

**News Release**  
**May 31, 2012**  
**Giles County Public Schools**  
**School Board Meeting**

*Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II*

*Division Superintendent*

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The special called meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 2:00 p.m. on May 31, 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. McMahan  
J. L. Webb, Jr.  
R. B. Whitehead

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Buckland said the reason for the meeting today was to consider the proposal made by Bobby Lilly from the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting (to put up a document at Narrows High School from a textbook). Mr. Whitehead made a motion to accept Mr. Lilly's proposal, seconded by Mr. Gollehon.

Mrs. McMahan asked about the Roots of Democracy presentation that Mr. Lilly had made at the previous meeting. Mr. Lilly clarified his last presentation by saying that he recommended the printing of a textbook page on a comparable color paper and frame it the same size as the other documents. This would take the place of the current document which features exclusively the Ten Commandments. He also said that he would need to amend the explanations document in the display. He recited to the board at the last meeting how it would be worded and stated that it would still fit on one page just like the existing explanations document. Mrs. McMahan asked if someone had investigated the copyright laws on printing this. Mr. Lilly said it seemed to him from a layman's point of view it would fall within the fair use since it is posting a copy of a book that the Board has already purchased and adopted. However, he said legal counsel should provide a definitive answer. Liberty Counsel was present and said that was their opinion also. Dr. Webb asked about the teaching prompts on the textbook page. Mr. Lilly said that his thought was since they were posting this under fair use, it needed to be printed as is, directly from the textbook. The prompts don't lead to any other extraneous points of discussion that stray from what's on the page itself. Mrs. McMahan asked if the presentation would be exactly as is in the handout and Mr. Lilly confirmed this except for the slight cosmetic clean-up of the shadow border on the copied page, because it would be masked by the framing. Dr. Webb asked Mr. Lilly if he thought we still needed to have the rest of the surrounding documents on display since this was an all-inclusive document. Mr. Lilly stated had he seen this page a year ago, he probably would have made a different proposal. At this point however, because part of the display that is up was offered by someone else, he doesn't feel like it's his place or position to ask the Board to take action on someone else's documents. Mrs. McMahan said the other documents look very nice and it seems like it would be a better presentation if we would remove the little critical thinking area and have permission from the publisher. Mr. Lilly said he is open to exploring that. However, Mr. Buckland said the motion on the floor calls for the document being put up as is but an amendment could be made through another motion. At this stage, Mr. Lilly's proposal is to present a facsimile copy of the actual page from the textbook which is in use. Following the discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitehead made another motion by saying "In light of the recent controversy and legal proceedings, and the substitution of this Roots of Democracy document in the place of the text of the Ten Commandments, this Board will not approve the posting of the text of the Ten Commandments in our schools unless and until the courts provide further clarification of the law in this area." Mr. Gollehon seconded the motion. Dr. Webb asked if this motion meant that the current Ten Commandments will be taken down. Mr. Buckland said that's the way he understood it too, unless the court made another ruling. Dr. Arbogast clarified by saying that the Roots of Democracy document will replace the current document titled the Ten Commandments. Following the discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Webb made another motion to amend the explanations document; seconded by Mr. Whitehead. The motion was carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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