

**News Release**  
**January 19, 2012**  
**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**

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**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

The School Board Chairman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**\*Organizational Meeting - 2012**

- JB Buckland was appointed as School Board Chairman for 2012.
- Ronald Whitehead was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2012.
- The Board set the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. as the Board meeting day for 2012 and holding the first Thursday of the month if needed.
- Amanda Tickle was appointed School Board Clerk for 2012.
- Barbara Perkins and Dr. Terry Arbogast, II were appointed Deputy Clerks for 2012.

**\*Public Comments - General**

Mrs. Diana Blanton spoke on behalf of the GEA. The GEA is very concerned about the upcoming budget and wanted to discuss their primary budget concerns. First, they are concerned about there being no more federal jobs bill money available for next year's budget. They are aware that this money has been used to fund 8 teacher assistant positions and 4 teacher positions, as well as a one-time bonus for employees. GEA believes that these positions are vital to the education of our students. They are urging the School Board to find money in the budget to continue funding these positions as well as all other faculty/staff. Second, they are aware that a change in the VRS contribution rate will affect the budget. GEA would like to request that this change not come at the expense of jobs. GEA believes it is in the best interest of all of our students to ask the Board of Supervisors for additional funding for the next school year. Without additional local money, the school system will be harshly affected. They feel the investment in public schools is an excellent financial decision for the county. Good public schools will attract businesses and raise property values. Every citizen in the county will benefit from keeping our school system strong. Our school system has already sustained hits in the past four years. Our employees haven't had a raise in four years, but more importantly, many employees have already lost their jobs.

Mr. Buckland stated that they would do all they can to make sure education is not shorted.

**\*Educational Feature - Gifted Education**

Mrs. Paula Tibbs, the Gifted Education Coordinator, brought Ms. Dale Ryder and her yearbook class along with her to the board meeting to present the educational feature. Mrs. Ryder is the backbone for helping to get the yearbook done at Eastern Elementary/Middle School. Many students attended the School Board meeting to talk about and show the School Board how they design and get the yearbook completed at Eastern. They discussed items such as logging in to the Jostens website, taking and uploading pictures, working on the layouts of each page, discussing how the cover is done, using and making templates, meeting timelines, as well as other items involved in completing the yearbook. The students seem to really enjoy being on the yearbook staff!

**\*Presentations**

**On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support:** Sandy Fisher/PTA Committee – EEMS, Malinda Lowe – NEMS, Mike Grim – NHS, Connie Wheeler – NHS

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2011
- Bills in the amount of \$ 547,610.37
- Payroll, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- Revenue for December 2011
- Expenditure for December 2011
- Appropriation Request for February 2012

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

The School Board approved the following **Employment**: Roger Hilton – Substitute Bus Driver (effective 12/20/11)

The School Board approved the following **Resignation**: Todd Lusk - NHS Varsity Basketball Coach (effective Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 due to medical reasons)

The School Board approved the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Chris Gautier – NHS Varsity Basketball (replace Todd Lusk), Eric Ruppert – GHS Varsity Girls Soccer, Abby Davis – GHS Girls J.V. Softball, Kelly Davis – GHS Girls Varsity Softball

The School Board approved the following **Volunteer Agreement**: Mike Burton – NHS Athletics, Bryan Pruett – NHS Athletics

The School Board approved the updated 2011-2012 Substitute List to date.

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

The School Board approved the 2012 Virginia Mayflower Scholarship. The mission of the Mildred Ramos Scholarship Fund is to encourage and support the study of the Mayflower Pilgrim experience and values. The Scholarship is named for the former Governor General of the General Society and past Governor of the Virginia Society.

The School Board approved a Scholarship offered by the National Hispanic Caucus of School Board members. The National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members will offer ten scholarship awards for high school seniors eligible for graduation in May-June 2012. The scholarship awards are distributed to two students within each of the five National School Boards Association's regions.

The School Board approved a code of conduct for School Board members. It was recommended from VSBA that School Board members approve and sign a code of conduct. A copy will be mailed to VSBA.

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

Mrs. McMahon commended the Virginian Leader for all of the school news that they publish weekly. It's always fascinating to see all that is going on in the schools.

Mrs. McMahon commended Carilion Giles Community Hospital for their recent recognition as being tied for first place in the entire state for overall rating as hospitals in a report by professional research consultants. This evaluation was based on responses from patients and their families regarding the care received while in the hospital. Carilion Giles Community Hospital is a big supporter of the school system.

Mrs. McMahon thanked the GEA for taking the time each month to do such a professional presentation.

Mrs. McMahon questioned whether the allergy treatment policy was up to date and reviewed? Dr. Arbogast stated that it was as far as he knew. He stated he has not set down with Mary to discuss this. Mrs. Henderson works with the schools on peanut allergies and he understands that there are medical plans for the kids, when needed.

School Board members and the Superintendent enjoyed the educational feature! Thanks to Paula Tibbs, Dale Ryder and the students for attending.

Mr. Whitehead gave an update on the governor's school. Students have been working hard this month on their independent research projects. This month students have freedom to use their morning hours at SWVGS however necessary in order to collect data, analyze results, draw conclusions, and prepare a project display, abstract, and research paper to communicate their findings. The work that was begun last fall in the Science and Technology Seminar and Project classes will culminate this month as students complete their research projects and prepare for the SWVGS Science Fair, which will be held at Radford University this year. Margee Ragsdale, from Giles High School, has worked diligently to collect data with members of the girls basketball team. She is investigating whether basketball players are more resistant to shoulder muscle fatigue

than are their peers who do not play basketball or practice for a basketball team regularly. Carson Squibb, from Giles High School, is measuring levels of nitrates present in stream water samples collected before and after cattle have grazed in nearby fields for a designated period of time. Alex Eaton, also from Giles High School, has done a great deal of work investigating the effect of resolution time on peak chart position. He has collected an extensive amount of data, learned a lot about music theory, and gained many decision making skills. Elena Anderson, from Giles High School, is working with Dr. Jack Brockway from Radford University on an astronomy project. She hoped for clear nights so that she and Dr. Brockway could use the Selu Observatory to make measurements to compare at ratios of OIII to H\_alpha in different celestial objects such as nebulae, galaxies, and clusters. The awards ceremony for the science fair will be Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 A.M. at the Covington Center at Radford University.

Mr. Buckland also commended Carilion Giles Community Hospital for their award.

Mr. Buckland stated that he was looking forward to getting in and working on the budget.

Dr. Arbogast shared recent SOL scores with the School Board from Narrows High School. This is a good start overall to testing.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the new teacher evaluation system that has to be implemented by July 1, 2012. Mr. Meade has met with the evaluation committee several times to discuss the new guidelines that have been approved. As information, a conference call will take place with Patrick County, who has implemented the new teacher evaluation system, to get a better understanding of the evaluation tool. A couple administrators will also be attending a second teacher evaluation meeting in Roanoke next month, along with a member of the evaluation committee. He also shared with the board members that the principal evaluation is also being revamped. At the January state board of education meeting, they had the first review of the revised "Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Principals." Similar to the new Teacher evaluation tool, there would be 7 performance standards, with the first 6 being 10% each and the 7<sup>th</sup> (Student Academic Progress) being 40%. It is anticipated that this would be implemented by July 1, 2013. As information, there are different prototypes on the Department of Education's website to review.

The Superintendent shared with the board members that student growth percentile (SGP) information was released by DOE right before Christmas break. As information, this has not been sent out to schools yet, but this was discussed with principals at our last ADM meeting. We have been working on gathering further information on SGPs to share with administrators and schools. Once we are able to share this information, we will begin to disseminate it to the principals.

The Superintendent shared information on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Indicators (C)(11) & (C)(12). As one of the conditions of receiving funds from the ARRA SFSF program, Virginia was required to collect and report data on these indicators. As information, indicator (c)(11) requires states to provide a report on the number and percentage of students who enroll in an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) within 16 months of receiving a regular high school diploma. In addition, indicator (c)(12) requires states to provide reports that document Va. high school graduates' completion of one year's worth of college credit (applicable to a degree) in Virginia's public IHE. It is anticipated that this information will be released by DOE by the end of January and it will appear on state report cards for schools.

**\*In Other Action**

The School Board approved the Resignation of Benjamin Woodyard – NEMS Custodian (effective 1/30/12).

**\*Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be *Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.* in conjunction with the School Board Retreat.