

**News Release
October 20, 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**

Mrs. Diana Blanton, GEA President, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She thanked the School Board for the bonus that employees will be receiving in November. "It will offer a well-deserved and long awaited boost in morale and is a testament to the amount of respect the county has for the hard work we do on behalf of our students. The employees of this school system year after year have produced quality results in terms of SOL's and student achievement. There is a tremendous amount of dedication to the students by your employees. The bonus will help us feel more respected for the work that we do every day and feel more motivated to continue in the future. In addition, the bonus will help retain personnel, because having quality personnel is essential to the success of our school system. I also want to thank you for allowing me to address you at the budget hearing on Tuesday. GEA's top budget request is for the school board to implement a pay increase for all of your employees for the next school year. In addition, we feel that it is critical to reinstate positions that have been lost recently and also to replenish the 11.5% loss from coaching students. Again, please accept our sincere gratitude for the bonus. It is greatly appreciated by all."

***Special Presentations**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Emily Moye– MMS, Beth Santolla – MMS, Barbara Quesenberry – MMS, David Martin – GHS, David St. Clair – GHS, Joseph Tudor – GHS, Mike Smith – GHS, Peggy Bronnenkant – NEMS, Chris Mitchell – GTC, Todd Lusk/NHS Cross Country Team

***Educational Feature**

On behalf of the Narrows Elementary/Middle School educational feature, the Title I staff, which includes Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Ellis, and Mrs. James, attended the meeting to inform the School Board members about their V-Math program. Also in attendance were Mr. Franklin, NEMS principal, and several NEMS students. The V-Math program is for students in grades 1-5. Rilee Boggess, Cristin Blaker, Grace Trent, and Makaylie Grose demonstrated how this online program works and the different features of this program. This program can also be accessed from home as well as in the school. It uses a lot of images, includes a reward system, and also has a pretest and a post test. This program is geared towards the SOL's, because it gives the students another opportunity to practice problems similar to those that are on the SOL's. The girls seemed to really benefit from and enjoy this program! School Board members and the Superintendent thanked the staff and students for attending this meeting.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 437,643.79
- Payroll, September 30th and October 14th, 2011
- Revenue for September 2011
- Expenditure for September 2011
- Appropriation Request for November 2011
- 2011-2012 Advisory Committees
- 2011-2012 Field Trip Requests
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Chris Mitchell – ITRT/Computer Technician (effective 9/28/11), Christopher Jones – MMS Special Education Teacher (effective 10/4/11)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignation:** Cayla Fraley – MMS Special Ed. Teacher Assistant (effective 9/22/11), Dana Field – GHS Biology/Physical Science Teacher (effective 10/10/11)

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Tyler Lusk - NHS Boys Basketball, Henry Crumpler – NHS Volunteer Football/Athletics, Alice Hudson – EEMS Library Support, Amy Maxey – EEMS Library Support

The School Board confirmed the following **Supplemental Contracts:** Alicia Johnson – GHS MACC (English), Michael Etzler – GHS Newspaper, Mitch Reed – GHS SCA, Cecilia McFaden – GHS Annual & Head Senior Class, Katherine Wright – GHS MACC (Math), Bryan Moretz – GHS MACC (All Around), Diana Blanton – GHS MACC (Science & Head)

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Todd Lusk – NHS Varsity Boys Basketball

The School Board approved the Substitute Teacher List to Date.

Dr. Arbogast thanked NEMS for the educational feature.

Dr. Arbogast informed the School Board that this week has been School Bus Safety Awareness Week. Bus drivers were given a note, inviting them to have breakfast tomorrow at McDonald's to thank them for what they do each day.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the teacher evaluation form. A committee has been established to work on putting together a new evaluation form, which needs to be in place by July 1, 2012. DOE has distributed guidelines to help with this process.

Dr. Arbogast stated that budget meetings have gone well so far.

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

Mrs. McMahon commended Mr. Whitehead on doing a great job at the Chamber of Commerce forum, which was held at the Giles County courthouse.

Mrs. McMahon stated that it is great to have Mr. Meade back from Giles High School!

Mrs. McMahon and Dr. Webb participated in the Reality store at the Community Center. It was a great success and lots of fun! There were lots of funny comments by the kids. There were several volunteers that participated and a lot of support from the community!

Mrs. McMahon stated that she has received lots of positive comments from parents of Narrows Elementary/Middle School on the Parent Portal. The parents seem to love it.

It has been a pretty successful week with budget meetings. Everyone seems to be aware of the tight situation with the budget.

Mr. Whitehead shared information on the Governor's School. This year, SWVGS is participating in a few new national math contests. National Assessment & Testing administers an annual series of five competitions. The contests cover a wide range of topics, difficulties, and formats in order to provide both confidence and challenges to students of all abilities. In September, SWVGS participated in the first contest of the year, the Fall Startup Event. This national contest consisted of one hundred fast and easy open-answer problems covering topics from arithmetic to calculus, to be taken in thirty minutes. Time management was the key strategy for this contest. Because there was little time for each problem, students were advised to skip time-consuming problems. If students finished early, they returned to skipped problems after answering all of the "fast" problems. Calculators were not allowed. Carson Squibb and Kearsley Dillon, both from Giles High School, were among the top scoring SWVGS students. The average score for SWVGS students was 16. Other students scoring 16 or above were: Jamie Chen (Giles), Margee Ragsdale (Giles), Briana Massaro (Giles), Kyle Chafin (Giles), Danielle Williams (Narrows).

Mr. Gollehon stated that the requests received from the budget hearings were very reasonable.

School Board members really enjoyed the educational feature from NEMS. Our teachers do a great job!

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Employment of Lindsey Lawrence (Title I Teacher – NEMS) – effective October 24th.

The School Board approved an Athletic Coaching Contract for Bob Shelor – GHS Head 8th Grade Boys Basketball.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Agreement for Abigail Davis – NHS Athletics.

The School Board approved revisions to policies GCE-R and GDBA-R. These changes reflect an increase in substitute bus driver pay, effective November 1st, 2011.

The School Board approved Additional Field Trips for the following:

*Who: Tim Woolwine - NHS Band/Choir
When: April 11-15
Funding Source: Students/NHS Band Boosters/Fundraising
Students Involved: 45
Destination: Orlando, FL
Transportation: Charter Bus*

*Who: Natalie Fuentes/Band
When: February 2-3
Funding Source: Band
Students Involved: TBD
Destination: Bristol, VA (All District Band)
Transportation: School Bus*

*Who: Gretchen Carlson-Hagee/Special Education
When: October 31 – November 9
Funding Source: Special Education
Students Involved: 1
Destination: Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center
Transportation: School Board Auto*

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on Friday, November 18th at 2:00 p.m.