

April 16, 2015

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 7:00 p.m. on April 16, 2015 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
D. Scott Meade, Assistant Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

CLOSED MEETING

The Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, went into a closed meeting under Section 2.1-3711 of the Virginia Code, **Paragraph 4** – Protection of the Privacy of Individuals. Following the discussion, Mr. Gentry moved to go to regular session. Mr. Gollehon seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. On motion of Mrs. McMahon, with a second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, the following Certification of the closed meeting was certified.

WHEREAS, the Giles School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Giles School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which certification applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Clerk of the Giles County School Board

Date

There was no action from this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's April 16, 2015 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cathy Webb spoke about the month of April being Autism Awareness Month. She thanked the School Board for their continued support of the FOCUS program. Through the FOCUS program, Giles County has afforded our students an environment that is sensory friendly, has cutting edge technology and a research based curriculum. The staff has had specialized training in behavior management, communication and areas of academic instruction. She read some words from FOCUS parents that were very uplifting about the program! She thanked them from herself, the FOCUS staff, the parents and most importantly, the students, for their continued support of their philosophy that all students learn when they are provided with the appropriate time, expectation and instruction.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Ricky Green – NEMS Substitute Teacher.

On behalf of the School Board, the following were recognized for their hard work and dedication: Mrs. Margy Journell – EEMS Elementary Teacher, Mr. Bobby Fisher/Giles County Inmate Workforce.

On behalf of the School Board, NanoSonic, Inc. (Richard Claus) was presented with a plaque as part of the 2015 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll. The School Board thanked NanoSonic, Inc./Dr. Claus for being such a great partner with the school system and all that they

do for us. Dr. Claus went on to discuss what was going on with the school system and NanoSonic, Inc. The Department of Transportation (DOT) STEM program Phase I grant was completed. This 500 page report was written this spring with Christina Martin, Margy Journell, Gail Austin and Diana Blanton. The period of performance was from August 2014 – February 2015. The objective was to develop 20 STEM lesson plans concerning advanced transportation systems for Middle School and High School teachers. There was a briefing at the DOT headquarters in DC this past February and they were invited to submit a proposal for a follow-on program. The follow-on program was submitted April 14th with help from Dr. Arbogast, Giles teachers and the principals. If this grant is awarded, the possible start date for the 24 month duration would be mid-summer 2015 and would include many, many incentives, including funds for after-school STEM classes at Macy, Eastern and Giles High starting Fall 2015, expanding to include Narrows teachers and students for Fall 2016, hardware, funds for a full-time STEM coordinator, funds for STEM student field trips, funds for professional development, etc. Another program that was also submitted in March 2015 with the help of Christina Martin. This program, if approved, would be in cooperation with Giles Tech Center and New River Community College and start mid-summer 2015 and last for 6 months. The objective is to create curricula for Tech Centers and Community Colleges concerning Intelligent Transportation Systems and Connected Vehicle technologies. If approved, this proposal would be useful to coordinate Giles County STEM programs with the Giles Tech Center and New River Community College through future efforts. Dr. Claus then discussed the next proposal they were working on, which is the National Institutes of Health (NIH) STEM program proposal, due in May. If approved, the possible start date would be Fall 2015 for a 6 month duration. This proposal is being coordinated by Christina Martin and Diana Blanton. The objective is to develop “serious” STEM lesson plans concerning healthcare for K-12 teachers and students. There is possible involvement of Carilion (as possible without conflict). This proposal is a work in progress. In summary, the base DOT STEM program has been completed, the follow-up 24 month DOT STEM program proposal was submitted, the additional DOT STEM-like proposal with GTC and NRCC was submitted, and the NIH STEM proposal is in early stage of development and is due in May. The long term sustainability of the STEM program will be addressed by planning and submitting a set of appropriate proposals for possible additional funding sources.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – March 19, 2015

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include March 31st and April 15th, 2015
2. Payment of Bills to include March 13th, 26th and 31st, 2015
3. March 2015 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Additional 2014-2015 Field Trip Requests
5. Local Plan Update/Career and Technical Education Funds
6. Confirmation of Educational Technology Resolution
7. Special Education Annual Plan
8. Appropriation Request for May 2015

TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
RE: May 2015 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of May 2015. This is for the eleventh 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.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Ben Woods, Giles County Agriculture Land Lab Farm Manager, spoke about our new Agriculture Land Lab and shared what was going on with it. The

goal of the Giles County Agriculture Land Lab is to create a hands-on learning experience for students to study all aspects of production agriculture. To help make this program successful, he meets with the Agriculture teachers from both high schools and listen to what they have planned in their curriculum. They discuss what they want to have access to and what projects they want for the future. Mr. Woods is able to view the class description and SOL requirements for each class, so he can ensure that he is discussing relevant and required topics. The students are able to use the requirements for the class to design and analyze a soil report, design irrigation, prep ground for tilling, prepare seed beds, create a farm business plan, manage a row cropping operation and harvest an agriculture crop. After they complete all of the exercises, the by-product of their education is crops that they have grown! The Ag Lab is registered as a vendor to sell product at the Pearisburg Market and all proceeds will be returned to the program. Also, they have selected produce which can be introduced into the cafeteria with little to no change to the preparation processes of the cafeteria staff. Using this produce could become a considerable cost savings and could direct cafeteria funding toward protein purchases. They have 9 bred heifers on site. Students have completed exercises in conformation grading, pasture improvements and nutrition discussions. Going forward, they will participate in pregnancy checks, vaccinations and be involved in the calving process in the fall. The Land Lab incorporates math, reading, social studies, and physical, chemical and biological sciences into each course. Mr. Gentry stated that Mr. Woods is highly qualified at what he does. He stated he is a farmer by heart, wonderful teacher and the kids love him!

Mr. Paula Tibbs spoke on behalf of the Gifted Educational Feature. She introduced Caleb Clemons and Frankie Cahoon to help her with the feature. They discussed the National History Bee and their experiences with this. It starts at the school level and they advance to the National Level at the very end. Mr. Clemons won the Regional History Bee and will be competing in the National History Bee in Louisville in about a month. He explained the rules and regulations of the History Bee. Mr. Cahoon stated that he really enjoyed the History Bee. He stated it was a great opportunity to learn, but was also very fun. He will also be participating in the National History Bee because of his top 20 placement in the Regional History Bee. Mrs. Tibbs, Caleb and Frankie then went on to play Jeopardy with School Board members by asking them questions and letting them “buzz” in. School Board members thoroughly enjoyed the educational feature!

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 Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations:** Timmy Bailey – Sub Custodian/Cafeteria (effective 4/2/15), Jason Burton – Maintenance (effective 5/4/15), Ricky Mullins – GHS Special Ed. Teacher (effective 6/12/15)
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Rusty Castelle – NHS Volunteer Soccer Assistant
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment:** Kasey Blevins – MMS SLP (15-16 school year), Transfer of Ashley Hilton from EEMS Elem. Teacher to VPI Teacher at EEMS (15-16 school year), Transfer of Hannah Spicer-Owens from GHS Spec. Ed. Teacher to English Teacher at GHS (15-16 school year), Catlin Suttle – NHS Math Teacher (15-16 school year), Michelle Sherfy – EEMS SLP (15-16 school year), Benjie Pennington- Substitute Bus Driver
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved policy revisions as recommended by Administration (JHCD-R).
- C. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved two scholarships for GHS seniors that are being offered by the Class of 1974.
- D. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved two scholarships for NHS seniors that are being offered by the Classes of 1973 - 1977.
- E. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved an amended fuel agreement between the County, PSA, School Board, and Town of Narrows. The only change in under #1 and states “Seller shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by Purchaser, its employees or volunteers, including damage to equipment resulting from the use of such fuel or the fueling facility and Purchaser agrees to indemnify and hold Seller harmless from any such liability.” The agreement is as follows:

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2015, by and between COUNTY OF GILES, GILES COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, GILES COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, each of which are bodies politic under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, (herein Seller) and TOWN OF NARROWS, VIRGINIA, a Virginia municipal corporation (herein Purchaser) and provides as follows:

WHEREAS Seller operates a fuel storage and dispensing system located at the facility known as the School Bus Garage at Bluff City in the Town of Pearisburg, which is a cooperative venture among the entities which comprise Seller created to reduce fuel acquisition costs, and

WHEREAS Purchaser desires to purchase fuel for its fire department vehicles at such facility (and other Town owned vehicles on an emergency basis) and the parties have agreed to terms for such purchase,

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Seller agrees to provide Purchaser with fuel (gasoline and diesel fuel) for its fire department vehicles and other Town owned vehicles at Seller's fueling facility. Seller shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by Purchaser, its employees or volunteers, including damage to equipment resulting from the use of such fuel or the fueling facility and Purchaser agrees to indemnify and hold Seller harmless from any such liability.
2. Seller will provide Purchaser with the number of fuel dispensing cards requested by Purchaser. The cost of each card is Three Dollars (\$3.00), payable upon receipt of such cards. If Purchaser is provided after hours access to the fueling facility then Purchaser agrees to lock the gate to the facility after completion of fueling after hours.
3. Fuel supplied to Purchaser will be invoiced to Purchaser monthly at Seller's cost at the time fuel is dispensed plus six (6) cents per gallon. Seller's cost as defined in this agreement is the cost to Seller of the most recent delivery of fuel to Seller prior to fuel being dispensed to Purchaser. For example if gasoline is delivered on September 1st at a cost of \$2.00 per gallon, fuel dispensed from September 1st until the next delivery will be billed at \$2.06 per gallon.
4. Invoices will be itemized by fuel dispensing card. Purchaser shall remit payment within thirty (30) days after the invoice date. Payments after the thirty (30) days will bear interest at the rate of one and one half percent (1.5%) per month.
5. Purchaser acknowledges that fuel provided under this agreement is exempt from payment of fuels tax which requires that fuel be used for governmental purposes only and used only in fire department vehicles owned by the Purchaser. Purchaser agrees that it will not permit any use of such fuel for non-exempt purposes.
6. This agreement shall remain in effect for a period of one year from the date hereof and shall automatically renew upon the same terms for additional one year periods unless either party gives the other a minimum of sixty (60) days notice of its intention to not renew this agreement.

This constitutes the entire agreement among the parties and may not be modified by except by subsequent writing executed by each of the parties.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gollehon stated that it was a very enjoyable educational feature.

Mr. Gollehon stated that the renovated board room looks wonderful!

Mr. Whitehead updated the School Board on the Governor's School. He stated that "Southwest Virginia Governor's School students recently competed in the AMC-12 contest. This competition is sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. Its purpose is to spur interest in mathematics and to develop talent through solving challenging problems. Louis Thomas, a senior from Giles High School, earned the second highest score on the contest at SWVGS. Rick Fisher, SWVGS computer science instructor, took nine students to UVa on Saturday, April 11 to participate in a programming contest. This is the largest high school programming contest in the mid-Atlantic region. One SWVGS team placed 15th overall out of 52 teams in the competition. Louis Thomas, a senior from Giles High School, was a member of this team. Mr. Fisher was well pleased and noted that SWVGS students have only been programming for 8 months while most of the other teams have been programming for years. Three SWVGS are preparing to compete at this year's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. The fair will be held in Pittsburgh on May 10-15. The team of Ashley Jordan (Galax High School) and Austin Owen (Pulaski County High School) will present their project: The Correlation Between Surface Temperature and Arctic Sea Ice Thickness. Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County High School) will present her project: Slaying the Destructor: Effectiveness of Alternative Varroa Mite Treatments. These students earned the invitation to participate in the international fair by winning the Grand Awards at the recent Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair. This Saturday, April 18, SWVGS will host Young Scholars Day from 10:00 to 1:00. The event is free and open to all upper elementary and middle school students and their families. Students will have an opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and math through fun hands-on activities. A flyer for the event is attached."

Mrs. McMahon thanked the Ruritan for bringing the attention to the School Board about the need for the lighting and signs at Eastern Elementary/Middle School.

Mrs. McMahon thanked the health department and the nursing program here at GCPS for the opportunity for DTap shots to be given at each elementary school.

Mrs. McMahon commended Teresa Lowe and Sarah Woods for their entries into the VSBA Showcases for Success.

Mr. Gentry stated that based on a news report, per capita, we are spending more on eating out than we are at the grocery store. This is not a good thing.

Mr. Gentry stated that that our drug testing company (Greenbrier) had nothing but great things to say about our students!

Mr. Gentry thanked Rick Claus for all he does for Giles County and stated that he supports the STEM advisory board!

Mr. Gentry stated that we should look at the monthly board stipend. It has not been looked at to his knowledge in 30+ years. Maybe this can be a discussion in the future as to how board members are paid. Dr. Webb stated that school board members are not members because of the pay. Most people don't realize the time put into this position. He also stated that he has never served with a board member who has come to a meeting unprepared. His problem at any time with accepting a raise for them is feeling guilty about taking a raise in the face of others not receiving a raise or with the cost of insurance. If the stipend is increased, we may "entice" more candidates to look into being a School Board member. Mrs. McMahon stated that they don't do it for the monetary donation. She stated that she would have trouble accepting one this year because the majority of our staff will be taking home less money because of the insurance cost. Mr. Gollehon stated that it would be deserved because it is a lot more work than what people know. The job does deserve more compensation than what the current pay/stipend is. Dr. Webb stated that if we vote to give ourselves a raise, we have to do it by July 1st of the year where at least 40% of this board is up for reelection. In our case, 60% of this board is up for reelection. If it is approved, it would go into effect January 2016. It will be discussed again at the May board meeting.

Dr. Webb stated that April is Autism Awareness Month. We really appreciate the FOCUS program in Giles County.

Dr. Webb thanked Dr. Claus for his support to Giles County Public Schools!

Dr. Webb thanked Ben Woods, Paula Tibbs, Frankie Cahoon and Caleb Clemons for their excellent presentations!

Dr. Webb stated that the Superintendent and he attended a Hot Topic conference in Wytheville. The title of the conference was "What NASCAR and School Boards have in common?" What it boiled down to was "teamwork." He summarized the workshop and stated that it was a great conference!

Dr. Arbogast updated the School Board on the school zone signs. The "school" word has been repainted. He has been communicating with Mr. McKlarney on other options, such as the "your speed" signs. We have had some trouble with the flashing lights, but we are working on getting them fixed. The Sheriff's Office will be providing assistance while the signs are down.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the VSBA Showcases for Success and stated that we had 3 programs listed in the publication.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved Surplus Items: Shoe Rack, Wireless Camera System, 3 Cameras, 9 Gym Mats, Sanitizing Monitor, 3 Gym Speakers, 3 Projectors, 2 Teacher Desks, Film Projector, Audio Visual Supplies, Microscope, 3 Printers, 1 VCR, Computer Desk, 2 Mimio Digital Meeting Assistants, 8 TVS, 3 Carts, 15 Table Tops, Class Divider, 3 Chalk Boards, 16 Wooden Student Desks, Music Folder Cabinets, Green Cabinet.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved a Volunteer Agreement: Janice Gautier – GHS FCCLA Volunteer.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gentry, approved the revision of policy EEAB-R.

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the revision of policy GAA-R.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved revisions to the Athletic Handbook.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the Resignation of Sarah Sells – GHS English Teacher (effective last day of school).

Dr. Arbogast stated that as the board knows, we are currently in a food coop with Pulaski, Radford and Floyd on food items. We have a separate bakery and dairy contract. We have had some issues with those two contracts on deliveries. We have been approached by our food coop to join

with them on bakery and dairy, so we would like to provide notice to the bakery and dairy companies to get out of the contract on June 12th. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved this request.

Dr. Arbogast stated that there has been discussion on the “no smoking” signs on where they are located at the schools. He has information from the principals as to where they are located.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Cathy Webb, Paula Tibbs, Rick Claus, Ben Woods, Frankie Cahoon and Caleb Clemons for the presentations!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 21, 2015 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