

**News Release
May 19, 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**

Mr. Lilly spoke to the School Board about the presentation of historical documents. "A couple months ago, I ran across a quote on the internet. I figured I would save it until the appropriate time. This looks like a good time. It's a tribute to President Abraham Lincoln. The quote says: Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap. Let it be taught in schools...and colleges. Let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs. In that spirit, what I come before you today to do is not to go back over the entire presentation that you were kind enough to allow me to present last time, but instead I bring you a proposed resolution. What I would like to do is read it to you. It's a resolution to the Giles County School Board for posting of the historical documents and it reads as follows:

RESOLUTION OF GILES COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD FOR POSTING OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

It is recognized by the Board that many documents and symbols, taken as a whole, have special historical significance to our community, our county, and our country's history. Some of these documents and symbols include, but are not limited to, the idea of equal justice under law as symbolized by Lady Justice; the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Magna Carta and the Ten Commandments.

A sense of historical context, civic duty and responsibility, and a general appreciation and understanding of the law of this land are all desirable components of the education of the youth of the county. We believe these above named documents positively contribute to the educational foundations and moral character of students in our schools. There may be other documents, speeches, letter, and writings which are equally important as those mentioned above, but, it is our opinion, that these above mentioned documents that may instill qualities desirable of the students in our schools, have had particular historical significance in the development of this country.

For all of these reason, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Giles County School Board will allow the posting of the above named documents together, in a display in Giles High School and other schools in the district as set forth herein. This historical document display shall include initially a picture of Lady Justice, the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Magna Carta and the Ten Commandments. The document display shall also include a brief explanatory document, suitably framed. These historical displays shall be financed by funds of private organizations, and no school funds shall be used for this purpose. No service of school personnel of the school district shall be utilized during any time such employee is employed by the school district and no school employee shall be required to assist in placing the above mentioned documents in any school. However, this Board does not prohibit any school employee from volunteering their time to assist in this project should any individual employee desire to do so.*
- 2. The display of these historical documents shall be uniform in size and content. No document shall be larger or given any prominence over any other document in the display. A copy of this resolution shall be included with the display with the historical documents.*
- 3. Any individual, private group, or organization who wishes to finance the posting of the above listed historical documents may be allowed to do so by making a written request to the Superintendent of the Giles County Schools. The written request shall include the name of the person, individual, or group that wishes to sponsor the historical display at the particular school or schools, and shall contain the name of the school where the documents are requested to be displayed, and shall contain a statement that the person or group agrees to the terms and conditions of this resolution and shall be signed by the person or representative of the sponsor.*
- 4. Any person, group, or organization that wishes to post any other historical documents at any schools, shall notify the Superintendent of the Giles County Schools in the same manner as is outlined herein above. Each request must be made in writing and signed by the person, individual, or group that wishes to place any historical document in the school. They shall*

attach a copy of the document or documents the person wishes to place in each school and shall cite the particular historical significance and importance of said documents. The Superintendent shall present the petition to the Giles County School Board. If the Giles County Board approves the same, a copy of each such historical document shall be added to the historical document display at the schools, at the expense of the person or organization requesting the additional historical document display. The additional historical documents shall be displayed in the same uniform size and content as other historical documents on display, and shall not be given greater or less prominence than any other historical document on display. If the Giles County Board refuses the request of any person or group to post additional historical documents, the Board shall state in writing the reasons for refusing the request.

5. Upon compliance with the above, the Superintendent of the Giles County Schools shall notify the principal of each school for which a display is planned. The principal shall determine where, in that school, the historical documents may be posted. The principal shall notify the Superintendent that they are posted in the manner consistent with this resolution. Keeping with our understanding of Virginia and Federal law, persons shall not be compensated by any school funds for their time or expense while serving in this capacity.

In addition to giving you a lot of language to consider, I am honored and humbled to present on behalf of a number of private individuals in the community a set of all 10 framed documents which were placed on the side table. We will have them here for a while after the board meeting to give you and other interested members of the community the opportunity to see what the display can look like. It's come a long way from the "mock up" on the poster board that we had a while back. I thank you for your continued attention and thoughtful consideration."

Mr. Buckland thanked Mr. Lilly for coming and allowing the School Board to look at the resolution. "We will consult with counsel before our next regular meeting, which will be June 7th. We thank you!"

Reverend Shaun Wilburn spoke to the School Board regarding the historical documents. "Thank you so much for coming back again. I will keep my remarks brief. Like Mr. Lilly, I don't want to go back through and rehash, but I thank you for your service to the citizens of Giles County and also to the students. I know that this time of year you have a lot of other things on your docket other than just the rehang of the historical documents in the county. There have been folks that have made comments in regard to not posting the historical documents for fear of perhaps legal action. I appreciate their opinion, but I'm also reminded that without a heritage, every generation starts anew and afresh. We are basically a Christian nation. Proper education teaches that a nation must teach its heritage. Otherwise, we are sort of lost as we go along. To each successive generation, we want to pass that heritage along and there is no greater country on earth that has a heritage like America. We can all agree to that. When our forefathers understood that God was doing something unique in establishing this great country called America, they signed a Declaration of Independence and there they believed that divine providence had brought them to the place of that signature. They also believed that there would be divine protection to see them through. To this, they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Since then, men and women have served and shed their blood and still are today to protect and preserve these rights. I don't think that we can do less today. Psalm 33:15 says that God has fashioned the hearts of all men alike. I believe as we look at that, we understand that every man desires freedom. I know of no people that desires slavery. We have been given great freedom in America. In regards to avoiding the potential legal fight, if this was a playground scuffle, we would all try to avoid it at all cost, but the fight is bigger than us. We know that this fight has been brought to us by people that don't even know us. We know that there are those that will participate that want to remain unnamed and don't want us to know who they even are. There are those who want to deny our heritage and rewrite our history and even as is posted on the national motto on the bulletin board of this building In God We Trust and One Nation under god and all these things that we look at, there are a group of people that want us to pass on a godless heritage. Can you imagine One Nation under God passing down to its children a godless heritage? Therefore, we understand that's it's not merely a scuffle, but a war of perhaps many battles ahead, and I am reminded of a truth: The worth of a soldier is not determined in time of peace, but in the time of battle. Many of us here today are asking you as our School Board representatives to side with our founding fathers and to pass on this great heritage of this great country to our children of this nation. I personally believe there are many of you here today that your sentiments echo our sentiments. And, if our silence over the last three months has been misconstrued or misinterpreted as unconcern, I can assure you that it's not the case and we are trying to clarify that today. For far too long, we have allowed a vocal minority that has yielded undo sway in our land and I confess that much to our shame, but our absence in numbers over the past three months at these meetings was not out of unconcern. I think all you have to do is look at the landscape of our county and see that it's changed somewhat with all the billboards and the signs and the

banners around. I believe that the sentiments of our citizens have not changed either. So, our absence was not a lack of concern, but was out of respect to this board who we were giving time to gather information, to seek proper counsel to make this decision that I understand will be made on June 7th now. We are here today to say you are not alone. We have supported this board from day one. We have done that mostly on our knees. Many churches (mine included) last night were on our knees in a church wide prayer meeting praying for every member of this board and Superintendent and all those folks. We also pray for our county and our nation. Yesterday, when I spoke to some of you that I had the opportunity to speak to, I stated that I intended to ask you to vote today. It was announced and in the minutes that today would be the day to vote. Since then, I have understood from Mr. Lilly's presentation and from others that more time needs to be given until June 7th because this is a lot of material to go through. I know that you desire to seek counsel and you want to keep the citizens of Giles County informed. With your timeline, if I properly understand it, June 7th will be the day that we will draw the line in the sand and figure out where we all stand. And, I believe that we as Christians and we wanted to maintain a Christian presence today. We didn't come in an unruly manner, but we wanted to come and let you know that you are not alone and we support you, but we do want to bring closure to the issue as I'm sure you do. I was pleased to hear of the June 7th date. I know that there are some things that you cannot say in a public venue. Our lord taught us that we are to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. That means don't tell everything you know and I understand that as well. I appreciate the opportunity to speak for you today. I am so proud to be a citizen of this county!"

Mr. Buckland thanked Mr. Wilburn.

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Committee, the following individuals were recognized for their hard work and dedication: Beth Sparks – EEMS, Ashley Bales – EEMS, Rebecca Wagner – EEMS, Linda Henderson – EEMS, Ruth Ann Moore – GHS, Brenda Smith – NHS

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2011
- Special Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 760,984.86
- Payroll, April 15 & 30 and May 13, 2011
- Revenue for April 2011
- Expenditure for April 2011
- Appropriation Request for May 2011
- Special Education Annual Plan
- Teacher of the Year Resolution

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Retirement**: Rose Jennings – Bus Driver (effective end 10-11 school year)

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Bryan Moretz – GHS Chemistry Teacher (effective 11-12 school year), Sam Wright – GHS Earth Science Teacher (effective 11-12 school year), Amy Walters – NEMS Speech Language Pathologist (effective 11-12 school year), Megan Epperley – GHS Secondary Math Teacher (effective 11-12 school year), Reinstatement of Mary Spaur – Bus Driver (effective 11-12 school year), Transfer of Roger Crockett from EEMS to MMS, Transfer of Richard Trenar from EEMS to MMS

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

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

The School Board approved the following authorizations for the 2011-2012 school year: The Chairman and Superintendent to accept RFP's and offer employment between School Board meetings, if needed, and Scott Meade, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum to sign documents for the 2011-2012 school year, in the Superintendent's absence, as requested by the Virginia Department of Education.

That the School Board approved a scholarship offered by the Giles County Farm Bureau. The Giles County Farm Bureau recognizes that to sustain and build a prosperous agricultural community they must encourage

individuals that will have an effect on agriculture in the future; therefore, they are offering a \$400 scholarship to a student pursuing a degree in agriculture or natural resources. Candidates for this scholarship must be a high school senior with the intent to earn a degree in agriculture or natural resources, or a college student that is already pursuing the aforementioned degree.

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

Mrs. McMahon thanked Mrs. Christle and Kelly Passek for all of the work that they put into the library policy. Very well done!

Mrs. McMahon commended Giles High School on the greenhouse! It was very nice!

Dr. Webb stated that so far there have been 2 very successful 7th grade trips.

Dr. Webb stated that he had the fortune of attending the graduation at New River Community College. It was so good to look through the program and see all the many names of Giles County graduates in there.

Dr. Webb also stated that the greenhouse at Giles High School was fabulous!

Mr. Whitehead handed out a handout of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science. This information stated that the objectives of VJAS are: To discover and encourage scientific aptitude among Virginia students in grades 7-12 and to encourage students to continue their education in science, engineering, and related fields. Students write a scientific paper on their independent research project and submit that paper to the VJAS. Top students in each category are invited to give a 10 minute PowerPoint presentation on their research to a panel of judges at the annual VJAS meeting. Prizes are awarded in each category, and many special awards are given. Four Giles County students will travel to the University of Richmond on May 24-26 to attend the VJAS annual meeting and present their research. These students include:

Elena Anderson (Giles High School) will present in the Medicine and Health category

Alex Eaton (Giles High School) will present in the Mathematics category

Avery Mahaney (Giles High School) will present in the Medicine and Health Category

Lindsey Trent (Narrows High School) will present in the Psychology—Learning and Perception category

Mr. Gollehon stated that we have had lots of good educational features this year! He stated that overall, we have had a good school year. Thanks to the administrators, teachers and principals for all they have done.

Mr. Whitehead stated that he and others were attending the Governor's School Junior and Senior academic awards tonight.

Mr. Buckland stated that we appreciate all the work that Mrs. Thompson does. This time is a busy time for everyone. He thanked her for all of the work she does.

The Superintendent thanked the art teachers and students for the outstanding work at the art show, which was held at Narrows High School. A lot of nice student art work!

The Superintendent commended the Giles High School varsity baseball team for being district champions. Congratulations to them and good luck as they proceed to the playoffs.

The Superintendent stated that SOL testing began this week. Pearson experienced a few problems on their side on Tuesday, but hopefully that is taken care of. He stated that he would share testing results as he gets them.

The Superintendent stated as information, Amber is back on site at EEMS. As he recalls, their goal is to have all work completed by the end of June and have punch list items completed in July.

The Superintendent stated that several students were recognized at the Virginia Tech Math Awareness Poster Contest reception. There was a Kindergarten winner from Eastern, a 2nd grade winner from Macy, a 5th grade winner from Eastern and an 8th grade winner from Giles High School. The 5th grade winner from Eastern (Mattie Vangelos) was this year's overall poster contest winner.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Educational Technology Resolution. This is in conjunction with the Technology Grant through the state.

The School Board approved the Resignation of Paula Parsell – NEMS Teacher Assistant (effective end of 10-11 school year) and the Resignation of Kris Blankenship – MMS Custodian (effective May 19th).

The School Board approved a change in the Student Transfer Policy (JEC-R). This change states that “Tuition for full time contracted employees will not be charged for their custodial children.”

The School Board approved a Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement (Spring 2012) for Kylie Galyen (GHS Soccer).

The School Board approved the May 13, 2011 special meeting minutes.

The School Board approved April Whittaker to be a Substitute Bus Driver. She finished all requirements from the March 2011 CDL Class.

The School Board accepted the bid from Valley Boiler for services specified in IFB #3-2001 (plate & frame heat exchanger). Bids were received from Valley Boiler and Southern Air.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 7th, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. and the closeout meeting will be held on Thursday, June 30th at 7:30 a.m.