

News Release
March 15, 2012
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.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Rader, along with teachers and students, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Macy McClaugherty School educational feature. Also, Mrs. Rene Cox, Prevention Specialist from New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS), attended to speak regarding the educational feature, as well as employees from Family Preservation. Information was shared with board members about Macy being a "pilot school" for the new Olweus Anti Bullying Program. This program is a research based curriculum and is grant funded through New River Valley Community Services. Staff from NRVCS completed an in depth training in Ohio before training the Macy staff on this program. Rene Cox, Lisa White, Jami Ross, Cassie Miller, Family Preservation employees and several students spoke to the board about the benefits of this program. Ms. Miller's 4th grade class actually did a project on the bullying program. The school counselor, teachers and staff are already seeing positive results from this program.

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2012
- Bills in the amount of \$ 509,424.72
- Payroll, February 29th, 2012
- Revenue for February 2012
- Expenditure for February 2012
- Appropriation Request for April 2012
- Additional 2011-2012 Field Trips

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

The School Board confirmed the Substitute Teachers list to date.

The School Board confirmed the following ***Athletic Coaching Contract***: Brian Spangler – NHS J.V. Baseball

The School Board confirmed the following ***Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement/Volunteer Agreements***: Kayla Lively – NHS Athletics (Softball), Jared Brown – GHS Varsity Baseball, Chris Neice – GHS JV Baseball, John Lawson – NHS J.V. Baseball

The School Board approved a one year rollover on the following bids (this is the second of three possible one-year rollovers): 3-2008 (fleet insurance with State Farm), 5-2008 (dairy items with Pet Dairy), 6-2008 (bakery items with Heiner's), 7-2008 (cafeteria items with Sysco).

The School Board approved a one year rollover on the following bids (this is the first of three possible one-year rollovers): 4-2009 (school account auditing services; Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates), 5-2009 (wrecker services; Lee's Body Shop), 8-2009 (pest management services; Dodson Bros), 9-2009 (water treatment services; Water Chemistry), 10-2009 (drug testing services; Advance Drug Testing II), 14-2009 (athletic insurance; Scholastic Insurors), 7-2009 (custodial supplies; JanPak).

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

The School Board denied the request with a 3/2 vote to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar and unanimously approved a motion to take the school calendar back to the committee to remove the 2 and 4 hour early releases (other than the last day of school). School Board members were concerned about the cost of transportation of running the buses in the morning and running them again in just a couple hours. They are concerned that it's costly and that students are losing educational opportunities with the early releases. In addition, they voiced concerns about students not being able to have lunch on the 4 hour early release days.

The School Board approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA and administration.

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

The School Board Chairman stated that the Superintendent received a 4.25 rating out of 5 for his annual evaluation from the board members. Board members thanked him for the job that he does.

The School Board Chairman stated that they were given some additional historical documents to review at the February board meeting. A motion was made and seconded to add those documents to the current display. The motion was approved with a 3/2 vote. Dr. Webb stated that “where is enough enough?” “A little over a year ago we had two documents up in our school. This summer, we decided to hang 11 or 12 more framed documents up in our schools and if my math is correct, we have some 18 more frames to be hung. In my mind, we are trying to cover up the main reason we want these documents up on the wall. You cannot just casually walk by the documents we have up right now and read those. I don’t know of many people who are going to take the time to do that, plus we are only going to have certain places that we can put them up then. Maybe 5% of the school population will even see these in a days’ time where they are posted at Narrows High School. It seems like it’s defeating the purpose of even wanting this document up in the first place if you are going to put it in a discreet location. If 12 are good enough, I don’t think adding 18 more is going to make it that much better. If you take the time to look at the documents, it’s hard to see the font on the documents because of the small print.” Mrs. McMahon stated that “it seemed to her that the purpose of this was that the documents would be read and understood by the students, but you are talking about 30 of these large documents that are taking up a lot of space. I believe in all of these documents, but I think hanging them in our schools will not necessarily cause the students to read and understand these. I think space is a real problem. I’m also concerned about hanging more documents when we are in current litigation of the others. This is a concern to me. I’m especially concerned about where they are going to go in the schools. You have posters on bullying that are bright and cheerful and the wording is limited, so it catches student’s eyes. I’m concerned that we are going to be taking up additional space and the children will not take the time to read them.” Mr. Buckland stated that he thought if we put up the additional documents that more of the students will review them.

Mrs. McMahon stated that bullying has been a concern for a long time. She is happy that the new program has been found and Macy has been educated in this area. She is very appreciative that someone has found this program and it has been brought to the schools.

Mrs. McMahon thanked Mr. Rader for bringing the activity sheet to the board meeting of what goes on in the school. There are so many positive things going on in the schools!

Mrs. McMahon questioned whether any areas have been identified that have contributed to the truancy or drop in attendance at the schools. Mr. Meade stated that Bobby Lilly will be attending the ADM meeting to get his input and talk to the principals.

Dr. Webb stated that he had the opportunity to attend the bullying assembly at Macy. This program is helping a problem that has gone on for centuries.

Dr. Webb commended Kim Gardner for bringing a gentleman from Honduras into her classroom. This gave the students a “hands on” experience with speaking to him and asking questions. This was a great opportunity for her Spanish students.

Mr. Whitehead discussed information regarding the Southwest Virginia Governor’s School winners at the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair from Giles County. Giles High School student Emily Harrell placed 2nd in Behavioral and Social Sciences. Her project title was “The Effect of a Visual Stimulant on Recycling” and her project mentor was Susette Kilgore (SWVGS teacher). Giles High School student Elena Anderson placed 2nd in Physics and Astronomy. Her project title was “Shedding Light: A Study of the OIII to Visual Flux Ratio of Astronomical Objects” and her project mentors were Dan Blake (SWVGS teacher) and Jack Brockway (RU professor). Also, Emily Harrell received the Ricoh Corporation Sustainable Development Award and Elena Anderson received the United States Army Award.

Mr. Gollehon stated that it was great to see the young people participating in such a wonderful program like the bullying program.

Mr. Buckland thanked the five schools in the county for School Board appreciation month.

Mr. Buckland is concerned because the general assembly is trying to take away the 5% VRS employee rate that we had given to our employees 30 years ago. If we make employees pay the 5% retirement, then we would have to supplement with a 5% raise. The way he sees it, it's going to cost the county and the employee 15% because FICA and Medicare will have to be paid on it, plus the employee will have to pay state and federal taxes on it. He doesn't see where the state is going to gain anything.

The Superintendent shared information with the School Board on the 2012 SkillsUSA District Championships. The list is as follows:

Name of Contest	Contestants	Award
3D Visualization and Animation Teams	Taylor McCroskey & Jeremy Wagle Omar Hernandez & Kevin Montgomery	1st Place 3rd Place
Architectural Drafting	Frank Kantsios Gage Smith	1 st Place 2 nd Place
Auto Service Technology	Austin Albert	1 st Place
Computer Maintenance Technology	Jacob Gilmer	2 nd Place
Cosmetology	Kaitlyn Katz	1 st Place
Current Events	Kevin Montgomery	3 rd Place
Engineering Technology Team	Trevor Dudding, Omar Hernandez, Tyler Journell	1 st Place
Extemporaneous Speaking	Fred Stump	2 nd Place
Fantasy Manikin	Rene Jones	3 rd Place
Job Interview	Trevor Dudding	1 st Place
Metals	Mark Albert	1 st Place
Occupational Display	RG Magnase	1 st Place
Occupational Scrapbook (Team)	Fawntain Myers, Olivia Vaught, Taylor Williams	1 st Place
Poster	RG Magnase Omar Hernandez Zachary Bowman	1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place
Precision Machining Technology	Ryan Spicer	1 st Place
Promotional Bulletin Board (Team)	Jordan Atkinson & Brandon Wolfe	2 nd Place
Promotional Flyer	Jeremy Wagle Trevor Dudding Omar Hernandez	1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place
Quiz Bowl Team	Zach Bowman, Trevor Dudding, Omar Hernandez, Gage Smith, Jeremy Wagle	3 rd Place
Technical Computer Applications	Aaron Stubbs	3 rd Place
Technical Drafting	Trevor Dudding Tyler Journell	1 st Place 2 nd Place
Welding	Blake Williams Wyatt Robertson	2 nd Place 3 rd Place
Individual Awards: 40 Total 17 – 1 st Place Awards 9 – 2 nd Place Awards 14 – 3 rd Place Awards		

The Superintendent thanked the Narrows Athletic Fund for their hard work and dedication in supporting the student athletes at Narrows High School, and for their recent donation of \$18,000.

The Superintendent commended Narrows High School student Neileen Shoemaker for being awarded the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

The Superintendent commended Macy students and faculty for their presentation, as well as Mrs. Rene Cox with New River Valley Community Services for helping to get the funding for this program.

The Superintendent thanked the board members for their comments regarding his evaluation and for their support every day.

***In Other Action**

The School Board approved graduation dates for Narrows and Giles High School. Narrows High School will have graduation on Friday, June 8th and Giles High will have graduation on Saturday, June 9th.

The School Board approved the following Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreements – Robbie Patteson (NHS Varsity Boys Baseball), Brock Lusk (NHS Assistant Tennis Coach).

The School Board approved the March 15th payrolls.

The School Board approved the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Program to any qualified students.

The School Board approved the following additional field trip for the 2011-2012 school year: Sandra Kelley/Giles Tech Center – SkillsUSA.

The School Board approved the health insurance plans for next year. Key Advantage 500 and Key Advantage Expanded will be offered to our employees this year, with no increase for our employees.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, April 12th, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at School Board Office.