

**November 13, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. No closed meeting was held. Persons present were:

E. G. Gentry  
J. M. Gollehon, Jr.  
Drema K. McMahon  
J.L. Webb, Jr., Chairman  
R. B. Whitehead

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent  
Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk  
D. Scott Meade, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's amended November 13, 2014 School Board Meeting Agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Chairman opened the public hearing for comments regarding the 2015-16 School Board Budget. There were no public comments. Mrs. McMahon, on motion of Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, closed the public hearing.

Dr. Webb asked Dr. Arbogast to update everyone on the proposed 2 year calendar. We began meeting with the calendar committee on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Based on conversation with the School Board, a proposal was given to the calendar committee to start the 15-16 calendar before labor day and first semester would end prior to Christmas break. During the discussion with the calendar committee, there were some questions about what sort of notification parents were supposed to get in the event school started prior to Labor Day. We reviewed board minutes after the calendar committee meeting to see if it stated anything. We found in April 2005, that the board stated that it would give parents, staff, etc. a year's notice to start before Labor Day. We met again on November 10<sup>th</sup> with a proposal to phase in starting before Labor Day. The proposal that was given to the calendar committee for 2015-2016 to start August 24<sup>th</sup> and it would end on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The 2016-2017 was to start school on August 8<sup>th</sup> and it would end on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It was shared with the calendar committee that if it was an overwhelming opinion to start on August 31<sup>st</sup> instead of August 24<sup>th</sup>, that was an option, but it needed to be before Labor Day. The committee wanted an answer as to why it was felt that we needed to start school so early. At the October meeting, it was shared that the reason behind this was to have first semester completed before Christmas break due to instruction reasons. After Christmas, everyone would come back on a "new slate." Comments during the latest calendar meeting, they were concerned about absenteeism and vacations. Dr. Arbogast did check with 3 school divisions that were going to school prior to Labor Day and they did not notice any significant change in absenteeism. It was also communicated to Dr. Arbogast about the concern for additional air conditioning costs, that individual staff members did not have a say so as to what was being done, it could hurt the tourism and the bottom line was that the committee wanted an understanding as to why the board wanted to start prior to Labor Day. Dr. Webb stated that the proposal to alter the school calendar was made after several years of observing our weather patterns, reviewing neighbor school districts and a lot of literature research. This proposal was being made to optimize opportunities for student learning. He stated that our school vision statement is "The world is our classroom; and each student's potential is our challenge." He stated that we must meet this challenge, while keeping our focus on student learning. In our efforts, we are trying to maximize our student's educational experience. He can't sit here and tell you that these changes are going to make a position different, but it is our hope that it will. Dr. Webb stated that he attended a meeting this week where a gentleman come in to talk to our elementary students about robots (Robotics). The gentleman stated that the United States is the most powerful nation in the world; however, we are ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the world as far as Mathematics and Science. He stated that we needed to attempt to make a change and change also has a lot to do with attitudes. Positive or negative attitudes can make or break a change. What this board is requesting is that let's give this a chance. If it doesn't work, we will be willing to tweak it. It is our duty as school board members, to put our students' education first and foremost. It has been the feeling of this board for a long time, that the added school days at the beginning of the school year are far more valuable than the end of the school year. Dr. Webb stated that he knows that people do have family traditions. During this transition there will be shorter summers, but it will eventually be even and the longer summers will be back. He also stated that this transition is not just being done for one school like people are thinking. He thinks it's better to start second semester with a clean slate. Dr. Arbogast also shared more concerns from the committee. It was also mentioned that there may



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.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. The Superintendent recommended action and Board approval of the following personnel/contractual items:
1. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Don Epperley – GHS Varsity Girls Basketball, Robbie Santolla – GHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball, Tammy Sanders – GHS Varsity Cheerleading, Angie Palmer – GHS JV Cheerleading, Mickey Williams – GHS Boys JV Basketball (Volunteer), Scotty Potter – GHS JV Boys Basketball, Greg Canaday – GHS Boys Varsity Basketball (Volunteer), Seth Davis – GHS Varsity Boys Basketball, Robert Shelor – GHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball, Beth Santolla – GHS Girls 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball (Volunteer)
  2. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignation**: April Hutton – Bus Driver (effective 10/29/14)
  3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the **Employment**: Transfer of Chelle Mosley to NHS ISS Assistant position
  4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the 2014-2015 Substitute List to Date.
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the revised Activities Handbook. A committee consisting of Scott Meade, Eric Gentry, Todd Lusk, Mark Husband, Steve Wilson and Kevin White met to discuss the activities handbook and to review it for possible changes. Mrs. McMahon asked if we wanted to include the concussion policy in this handbook? Mr. Meade stated that it would not be a problem to add it to the handbook. Also, Mrs. McMahon stated that it states that CPR is strongly recommended. She asked if we have the sports medicine PA's on site at all practices? She thought it was mandatory that someone certified with CPR be on site for practices. She would like to see someone during sporting practices in attendance that is CPR/First Aid certified. After discussion, Dr. Arbogast stated that we would get a list put together of all the coaches and see who is all certified and go from there.

#### CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mrs. McMahon stated that she and Mr. Gentry were at NHS interviewing applicants for the HOBY leadership training. She was so impressed with all the students. She walked through the school while she was there and the school looks really good!

Mr. Gentry stated that he also helped with the HOBY leadership applicants. He truly enjoyed listening to the children.

Mr. Gentry stated that he went on the jail visit with Macy McClaugherty. He stated that this is an excellent program! The kids were very well behaved.

Mr. Gentry asked if we had any sort of hiring procedure or matrix to be able to coach? Dr. Arbogast stated that the principals make the recommendations on who they want and does not know of any matrix that a principal uses.

Mr. Gentry discussed the possibility of doing a better notification system to bus drivers if there is an opening.

Mr. Gentry also mentioned the idea of having a later meeting every other month to give other individuals the opportunity to attend.

Mr. Whitehead discussed the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. He stated that "In the environmental science class at the Southwest Virginia Governor's School, students are implementing technological/engineering practices to learn about scientific phenomena and discovering ways of using nature to solve man-made problems. Nick Sink (from Narrows) and Rafe Hagee

(from Giles), are spending the month of November researching and developing biological threat detectors. Nick is focusing on how microbial organisms break down hydrocarbons of spilled oil to carbon dioxide and water. He is specifically interested in developing a prototype so a field scientist could identify which microorganism he/she is working with at any given time. Contamination of an oil bioremediation site could be potentially dangerous to researchers, so Nick is constructing a suitable working model to alleviate this problem. Rafe is developing an at-home system for determining levels of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in contact cases of the vision impaired. The presence of *Pseudomonas* on disposable contacts can be harmful for the health of the human eye, so developing a biological threat detector could help prevent contact wearers from introducing the organism accidentally. The goals of their individual projects are to determine and understand how a biological threat detector works, to build a working prototype of a biological threat detector that identifies a microorganism in nature, and to apply writing, research, and technological skills to the task. Finally, Nick and Rafe must communicate their results to colleagues with a design portfolio, brochure, and presentation.”

Mr. Gollehon stated that it seems the educational features always seem to get better and better!

Mr. Gollehon stated that he really hopes that the football team continues on to win another championship.

Dr. Webb stated that he had the opportunity to visit the jail with some students. It is truly a great program!

Dr. Webb stated that he and Dr. Arbogast met with Angie Covey from NRCC. They met with guidance counselors to discuss the new ACCE program. It was a very good meeting! As far as fundraising activities, we officially have enough funding to get this program off the ground.

Dr. Webb stated that he, Mr. Whitehead and Dr. Arbogast went on a school tour with Delegate Yost. Also, Congressman Griffith went to both Giles and Narrows High to speak to some of the classes. Also, Laura Blevins from Senator Kaine’s also come to Giles County and she was able to go to Eastern Elementary and to see the Tech Center.

Dr. Webb stated that Randy Winner brought his family here this last week to speak to the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders at each elementary school regarding a Robotics program! We can’t thank him enough for what he is willing to donate to our students! Dr. Arbogast stated that he was very impressed with Randy’s sons in speaking to the children.

Dr. Arbogast stated that next Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Elementary will be going on a jail visit if any board members would like to attend.

Dr. Arbogast recognized Giles High School Cross Country. Congratulations to the boys team for qualifying for the state meet in the morning. Also, Good luck to Mallory Lucas and Katie Whitehead from the girls team that also qualified for the state meet as individuals.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the board has been provided copies of the Ag Land Lab business plan. He stated that we needed to have a discussion and approve this plan. Mr. Gentry stated that they have someone in mind to manage this, but it is not confirmed yet. He hopes to get personnel in place soon. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, confirmed the concept of the Ag Land Lab business plan.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Giles High School, Brittany Johnson, Mr. Mills and students for attending the board meeting and presenting the educational feature.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Cora Gnegy (4-H), Christina Martin (EEMS) and Virginia Tech for doing the STEM activity. Next week, they are going to fire the rockets off.

Board members and Dr. Arbogast enjoyed the educational feature!

#### IN OTHER ACTION

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the following Surplus – Couch from Superintendent’s Office, Old Model TV (Serial #26645 – RCA Model).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the revised Title I Policy (CGVA-R).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Coaching Contracts – Dean Marshall (GHS Jr. Varsity Girls Basketball), Mike Williams (GHS Girls Varsity Basketball – Volunteer), Gerald Eaton (EEMS Activities Support – Volunteer).

***\*Next School Board Meeting***

The next regular School Board meeting will be held **Thursday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m.** and the Quarterly Dinner Meeting with Administrators will follow at 5:30 p.m. at the Giles Tech Center.

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

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Chairman

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Clerk

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