

News Release
May 17, 2012
Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:00 p.m. on May 17, 2012 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. No closed meeting was held. Persons present were:

J. B. Buckland, Chairman
J. M. Gollehon, Jr.
Drema K. McMahon
J. L. Webb, Jr.
R. B. Whitehead

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
D. Scott Meade, Assistant Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's May 17, 2012 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sonya Meekins spoke on behalf of the GEA. She stated that "In January, lawmakers in Richmond were prepared to end the practice of continuing contracts. We lobbied on the state level and had success in delaying the continuing contract attack until next year. Our VRS has also been targeted as a means to balance the state budget, with little thought on how this impacts the locals, especially smaller ones like us. We thank you for working with us as we face the impact of this 5% VRS locally funded increase. I often times wonder where the state thinks we are going to come up with the funding when we've had a salary freeze for 4 years now and very little revenue increase as well. We, VEA's lobby cadre, representatives of every region and of course the individual members, made thousands of calls and emails. Our collective voice was heard across the state and we have been successful in raising awareness of the issues and in stopping really harsh hits. The new teacher evaluation is another issue that we are dealing with and we want to thank Dr. Arbogast and Mr. Meade for their hard work on this issue. We know that it hasn't been easy and we also know that a vast majority of it doesn't make any sense. We thank you for taking our suggestion in having one of the professional development workshops on this issue. The last several years you have worked closely with GEA and you've done what you can for us on issues such as prevented more lay-offs by using the federal stimulus money, secured the \$800 bonus, accumulation of up to 5 personal days, increase in the family emergency leave to 5 days, professional development points for the summer workdays, continuing the 100% single subscriber insurance coverage, continuing the health insurance coverage for retired teachers with 30 years of service in the county, and continuing health coverage for retirees with less than 30 years of service in the county who work 30 days. On behalf of GEA, we thank you and look forward to continuing our work in providing the best for our students."

Bobby Lilly spoke to the board about the continuing dialogue concerning the foundations of law and government display. When he first came to the Board and presented the concept of the display, he stated at that time that his purpose was because he was very concerned about helping to create and further a discussion about all of the factors that influenced our founding fathers and to do that in a way that was respectful to everyone at the discussion including people whose beliefs differ from one another. One of the things that he discovered since the hearing in Roanoke the other day is there's an exhibit in the court file (copies provided). It is page 74, which is captioned "The Roots of Democracy," out of the United States History textbook, Virginia edition, by Prentice Hall, that is currently in use with the 11th grade classes at the high school. He said the page seemed to address several of the concerns and thoughts that have been raised during the discussion the last several weeks. It does reference two specific enlightenment philosophers (John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu) both of whom he believes were mentioned in the discussions at court as people who were conspicuously absent from the original display whose thoughts on natural rights and balance and power were important factors. It also includes a reference to the Greco-Roman roots with a depiction of Lady Justice blindfolded, as in the original display of 11 documents. It has a reference to the Ten Commandments with a graphic in the upper right hand corner and an explanation of their relevance. It goes on to mention the English Parliamentary traditions and in the middle of the page there is a depiction of the American bald eagle and an outline of the United States with the stars and stripes superimposed on it. This representation (specifically the Ten Commandments) addresses an issue which has gotten a lot of talk the last few days, specifically whether or not we should consider displaying the Ten Commandments in a way that omits some and includes others. The graphic on this page is interesting because it shows a drawing of the tablets and references what the Ten Commandments are without having to specifically quote any of the language which some people find to be objectionable. Mr. Lilly's proposal to the board was to substitute this page from the textbook for the current document captioned as the Ten Commandments. He was not asking the Board to vote today because he realizes that they would need an opportunity to reflect on this and talk to counsel. If the Board approves his proposal, he's prepared to enlarge a copy of this page from the current textbooks to a comparable size as the other documents in the display. He is not asking to modify any of the other things in the display at this time. He asked that the Board consider accepting a framed copy of this page from our textbook in place of the Ten Commandments as they

currently exist on the wall. If the Board accepts that proposal, he recognizes that they would need to redraft the explanations document that he originally prepared. He would change it to say something along the lines of the Roots of Democracy Graphic and list the ISBN number and cite the identification of the adopted textbook.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Norma Lester (EEMS), Dottie Meredith (EEMS), Tammy Barnett (EEMS), Christina Martin (EEMS), Emily Ricketts (EEMS), Tabitha Young (GHS), Craig Johnson (GHS), and Mandy Havens (GHS).

On behalf of the School Board, the following Giles High School students were recognized for their entries in the Appalachian Trail Postcard Contest (sponsored by the Town of Pearisburg): Brittany Agee, Natosha Cruise, and Damien Jones.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Dr. Webb and unanimous voting, accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following consent items:

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – April 12, 2012

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include April 30 and May 15, 2012
2. Payment of Bills to include April 12, April 20, April 26, and May 4, 2012
3. April 2012 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for June 2012

TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
RE: June 2012 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of June 2012. This is for the twelfth month of the fiscal year 2011-12. I would appreciate the Board's consideration of this request. The request for the operating budget is consistent with the approved operating budget submitted by the School Board.

Original Monthly Appropriation Request:	\$2,176,017.00
(Operating + Flow-thru)	
Federal Jobs Money	<u>\$ 48,884.38</u>
Total:	\$2,224,901.38

This request is one-twelfth of the operating budget and includes the anticipated monthly expenditures in the flow-thru account. Our year to date appropriation and expenditures are contained in the monthly summary. If you have questions, please feel free to let me know.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

5. Special Education annual plan
6. Additional 2011-2012 Field Trip Requests

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mrs. Michele Thompson, Director of Special Education, discussed the Virginia Pre-School Initiative Grant. She shared with the board that during this school year, we have done a combined program with our previous special needs pre-school, as well as the regular pre-school. The special guests attending the board meeting today are involved with the Virginia Pre-School Program. Mrs. Emily Moye is their teacher and Beth Santolla and Barbara Quesenberry are the assistants. There are 19 students enrolled in this year's program and six students were able to attend the Board meeting (Corbin, Brady, Taylor, Nathan, Gracie, and Tessa). Mrs. Moye shared with the board that they have worked on many different units throughout the year (letter/number recognition, writing their names, etc) and that they are currently in the middle of PALS testing (students are showing significant growth). One of their favorite units this year was on transportation. When asked to define transportation, Taylor said that transportation is something that takes you one place to another. In addition, each student shared their favorite mode of transportation with the board. Tessa said her favorite mode of transportation is the bus; Gracie said hers was a rocket ship and her feet; Nathan likes Daddy's car; Taylor loves her Mommy's van and a four-wheeler; Brady loves the ice cream truck; and Corbin likes a four-wheeler and a dirt bike. All the students sang "The Wheels on the Bus" and then the students presented the Board members with a treat (stop-light cookies). Mr. Rader shared with the Board that these students will be ready for kindergarten next year, where normally their structure would begin in kindergarten.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. The Superintendent recommended action and Board approval of the following personnel/contractual items:
1. The School Board, on motion of Dr. Webb, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations:** Todd Lusk – NHS Varsity Boys Tennis Coach (effective 4/13/12); Suzie Baker – NHS Guidance Counselor (effective 6/6/12); Kristin Radford – GHS English Teacher (effective 6/6/12); Rebecca Wagner – EEMS Elementary Teacher (effective 6/6/12); Amy Barnett – MMS Speech Language Pathologist (effective end of 2011/12)
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Retirement:** Larry Marion – GHS Music Teacher (effective 6/30/12)
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Dr. Webb and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contract:** Brock Lusk – NHS Boys Tennis
 4. The School Board, on motion of Dr. Webb, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved, contingent upon necessary funding, all appointments, reappointments, non-reappointments, and transfers as recommended by principals and administration of the Giles County Public Schools System for the 2012-13 school year. This is for positions other than teachers (already approved at the April 12, 2012 meeting) (Eastern Elementary/Middle, Macy McClaugherty, Narrows Elementary/Middle, Giles High, Giles County Technology Center, Narrows High, School Board Office, Garage/Maintenance)
 5. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved a one year rollover for services specified in IFB #17-2009 (cleaning of grease traps) (Vaught Septic).
 6. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Dr. Webb and unanimous voting, approved School Board Policy Regulations FFA-R (Memorials) and IGBG-R (Homebound Guidelines).
 7. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the following authorizations for 2012/13 school year: (1) The School Board Chairman and Superintendent, in some cases, need to authorize employment, resignation and RFP's. The Board is requested to continue this practice. All such actions are brought before the full Board for confirmation/action.; (2) The VA Dept. of Education requests that the School Board appoint designee(s) to sign documents in the event the Superintendent is unavailable when his signature is needed. I recommend that Scott Meade be approved to sign documents in my absence.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mrs. McMahon stated she recently attended the capping and graduation ceremony for the GTC nursing program. What an outstanding program! It is every year. She also thanked Christy Lawson for helping during the Board Clerk's maternity leave. Mrs. McMahon thanked Randy Roe for his work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Appalachian Trail Community Project. She also thanked the GEA for speaking today. Additionally, she thanked all our teachers and administrators for all the activities they continue to provide our schools, besides the classroom materials. Recently, she was reading just one week's activities from the schools and would like to mention a few of the other activities besides scholastic information that are occurring within our schools. For example, the SADD club's at Giles and Narrows High Schools conducted activities that discourage the use of alcohol and driving and texting while driving. The programs they presented got their point across about how dangerous it was to do these things. In addition, Narrows Elementary conducted a recycling Reuse and Reduce program—what a good time to start teaching these children who may not be taught otherwise about recycling. There have been some great assemblies at our schools to encourage students and address bullying. Lastly, she congratulated the GTC students who competed in State Skills USA and several who went on to Nationals. She also stated that our teachers deserve recognition for what they do each day.

Dr. Webb commended Mrs. Thompson for preparing the annual Special Education report. He congratulated all of Giles County for being chosen to be the primary location of a new movie to be filmed here. A lot of hard work from Giles County has been done to promote this possibility. He read a press release that said one of the film's producers said they were very impressed with Giles and that the compassion and enthusiasm displayed has

been remarkable. They look forward to working with the county on this new movie. Dr. Webb reminded Assistant Superintendent Scott Meade that over 20 years ago when Dirty Dancing was filmed here, our then Assistant Superintendent (Bob Lilly) had a major role in that movie.

Mr. Whitehead shared information regarding the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. He discussed the wiring projects that were done as part of the second semester physics class. Students were required to build a miniature apartment that was contained on a storage shelf. Students were encouraged to incorporate a unique theme into their apartment that created an aesthetically pleasing appearance to the apartment and tied all the electronics together. Each project was independently graded. Four Giles High School students received "Overall Best Project". They were Elena Anderson, Margee Ragsdale, Alex Eaton, and Avery Mahaney. Very impressive recognitions!

Mr. Gollehon praised the Pre-School program. He said they are future musicians! It was a great program. He also said he was pleased that students are given the chance to express their artwork through projects such as the Appalachian Trail post card project. He said it was good advertisement for Giles County. He also commented about the VSBA Showcase for Success and the programs that were recognized in the publication from Giles County. There were three of them included in this publication: Narrows Elementary/Middle School was noted in there for their "I Love Reading" program that helped promote children to read books for pleasure; recognition was given to Giles County professional development (Judy Craig-Hartley and Lisa James); and, additionally, Macy McClagherty was recognized for their bullying prevention programs.

Mr. Buckland especially enjoyed today's program. He could see that even though these students were young, they were certainly prepared for kindergarten next year.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The Superintendent asked the School Board to approve additional items.

Resignation: Alicia Johnson (GHS English Teacher) (Motion from Dr. Webb; seconded by Mrs. McMahan; unanimous voting for approval).

Narrows Head Start building lease with New River Community Action (3 year) (Motion from Mr. Whitehead; seconded by Dr. Webb; unanimous voting for approval).

Additional field trip: Tabitha Young, FBLA/CTE funds, June 28 – July 3, San Antonio, Texas. (Motion from Mr. Gollehon, seconded by Mrs. McMahan; unanimous voting for approval).

Additional field trip: Tabitha Young, FBLA/Perkins funds, June 20 – 22, Roanoke College overnight. (Motion from Mr. Whitehead, seconded by Dr. Webb; unanimous voting for approval).

Volunteer agreement: Teresa Smithson, FBLA Chaperone June 28 – July 3. (Recommendation from the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. McMahan; unanimous voting for approval).

Employment: Emily Dwoyer – NHS Guidance Counselor effective July 1, 2012. (Recommendation from the Superintendent, seconded by Dr. Webb; unanimous voting for approval).

Retirement: Art Terrill (Central District Bus Driver) effective end of 2011/12 school year. (Recommendation from the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. McMahan; unanimous voting for approval).

Resignation: Steve Brady – NHS Principal effective June 30, 2012. (Motion from Dr. Webb, seconded by Mrs. McMahan; unanimous voting for approval).

Reappointments for administrators: As noted in the minutes (Recommendation from the Superintendent, motion from Dr. Webb, unanimous voting for approval).

Columbia Gas sales agreement – The County Administrator, Chris McKlarney, has been in communication with us about a two-year contract that would lock the price of .3989 cents per CCF. By signing this, it is believed that we will save money during this agreement period. The agreement is for the Giles County Board of Supervisors/Giles County Public Schools. (Unanimous voting for approval)

Reappointments for bus drivers: As noted in the minutes (Motion from Mr. Whitehead, seconded by Dr. Webb; unanimous voting for approval).

A Budget proposal was given to the board by the Superintendent. This proposal is best case scenario in regards to the funding the school system will receive from the county. The bottom line is that there would be \$698,303 coming from the county, with us carrying over \$200,000. In addition, there are some retirement incentives that will be proposed to the Board which would lower the amount of funding the county would have to provide us if anyone would retire and then substituting in the lower salary. In addition, health insurance went up 4.8% this year. We did not cap the health insurance this year (\$503 employee cost); however, this proposal will cap the health insurance at \$503 next year. The Superintendent assumes the

county is going to cap theirs at \$503 as well. He will verify with them. Mr. Buckland said this needed to be made under a separate motion. For 2012/13, single coverage is \$503 and it will be capped next year for the following school year (2013-014).

Mr. Whitehead made the motion and it was seconded by Dr. Webb; a discussion occurred; and the Board voted unanimously to approve capping the insurance on July 1, 2013, at \$503.

Dr. Webb and Mrs. McMahon discussed that the Board will pay no more than \$503 starting next year (maximum the Board will pay towards the employee cost). If the cost goes down, the Board will pay that rate. The Superintendent will verify. Dr. Webb questioned how long we'll approve this cap. Mr. Buckland said his thinking is if the premium decreases next year to \$480, then that will be the cap from now on. Dr. Webb wants clarification. Mr. Buckland said there was discussion a couple years ago about a future cap with the county. Mrs. McMahon said we needed to look at the wording of the motion. Dr. Webb said we needed to set the cap at \$503 period. Mr. Buckland asked the Superintendent to get clarification from the county. The motion is we're capping it at \$503; if it drops we're leaving the cap at \$503 although we might be paying a lower premium. Sonya Meekins asked if next year our premium is \$600 and the cap is \$503, the different of \$97 would go back to the employee (pre-tax). She asked if it would never be based on a percentage like some localities do. The Superintendent said he didn't anticipate that it would, since \$503 was the cap. She asked the Board if they'd consider going back and looking at a different cap should that happen or a percentage. The Superintendent said it would have to be a discussion item in the future budget talks.

The Superintendent said there are 3 positions in our budget now that will not be filled (through resignations or retirements). He also shared additional budget proposal information, which included the following:

The General Assembly approved legislation during their GA session regarding the VRS rate and requiring employee's to pay their share of the rate (5%). We would like to phase this in over the next 5 years. Therefore, each employee will be required to pay 1% towards their VRS rate and this will increase each year until the full 5% has been implemented. To offset this, a 1.25% pay increase is included in the budget due to the requirement to match the employee's share of the VRS rate that employees will be paying (1%). In addition to the 1.25%, \$500 is included in the budget for non-teaching personnel. Also, administrative personnel were provided the 1.25%, with an additional 1% also being included within the budget. Furthermore, for teaching personnel, they will be provided the 1.25% increase also and the appropriate step on the salary scale. Based on this, the 2012-13 starting salary for teachers would be \$32,522.

In addition, there are some retirement incentives to be considered: If an employee is "**eligible to retire under VRS and has at least 30 years of VRS service.**" he/she would have the option to retire at the end of this year (2011-12 SY) and receive one of the following: A) 30% of your VRS contracted salary in a single lump sum payment, with no requirement to work any days; or B) 50% of your VRS contracted salary, with the requirement to substitute 50 days. **This would be a one-time option.** At the end of the 2012-13 SY, if someone was "eligible to retire under VRS and had at least 30 years of VRS service," the options would be as follows: A) receive 20% of your VRS salary, with no requirement to work any days; **or** B) receive 30% of your salary, with the requirement to substitute for 30 days. At the end of the 2013-14 SY, if someone was "eligible to retire under VRS and had at least 30 years of VRS service, the options would be as follows: A) receive 10% of your salary, with no requirement to work any days; **or** B) 15% of your salary, with the requirement to substitute for 15 days. Again, each incentive is a onetime offering during the school year mentioned. In addition, the requirement to substitute the days mentioned in this paragraph would only be for one year.

There is an exception for Bus Drivers. They were not eligible to be reported to VRS until 1995, so it is not possible for them to have at least 30 years of VRS service. So, for **bus drivers only**, if the employee is "eligible to retire under VRS and has at least 30 years of service," they would be eligible to choose one of the retirement incentives mentioned above.

Mr. Gollehon made the motion for approval of the retirement incentives; seconded by Dr. Webb; unanimously voted for approval.

Carol Spangler questioned the board about the salary scale for Teacher Assistants.

Dr. Webb made the motion for approval of the budget; seconded by Mr. Gollehon; unanimously voted for approval.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Friday, June 29, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.

The Chairman, on motion of Dr. Webb, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk