

News Release
November 18, 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**

2012-2013 Budget

Mrs. Joan Kark attended the school board meeting to speak regarding the 2012-2013 budget. She shared some recommendations she had that were based on advice she received from her recent campaign. The first recommendation was to start with an across the board pay increase for all employees and figure out how to get there by carefully scrutinizing all expenditures in the budget. She feels this would really help workers morale. Another recommendation from the outside that was brought up was the issue of restructuring the schools (consolidation). She stated that restructuring would result in economic savings, but more importantly, it would make our schools better. She heard many questions of why Giles does not have a middle school. She stated that many parents expressed reservation about 8th graders being in high school. The disparity of enrollment between Giles High School and Narrows High School is troubling. She feels like there needs to be a discussion with the community regarding the process of consolidation.

Mr. Buckland stated that the school board spent at least 4 days last year working on the budget. Every board member would love to give a raise to every employee in the county. Two years ago, we took a 2.4 million cut and that is a lot for a budget our size. As far as the restructuring of the schools, we have looked at it in the past. It is the Superintendent and his staff's responsibility to prepare the budget and it is up to the school board to scrutinize the budget and to be sure we are getting the most for every dollar. He feels Dr. Arbogast is doing the best he can do. He thanked Mrs. Kark for her time and her suggestions on the budget.

Conveyance of Narrows Annex – There were no public comments. The School Board voted to rescind the following motion that was made at the June 30th school board meeting regarding declaring the building surplus and transferring it to the Board of Supervisors: “The Board approved a resolution concerning the Narrows Annex and declaring it surplus property, pending any further action by the Narrows Town Council on an agreement between the town and the school system. Also, this resolution is pending that it is turned back over to the Town of Narrows. A resolution was provided concerning the Narrows Annex and declaring it surplus property. The School Board desires to transfer the Property, including the land that forms the footprint of the Property, but not the land surrounding the Property, to the Giles County Board of Supervisors pursuant to § 22.1-129A of the Code of Virginia.” Following this, a discussion occurred regarding the repairs and the work that would be involved in renovating the Annex. Immediate items that need to be addressed are the roof and the gym floor. The anticipated minimum cost for repairs is expected to be \$100,000, but the cost could be around \$150,000 to \$200,000. As information, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution Thursday night that allowed the School Board to sell the Annex to the Town of Narrows. The School Board then approved (5 years) the agreement concerning the Narrows Annex and the conveyance of this property, per the survey, to the Town of Narrows from the Giles County School Board.

***Educational Feature**

Mrs. Tonya Vaden, Aaron Stubbs, Devin Rice, Trevor Dudding, and Adrian Parcell attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Giles Tech Center. Mrs. Vaden presented information on the Reality Store, which has been conducted over the past 5 years. In 5 years, 1100 students have been served in this program, with students ranging from 9th – 12th grade. The four students that attended the meeting were part of the first 9th grade class to participate in the Reality Store. Mrs. Vaden stated that the Reality Store is a “short, sweet, condensed version of life looking into the future” and each student had the opportunity to share a few of their thoughts about this activity. During the Reality Store activity, students are given about an hour in which they choose a life and a career at random. From that point on, they go through the gymnasium to spend their money from month to month. Mrs. Vaden showed pictures of what

the Reality Store looks like. Many businesses/individuals in the county take part in this event. The students seem to be very impressed with this and enjoy it!

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 1,066,464.49
- Payroll, October 31st & November 15th, 2011
- Revenue for October 2011
- Expenditure for October 2011
- Appropriation Request for December 2011
- Additional 2011-2012 Field Trips
- Additional 2011-2012 Advisory Committees

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Jackie Robertson – MMS Special Education Teacher Assistant (effective 10/25/11), Amanda Combs – GHS Biology/Physical Science Teacher (effective 10/25/11)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Beth Santolla – GHS 8th Grade Girls Basketball (resigned from paid Athletic Coaching Contract), Mike Davidson – GHS Asst. Varsity Baseball Coach, Bernice Davis – EEMS Library/Class/Office Support, Alicia Weatherly – NHS Athletics

The School Board approved the 2011-2012 Substitute Teacher list to date.

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

The Superintendent thanked Sharon, Michele, and all the Special Education teachers for all of their hard work on their federal audit. The auditors were very impressed and very positive about our Special Education program here in Giles. They stated that we were outstanding and “raved” about the technology that we have! The Superintendent also commended the Special Education staff due to the fact that they only received 1 citation (unofficial) out of approximately 800 possible.

The Superintendent stated that Narrows High School had a 9th grade student, Trinity Bell, make the All District Jr. High School Choir. She was 9th out of 132 and a total of 450 kids attended in her category.

The Superintendent stated that 3 students auditioned and were selected to the Sr. High District Choir this past weekend. These students were Brooke Taylor, Kayla Neal and Abby Taylor.

The Superintendent commended 9 GHS Chorale members who were selected to the 2012 Senior All District Chorus on Saturday at Rural Retreat High School. They include the following: Elena Anderson, Brittany Agee, Kyle Chafin, Dustin Davis, Jennifer Bradley, Emily Galliher, Jam Chuttitan, Mint Tantisuwanna, and Tuesday Alley – 1st alternate.

The Superintendent commended Gina Modica for winning 1st place in the Voice of Democracy writing competition.

The Superintendent stated that on Thursday, October 27th, Mrs. Tabitha Young and Mr. Craig Johnson took 14 students to Concord University to participate in the 18th Annual Concord Business Challenge. In addition to the individual awards, Giles High School received the 1st place trophy in overall student achievement for the Concord University Business Challenge event. A total of 17 schools were present for the competition and 247 students were registered to participate in the event. The following students received individual awards: Keyboarding – Niki Reynolds (3rd place), Management Principals – Cory Falls (2nd place), Microsoft Office Concepts – Thomas Brown (1st place), Accounting – Jennifer Bradley (2nd place), Business Computer Literacy – Thomas Brown (1st place), and Marketing Principals – Wesley Griggs (3rd place).

The Superintendent stated that Celanese held a global impact week from October 24-28. The goal of this week was for them to give back to the community in ways that matter. There were 20 volunteers that went to Macy and did various things such as paint around the building, build garden boxes around the school, etc. At the Giles Tech Center, 5 Celanese engineers came in and spent time in both drafting classes. Thanks to Celanese and their volunteers for their hard work!

The Superintendent stated that he had information on parent teacher conferences if anyone wanted to see the list. He has heard some comments that the numbers may be down from last year, but he thinks this could be due to the new parent portal on PowerSchool.

The Superintendent thanked Narrows Elementary/Middle School for the wonderful Thanksgiving lunch!

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

Mr. Gollehon stated it was a good day for school tours!

School Board members commended the wonderful education feature!

Mr. Gollehon stated that there was a great band picture in the Spartonian that he received.

Mr. Whitehead give some information on the governor's school. Six Virginia students participated in the International Space Olympics in Korolev, Russia, from October 18-30, 2011. Korolev is the center of the Russian space industry. The competitors were predominantly from the Moscow Region, but also include students from England, Germany, Greece, Australia, Kazakhstan, and the United States. The goal of the International Space Olympics is to help further international links and motivate students to embark on study and careers in science and engineering. Students competed in the Olympics by orally presenting their research project, participated in selected tests in physics, mathematics, and computer science, and visited many cultural centers in the city. Ferris Ellis, a SWVGS and Marion Senior High School student, was one of the six Virginia students chosen to compete in the Space Olympics. Ferris has a strong interest in "anything that explains how anything works". Ferris presented his project, *Capacitive Coupling with Electrical Resistivity Tomography for Planetary Surveying*, in which he investigated the use of a capacitive coupling in ERT (Electrical Resistivity Tomography) and its possible applications to map a planet for substances such as water and metals. The competition was judged by leading Russian scientists. Some of the high points of the trip for Ferris were: meeting a Russian cosmonaut, visiting the Kremlin where he found himself totally "amazed", visiting the Space Station Control and viewing and speaking with the cosmonauts aboard the Space Station, placing 4th in the mathematics competition and placing 7th overall in the competition, and meeting so many people and appreciating all their differences. Ryan Olson, a graduate of GHS and SWVGS, participated in this same program in 2003 and 2004.

Dr. Webb stated that he recently traveled to Alta Vista high school to watch a regional volleyball game. He stated that he is very fortunate to have the buildings we do and how good they look.

Dr. Webb commended the special education department for their hard work on the federal special education audit. The auditors seemed to be very impressed with Giles County and all that it has! It was a job well done!

Mrs. McMahon thanked Mr. Etzler and his staff for the new Spartonian! There are some very well written articles in there! It was a good publication!

Mrs. McMahon stated that she enjoyed the open house and dinner at the Tech Center a few weeks ago.

Mrs. McMahon wished Giles High School's football team "good luck" this evening.

Mrs. McMahon enjoyed the school visits that took place today.

Mrs. McMahon commended Betsy Wood for her hard work with the craft show that was held at Narrows High School. Also, thanks to the Virginian Leader for the pictures of the craft show.

Mr. Buckland reiterated what Dr. Webb said about how fortunate we are to have the clean buildings that we do.

Mr. Buckland commended the 3 school board members that were re-elected. It is nice to have them back!

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved a Volunteer Agreement for Mike Burton (NHS Football).

The School Board approved a Substitute Bus Driver (Greg Bandy).

The School Board approved the November 2nd joint meeting minutes.

The School Board approved the Math Textbook Adoption. The Giles County Math Adoption Committee has chosen the following publishers for grades K-12: K-5: McGraw – Hill - Math Connects Series (Copyright 2012), 6-8 - Holt- Big Ideas (Copyright 2012), and 9-12 - Pearson/Prentice Hall (ALG I, Geo, ALG 2) (Copyright 2012).

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. and the Quarterly Dinner with Administrators will follow at 5:30 p.m. at Eastern Elementary/Middle School.