

News Release
September 22, 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 to speak on behalf of the GEA. She stated that they were grateful for what they have. "However, as you are making budget decisions this year, keep in mind that we have willingly sacrificed pay increases and lost our teacher salary scale to help support the school system, not to mention the individual's that have lost their jobs. The cost of everything in our personal budgets is going up, but our salaries remain the same. It gets harder and harder to make ends meet. Please don't forget those sacrifices we have made for the last four years. The employees of Giles County schools work very hard and are dedicated to the children of this community. This school year, please do your best to not only maintain what we have, but to make every effort to make salary increases for your employees. Please know that in Richmond, VEA is working for our common interests. At the top of VEA's list, it's defending state funding for public education and protecting VRS benefits. So, just as we have common interests in Richmond, I know we have a common goal here in Giles to make this the best school system it can be. We look forward to working with you this year to help our teachers and our support staff so they can best assist and guide our students."

Mr. Buckland stated that no one on this side of the table can disagree with what was said. He stated that we do have an excellent school system and everyone has been more than willing to meet the challenges that we have faced. He feels very fortunate to have been able to maintain what we have and will do everything he can on this side of the table.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Jason Mills, Ms. Mandy Havens, Ashley Thornhill and Colin Dalton attended the school board meeting on behalf of the Giles High School educational feature. Ms. Havens, Economics/Personal Finance teacher, brought along two of her students to give an overview of the new Economics/Personal Finance class. This new class is a requirement to graduate and will begin with the current 9th grade class. At the end of this class, they will have the opportunity to take a Financial Literacy Test, which will give them an Industry certification. One of the reasons that the State of Virginia found this class so important is because of the economic situation right now. Mr. Craig Lowery also teaches a section of this class, but was not able to attend the school board meeting due to having to attend a workshop at Virginia Tech related to this class. Colin and Ashley discussed some of the lessons they have been working on in class. Ms. Havens then discussed some future lessons that they would be doing. These include the Reality Store, Banking, Financing, Steps in purchasing a home, Stock market game (can compete against other school divisions), Responsibilities of running a business, the "Life" board game, and a brand new software called EverFi.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 328,984.88
- Payroll, August 31st and September 15, 2011
- Revenue for August 2011
- Expenditure for August 2011
- Appropriation Request for September 2011
- Appropriation Request for October 2011
- 2011-2012 PAC & Calendar Advisory Committees
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

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

The School Board confirmed the following **Employment**: Angie Vaught – GHS Bus Driver (effective 9/19),

Shirley Williams – NEMS Bus Driver (effective 8/29), Josh Bowman – NHS Custodian (effective 9/6)

The School Board confirmed the following **Resignations**: Tonya Martin – Teacher Assistant (effective 8/19), Jeff Williams – Bus Driver (effective 8/31)

The School Board confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Tammy Brown – GHS 8th Grade Volleyball, Melissa Conley – NHS Varsity Softball Assistant

The School Board confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Kelly Davis – NHS Various Events, Alvin McGuire – NHS Football & Basketball, Kayla Stump – GHS Volleyball, Terri Stevers – EEMS Office Support, Jerry Eaton – EEMS PTA Support/Class, Kim Cook – EEMS Kindergarten Volunteer, Sandi Webster – EEMS Library, Terry Beckner – EEMS Library Support

The School Board confirmed the **Substitute Teachers** list to date.

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

The School Board heard a report from the Superintendent regarding the opening of the 2011-2012 school year. The first day of school this year we had 2,475 students, which was about 20 students lower than the first day last year. The fourth day of school we had 2,484 and the seventh day we were at 2,483. As information, 2477 was the March 2011 ADM number that was used for budgeting purposes for the 2011-12 school year. At the end of August we had 2,444 students, which was 33 students lower.

The School Board approved an easement from the Virginia Department of Transportation to improve State Highway Henson Avenue. Virginia Department of Transportation is requesting approval from the Giles County School Board for an easement which would allow them to perform the work necessary on Henson Avenue and improve the entrances for the front entrance at Macy.

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

Board members commended the educational feature provided by Giles High School. It definitely sounds like a good program!

School has started off really well this year!

This year, the Governor's school had three scheduled Saturday Study Sessions. These were planned early in the year, with the idea that students might need opportunities for additional one-on-one time with teachers as they adjust to the rigorous classes at the Governor's School. The sessions were set up so that students could come any time during the day and stay for as long or as little as they liked. Several students from Giles County have taken advantage of these opportunities. Attendance was higher at the second session, than the first and students seem to appreciate the extra time to work with teachers and other students. The third session will be Saturday, October, 1st.

A board member asked about where we stand with the Annex? The Superintendent stated that the last information that he had was that Narrows was going to have a survey done.

A board member stated that he wanted to commend the person responsible for having Dr. Lisa Meyers attend the opening school conference. She did a wonderful job!

A board member commended Dr. Webb on his opening remarks at the pre-school conference.

A board member thanked the Administrators, School Board, and Board of Supervisors for their support of our school system.

Board members commended the Reality Store for its success!

A board member stated that the school system gets in trouble when the state mandates classes, but provides no funding.

Our schools are really in excellent condition!

As a reminder, the Superintendent stated that on September 29th, DOE will officially release 2011-2012 accreditation information.

The Superintendent stated that the open house last Friday at the Giles Tech Center went really well.

The Superintendent stated that the NHS band wore their new uniforms last Friday to perform at GHS. Both bands are performing well!

The Superintendent stated that we are still moving forward with the Ag Land Lab project.

The Superintendent wished NEMS good luck as they apply for the Title I distinguished school recognition.

The Superintendent gave an update on the renovation projects. They recently had their one year walkthrough at the Giles Tech Center and everything looked good. EEMS is very close to being completed. There are only a few items here and there left on the punch list to be completed.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Employment of Cayla Fraley – MMS Spec. Ed. T.A. (effective 9/20/11).

The School Board confirmed a 1988 Ford Van #558 as surplus.

The School Board approved an Education Surplus Resolution. This resolution states that the Giles County School Board respectfully requests the Governor to allocate a fair share of the \$544.8 million FY2011 budget surplus to K-12 public education, to begin to restore funds cut from K-12 public education in Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, and 2011. This resolution will be sent to Governor Bob McDonnell.

The School Board approved a Volunteer Agreement for Ricky Green (NHS J.V. Volleyball).

The School Board approved the Resignation of Andrea Renee Jessee (GHS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach – effective 8/16/11).

The School Board approved the following Field Trips: J. Dudding/GHS FFA – October 18-22, 2011 – National Convention – Minivan/Charter Bus (7 students), W.R. Johnston/GHS Model UN – February 15-18, 2012 – Norfolk – White Van (12 students), Jetty O'Quinn/GHS Spanish/French Classes – April 2012 – Pigeon Forge TN (Festival of Nations) – Charter Bus (100 students).

The School Board approved a bonus for employees to be paid on November 15th. This bonus is for current employees, including those individuals that were laid-off and brought back over the past two years. This will be in the amount of \$800. Anyone who is a brand new, first time employee in Giles County Public Schools, this year, will receive a bonus of \$200.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 20th at 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the budget meetings.