

October 16, 2014

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on October 16, 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.
J.L. Webb, Jr., Chairman
R.B. Whitehead
Drema K. McMahon

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
D. Scott Meade, Assistant Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's October 16, 2014 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Patty Hazelwood attended the board meeting to address an issue at Narrows High School. She stated that there were some very serious and disturbing remarks in the Virginian Leader last week about the principal at NHS. She stated that in her opinion, she has been the most decent principal at Narrows High School since the late Rom Matlock. This is not to say there has not been a good principal; however, they just lacked the leadership qualities that the late Mr. Rom Matlock had. Under Dr. Hopkins leadership, the school is accredited and if the teachers choose to leave because they cannot be the leader, then the colleges graduate teachers every year. She asked if the board can give her a legitimate reason of why she is accused of not doing her job. Dr. Webb stated that this is a personnel matter and a very delicate matter. There is a lot of confidentiality involved. Mrs. Hazelwood wanted to know why they can't tell her anything. Dr. Webb stated that we are dealing with the issue on a day to day basis and are trying to get to the heart of both sides of the issue. Dr. Webb assured Mrs. Hazelwood that the issue was being addressed and thanked her for her input.

Mrs. Melissa Conley, GEA President, attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She stated the following: "Good afternoon, I won't take much of your time today but I wanted to take a moment to speak to you about something that greatly impacts our school system and that is perception. The public school system is under great scrutiny at all times. The perception in the community, in the media, and sadly at times, within our doors can be negative. GEA would like to see that perception changed. One way we are trying to combat that problem is to seek input from our members about the positive things they are doing every day in their classrooms. I would like to share some of the positive responses we received:

1. The Foundations program is working well in First Grade classrooms at Macy.
2. The pre-school class has several children with special needs who are responding well to visual language. Twice a week, Rebecca Herman, the itinerant teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for GCPS teaches American Sign Language to all of the children in the class. It is going very well and the children are enjoying it.
3. Chris Trent, a first grade teacher at NEMS organized a school wide recycling project. With the assistance of Sarah McGlothlin, who organized the student's helper part for pickup, NEMS has collected 900 pounds of paper so far.
4. The Wilson Reading program is also a wonderful program for our county. My own experience with it has been fantastic. A 7th grade student who has a reading disability and has struggled with reading from the beginning of school actually told me he was excited about this class and is finally learning to read.
5. The economics and personal finance classes at NHS from last year were recognized as a Blue Ribbon school (which means that over 80% of our students passed the Wise! Financial Literacy certification test).
6. NHS has also had two winning acts to advance to the Shelor Motor Mile regional talent show, Rebecca Reeves (musician); Seema Patel and Jessica Perdue (dancers).
7. EEMS has added 250 new books to the library's collection since the start of this academic year.
8. GHS is having a good response with their remediation program. More 8th grade students are taking advantage of this great opportunity. GHS is also seeing good things with the Wilson and Just Words programs.

These are just a sampling of the good things that are going on in our schools every day. At times all we hear are the negatives about public education. I would like to hear more about the positives and GEA would like to explore ways to make this possible. We would like to see a priority placed on ways we can work together with the community, school administration, central office, and with the school board to shift the negative perception to a positive one. We are willing to sit down and discuss ideas on the best ways to present the wonderful things going on every day in our schools as well as spotlighting our superb faculty and staff. Again, I thank you for your time.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Lindsay Meredith – MMS, Marsha Eaton – MMS, Maintenance Department, Scott Corboy – EEMS, Everette Parks – EEMS, Joey Sadler – EEMS, Sonya Meekins – GHS, Jessica Gwaltney – NHS

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

On behalf of the Eastern Elementary/Middle School (EEMS) educational feature, Mr. Greg Canaday and Mr. Eric Ruppert and guest Phyllis Newbill attended the school board meeting. Mr. Canaday stated that over the summer, he and some staff committed to make their science instruction better (to make science more alive). He thanked Mrs. Tibbs for the new science adoption because he thinks that has helped. Mr. Eric Ruppert stated that with the help of Mrs. Phyllis Newbill and her help over the summer, they have worked to make science “come to life.” They decided to do a project on the ocean because it is a passion of both of them. Mr. Rupperts class decided to do the Pacific Ocean and they are working to create a model of the ocean. He discussed and explained this project in detail and explained how it correlates with the SOL’s that they have to learn. He then showed pictures of the students work on this project. He was very excited and pleased with the students on this project and invited people to come on November 13th and 14th to see the finished project at EEMS.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – September 25, 2014

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include September 30th and October 15th, 2014
2. Payment of Bills to include September 24th and October 2nd and 8th, 2014
3. September 2014 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. 2014-2015 Advisory Committees
5. 2014-2015 Field Trip Requests
6. Appropriation Request for November 2014
TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
RE: November 2014 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of November 2013. This is for the fifth month of the fiscal year 2014-15. 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:	\$ 2,160,084.00
(Operating + Flow-thru)	
Total:	\$ 2,160,084.00

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. Gentry, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Tammy McGuire – NHS Gate, Kim Kantsios – NHS Gate, Brenda Smith, NHS Gate, Cheryl Hodock – NHS Gate, Chelle Mosley – NHS Gate, Mike Lovell – NHS Softball Assistant, Brian Patteson – NHS Varsity Baseball Head Coach, Brian Patteson – NHS Varsity Basketball Assistant, Melanie Hart – MMS (General), John Lawson – NHS (General), Robbie Patteson – NHS Varsity Baseball Assistant
2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Brian Spangler – NHS Head JV Baseball

3. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the Substitute Teacher list to date.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Mr. Gollehon commended the EEMS educational feature! He stated that he always enjoys hearing from the schools.

Mr. Gollehon stated that the GHS band came in second overall at a marching competition in Princeton, WV this past weekend. Congratulations!

Mr. Whitehead discussed the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. He stated that "The Southwest Virginia Governor's School (SWVGS) participated in Virginia's First Annual Science Festival. SWVGS had a booth at the Moss Arts Center at the Blacksburg portion of the Festival held on Saturday, October 4th. Exploring Science and Research at the Southwest Virginia Governor's School was the theme of the booth. Student volunteers from the Environmental Science class at SWVGS joined teachers in leading visitors through interactive Governor's School exhibits. Children were able to conduct thermal and phytoremediation experiments as well as learn about the Governor's School Arctic research program and design of microbial fuel cells. Our booth was very well-received and our student volunteers were busy all day interacting with visitors and describing science at the Governor's School. Families appreciated the engaging activities and SWVGS faculty had many opportunities to discuss our program."

Mrs. McMahon stated that she was able to assist with the reality store this morning. It was very successful and entertaining!

Mrs. McMahon stated that the educational feature was so exciting! The children can retain this so much more than a lecture.

Mrs. McMahon stated that she really enjoyed the meeting at Mountain Lake learning about the exciting partnership with Giles County and New River Community College. It was a great presentation from all who spoke!

Mrs. McMahon stated that it is Bosses Day and she would like to thank Dr. Webb for being Chairman.

Mrs. McMahon stated that the Wish You Well Movie will be shown this weekend at the Lyric Theatre. There will be local artists from our area and a portion of the sales will be returned to the Giles County Public Schools art department.

Mr. Gentry discussed the "Job Quiz" that his daughter Shared had to take in school. Very interesting!

Mr. Gentry stated that the meeting with New River Community College was really good!

Mr. Gentry stated that in the Roanoke Times, there was an article about laptops for 8th graders in Roanoke County. His thoughts are during the retreat, he would like to have a "thought session" on the "what if's" relating to this. If we had the opportunity to implement, what would it do for us?

Mr. Gentry discussed the bus garage report. He stated that there is some really good information on it.

Dr. Webb discussed the educational feature as well. It was so interesting to watch them interact as a team!

Dr. Webb thanked the board members and Superintendent for being at Mountain Lake last week to discuss the new ACCE program with New River Community College. He can't say enough about Mr. McKlarney and the Board of Supervisors and thanked them for their support of this program.

Dr. Webb stated that in the next 2 weeks, the board will be at each school to have our informal budget meetings. These meetings are very informational and there is always a lot of good input.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Coach Ragsdale for being inducted into the VHSL Hall of Fame!

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Joseph Clark (10th grader-GHS) for winning the Regional Golf Tournament last week and participating in the state tournament on Monday and Tuesday.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Narrows High School for being recognized as a WISE Blue Star School again this year. To achieve this, you must have achieved 75% passing rate on Financial Literacy Certification and have either a majority of students on a given grade level take the test OR have the students who took it achieve an average score of 80% or higher.

Dr. Arbogast stated that on November 10th, Randy Wimmer and his son's will be coming to Giles County to do presentations about Robotics to our 5th – 7th grade students. All three elementary schools will get this presentation on November 10th or 11th.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we are finalizing our visits for the 7th graders to the NRV Regional Jail. The flyer will be finalized very soon and sent out to parents of 7th grade students.

Dr. Arbogast stated that today was designated as the annual “Great Southeast Shakeout” earthquake drill. Schools were encouraged to sign up and register for this activity/drill.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he had the opportunity yesterday, with John Mills and John Ross, to visit a couple of facilities in Christiansburg and Radford to look at more energy efficient lighting.

Dr. Arbogast also commended the presentation from New River Community College last week regarding the ACCE program.

Dr. Arbogast commended Mr. Canaday and Mr. Ruppert for the educational feature!

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the recommendation to send out a proposal for officiating services at both high schools.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the Retirement of Bryan Patteson – NHS ISS Monitor (effective November 1st) and Gary Hinson – NHS Science Teacher (effective February 1st, 2015).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved a Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement for Laura Lovell (NHS Volleyball Clock Keeper).

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved an old TV (Hitachi – Model # 27MMV40B) from the School Board Office as surplus.

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved an Athletic Coaching Contract for Jordan Green – NHS 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, November 13th at 4:00 p.m.

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

Chairman

Clerk