on the Declaration of Independence, recognizing all of the influences that came to bear on it prior to its existence, all of the ways that it is manifested and recognized today and gives each of us the background, the foundation to step up as citizens to use whatever our skills, talents and experiences will let us bring to bear because if we don't teach our students about the foundations, we will never be able to teach them how to be citizens today."

Mr. Buckland stated that we would need the documents for each board member so we can refer to legal counsel. Mr. Lilly stated that he would also provide the School Board with a copy of an identification document, which has a 2-3 sentence summary of each of the documents in the display and the relevance. Mr. Buckland stated, "You didn't ask for any action this evening, so we will try to refer to it at a later date when we get everything in order."

Mr. Phillip Steele spoke in support of Mr. Lilly's proposal. "Good afternoon. I would like to thank you all for listening to us tonight. I would also like to compliment Mr. Lilly on the presentation he just made. I'm not here in any official capacity. I'm here as a citizen and parent, just like Mr. Lilly, but being a lawyer informs my point of view on this issue. Of course I've read some of the cases and background for all of this. Just one man's opinion, I think this display of these historical documents that Mr. Lilly is proposing would pass constitutional muster. There is no ignoring the context of what the Board is thinking about. I think that these documents are part of history and part of our heritage and I encourage you to adopt his proposal in some form, maybe not every document up there, but I think this proposal of what he is talking about would pass any sort of legal challenge. I urge you not to be intimidated by any of these other groups. This is part of our heritage and our heritage is worth fighting for. I urge you to pass this proposal."

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Tammy Barnett – EEMS, Holly Clark – MMS, Martha Davidson – GHS.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Greg Canaday, EEMS principal, and several students, attended the school board meeting on behalf of the educational feature. Mr. Canaday, and three of his students, discussed and showed a video of their newly remodeled school by each grade level. Many teachers also discussed the benefits of having a closed, confined class, as opposed to an "open concept classroom." Mr. Canaday thanked the School Board for the renovation and are looking forward to the next school year. In closing, the students discussed several benefits of the renovated school.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2011
- Special Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 443,219.27
- Payroll, February 28th, 2011, and March 15th, 2011
- Revenue for February 2011
- Expenditure for February 2011
- Appropriation Request for March 2011
- Additional 2010-2011 Field Trips
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Transfer of Nina Adkins-Fisher from Teacher to Librarian (GHS) – effective 11-12 school year, Whitney Songer – GHS Bookkeeper (effective 3/21/11), Reinstatement of Joel Rader (Bus Driver) – effective 2/28/11, Andrea Annette Pyles (MMS Cafeteria Monitor)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation**: Teresa Neel (Bus Driver) – effective 2/25/11

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contract**: Mike Williams – GHS Head Varsity Baseball Coach

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement/Volunteer Agreements**: Whitney Matlock – GHS JV Softball Assistant, Chris Howell – GHS Boys J.V. Soccer, Sarah Spencer – NEMS (Various Volunteer Events), Kathryn Delaney – GHS (Drama Group)

The School Board confirmed the **March 2011 CDL Class participants**.

The School Board accepted the bid from RIS for services specified in IFB #1-2011 (duplicating paper).

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

The School Board approved the 2011-2012 School Calendar that was designed and agreed upon by consensus of the School Calendar Committee. The School Calendar Committee met on several different occasions to design the 2011-2012 School Calendar. Mrs. McMahon stated that she has a concern about the 4 hour early releases

in the calendar. She has a concern with the children coming to school a couple hours and then going back home. Maybe they are better off to have the full day off? The Superintendent stated that we try to start the schedule 180 days and once we start missing days, we get into the number of hours we have, particularly for the secondary level. He stated that we no longer have to submit the Pre-Labor day Waiver Approval to DOE. Instead, the school divisions are required to self-certify and we will do that as part of our SOQ compliance data collection process in the spring of 2011. The number of school days missed over the last ten years was provided in the board book. We have missed eight days so far this year.

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

The School Board approved a scholarship offered by NanoSonic, Inc. This scholarship will be awarded to a college or trade school bound senior from Narrows High School, Giles High School, Blacksburg High School, Auburn High School, Eastern Montgomery High School or Christiansburg High School who has shown exemplary achievement and interest in the field of science and technology. Special consideration will be given to students majoring in science or technology. A secondary preference will be given based on need. Applicants will need to submit a short essay (approximately 500 words) describing their interest, achievements and goals in the science and technology field of study. Also, they will need to submit at least one letter of recommendation from a current or former science or technology teacher. The winner will be selected by the NanoSonic, Inc. Scholarship Committee.

The School Board approved an increase in food service prices for the 2011-2012 school year. The proposed increase in food service prices is \$.05 for the full/adult meals for Elementary/Middle and High schools. This change is an increase from the 2009-2010 school year. There was no change for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

The Superintendent shared information with the School Board on the 2011 SkillsUSA District Championships. The list is as follows:

Name of Contest	Contestants	Award
3D Visualization and Animation Team	Zach Bowman & Dustin Davis	3 rd Place
Architectural Drafting	Jared Lawson	3 rd Place
Auto Maintenance	Taylor Gilbert Josh Spicer	1 st Place 2 nd Place
Carpentry	Dalton Graham	2 nd Place
Cosmetology	Amanda Byrd	1 st Place
Current Events	Jared Lawson Trevor Dudding	1 st Place 2 nd Place
Job Interview	Trevor Dudding	1 st Place
Nail Care Technology	Katie Nichols with Model Megan Cupp	2 nd Place
Occupational Scrapbook	Belle Neal, Miranda DeHart & Courtney Songer	1 st Place
Poster	Omar Hernandez	1 st Place
Precision Machining Technology	Casey Lucas	3 rd Place
Promotional Bulletin Board	Chelsea Barnett & Taylor Carroll	1 st Place
Promotional Flyer	Chelsea Barnett Taylor Carroll	1 st Place 3 rd Place
Quiz Bowl Team	Taylor Carroll Jared Lawson Michael Wolfe Zach Bowman Dustin Davis	3 rd Place
Related Technical Math	Tom Hart	2 nd Place
Spelling	Dustin Davis	2 nd Place
Technical Drafting	Tom Hart Trevor Dudding	1 st Place 2 nd Place

The Superintendent commended the FBLA Regional Spring Conference Winners. They are as follows:

Accounting - 3rd place Gina Modica
Business Math - 2nd place Brianna Massaro

Business Procedures - 3rd place Nicole Brown
Computer Problem Solving - 1st place Thomas Brown
Introduction to Business - 3rd place Codey Mohler
Introduction to Technology Concepts - 1st place Wes Griggs
Marketing - 1st place Katilyn Hagreen
Network Design - 3rd place Justin Loveday
Networking Concepts - 1st place Jacob Roach
Word Processing II - 3rd place Breannah Carr
****Jazzon Symms was selected as our New River Regional president and will be representing Giles High School and the New River Region at the State Leadership Conference.****

The Superintendent stated that the Nursing Program went through state review recently. Based on the review, all regulations are being met at this time.

The Superintendent stated that Evan Daniels from Eastern Elementary/Middle School has qualified to represent EEMS and participate at the state level of the National Geographic Bee, sponsored by Google and Plum Creek. The state Bee will be held on Friday, April 1, 2011 at Shenandoah University. Congratulations to this young man!

The Superintendent commended the Narrows High School band for being selected to participate in a new event at Radford University called the Small School Honor Band. Mr. Woolwine recorded a piece that they played for their winter concert and submitted it to the music dept. at RU. They made the cut, and now they get a chance to perform in this new event at RU. Basically, the students practice with guest conductors on Friday evening and Saturday and perform in a concert Saturday evening. Several small school bands auditioned and not everyone was selected.

The Superintendent commended NEMS 7th grade student, Jordan McKinney, for winning the American Legion Post 68 Essay Writing Contest. He won at the county and district level. He and Mrs. Caldwell were presented with cash prizes.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved graduation dates for Narrows and Giles High School. Narrows High School will have graduation on Friday, June 10th and Giles High will have graduation on Saturday, June 11th.

The School Board approved the health insurance plans for next year. Key Advantage 500 and Key Advantage Expanded will be offered to our employees this year, with no increase for our employees.

The School Board accepted the bid from Ashley Corporation for services specified in IFB #2-2011 (wheelchair lift repair & maintenance). Ashley Corporation was the only bid received.

The School Board approved the recommended expulsion by the Giles High School Administration of Giles High School, Mr. Mills, for the 2010-11 student case no. 2. (Ayes – 4; Nays – 1) Mrs. McMahon disagrees with the first incident of the student.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12th, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at School Board Office.