

December 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on Thursday, December 17th, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

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

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

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 December 17, 2015 School Board Meeting Agenda.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were recognized for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Kristen Corboy – EEMS, Rebecca Osborne – MMS, Mel Wilcox – MMS, Amaris Meredith – MMS, Emily Moye – MMS, Lisa White – MMS, Katie Ponzio – MMS, Kristen Hypes – MMS, Paula Tibbs – SBO, Dr. Mike Brackenrich, Jessie Glover – GHS

The following students were recognized for their outstanding artwork and winning this year's Christmas Card Contest: Rebecca Spencer – MMS, Sunnie Davis – EEMS, Gavin Hazelwood – NEMS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Perdue spoke on behalf of the GEA. She gave a speech to the board members who would be leaving at the end of December (Mr. Whitehead, Dr. Webb, Mr. Gollehon). She stated that "The dictionary definition of the word dedication is a feeling of very strong support for or loyalty to someone or something: the quality or state of being dedicated to a person, group, cause, etc. There are so many examples of the word dedication. It can be found in our homes, workplaces, places of worship, grocery stores, and on and on. We show dedication in our homes with providing a secure and loving environment. We show dedication to our favorite stores or favorite restaurant by returning there to shop or eat. We show dedication to our jobs by being the best employee we can be. There are also many synonyms associated with the word dedication. Commitment, Loyalty, Diligence, Perseverance, Resolve, and Persistence are just a few. Dedication, as I see it, is all of these things and then some. I feel that the dictionary left off one synonym - Sacrifice. If a person has a true dedication to something then their sacrifice is great and obvious. I see this trait every day working in a public school system. That dedication flows throughout every facet of the Giles County Public School system. Our bus drivers, cafeteria workers, office staff, teacher assistants, teachers, principals, central office staff, and school board all show a dedication to the children of Giles County. In fact, I would like to draw attention today to three men, who have shown dedication to the Giles County School system for many years and have been loyal, made sacrifices, were diligent and persevered throughout adversity, and have had a strong commitment to the staff, children and families of Giles County Public Schools. The Giles Education Association would like to recognize Dr. Lewis Webb, Joe Gollehon, and Ron Whitehead for the dedication to their positions on the Giles County School Board. We truly appreciate all that you have done for us throughout the years and want to present you with a little token of that appreciation." She presented the three board members with a bag full of "gag" gifts. Dr. Webb spoke and thanked Mrs. Perdue for her hard work and dedication as GEA President over the last couple years.

Delegate Joseph Yost attended the School Board meeting to present flags of the Commonwealth of Virginia to the board members who would be ending their terms at the end of December. He thanked Dr. Lewis Webb, Mr. Joe Gollehon and Mr. Ron Whitehead for their years of dedicated service to Giles County Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular – November 24, 2015

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include November 30th and December 15th
2. Payment of Bills to include November 18th, 24th and December 2nd and 9th, 2015
3. November 2015 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for January 2016
TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County

RE: January 2016 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of January 2016. This is for the seventh month of the fiscal year 2015-16. 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:	\$ 2,180,649.00
(Operating + Flow-thru)	
Total:	\$ 2,180,649.00

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.

5. Confirmation of Surplus Items

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. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Contracts:** Donna Stump – GHS 8th Grade Basketball Cheer, Lane Mann – Assistant JV Baseball Volunteer, Carolyn Ballard – GHS 8th Grade Basketball Cheer, Shelly Boggess – GHS JV/Varsity Basketball Cheer, Donna Stump – GHS JV/Varsity Basketball Cheer, Joe Fraley – NHS Varsity Winter Track Head Coach
2. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the following **Resignations:** Amanda Dunbar – MMS Nurse (1/1/16)

B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the updated Division Technology Plan. The division technology plan has been updated for 2016-18 and identifies strategies that support the school division's vision to use technology to prepare students for their future roles in a technological society. An Instructional Technology Assessment was conducted in Fall 2015. The assessment surveyed professional staff on hardware, software, Internet access, professional development activities and technology communication systems. Overall professional staff agreed that the school division is currently meeting most technology needs of students and teachers. The most consistent comments toward future needs included implementing wireless access, and increasing availability of individual student devices such as laptops, tablets and Ipads as mobile classroom sets. The summary results of the Instructional Technology Assessment are located on the Giles County Schools web page with this technology plan.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gentry stated that Craig County came over to our Ag Lab a couple days ago, along with a Board of Supervisors member, school personnel, etc. and they are very interested in our Ag Lab and Stem programs. They are really interested in how to get this started. He told them all about the community support that we have here in Giles.

Mr. Gentry stated that he was concerned about the "pull out" at GHS that was in the most recent bus driver minutes.

Mr. Gentry stated that the principals were happy with the discussion that they had on the bus radios that are going to go to the schools.

Mr. Gentry discussed the new Division Technology Plan and how the teachers really like the online courses.

Mr. Gentry thanked Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Gollehon and Dr. Webb for their service and wishes them the best.

Mrs. McMahon stated that she was able to attend several band/choir concerts at our schools and they were all very good! She especially commented on the NHS musical and said it was a success and thanked Mrs. Spade for all of her time that she put into this. All of the concerts were excellent!

Mrs. McMahon stated that she has been so pleased with all the community activities that our schools have done lately (i.e. – food drives).

Mrs. McMahon stated that she was pleased with the preschool literacy program, especially the community service activity of reading to preschool kids. She stated that it does improve literacy skills.

Mrs. McMahon thanked the three gentleman (Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Gollehon and Dr. Webb) for their many years of service to the students and community. She will miss them terribly!

Mr. Whitehead shared information about the Governor's School. The information is as follows: During the last few weeks of the fall semester at the Southwest Virginia Governor's School (SWVGS), environmental science students were engaged in a design challenge using phytoremediation techniques. Phytoremediation is the passive process of using plants or plant-like organisms to remove a contaminant from soil or water. Each group developed a unique system and used the technology/engineering design method to create an enclosed system that would provide the proper growing conditions for plant growth of their chosen species. Giles County students, Cailin Henry and Katy Shillinger built a phytoremediation system with English Ivy located on the SWVGS campus. After collecting the ivy and allowing time for the roots to establish in their prototype, the students added sodium chloride as the contaminant. They designed a methodology to determine how much of the sodium chloride was removed from the soil and stored in the plant leaves and roots. They determined that the phytoremediation system was effective at removing the contaminant, however more research would need to be conducted. Holly Fontaine and her group also developed a phytoremediation system using pepper plants and nickel nitrate with more of a hydroponics approach. The students identified the nickel nitrate levels using a refractometer and determined that the pepper plants were also successful in removing nickel nitrate from the environment. Overall, the students appreciated the biological and technological components of this design challenge and are continuing to grow the plants in class for enjoyment. And as the fall semester comes to an end, students at SWVGS are finishing semester exams and beginning work on their scientific research projects. Exams were held December 2-4, and Research Project Workdays began on December 7. Students use research project workdays to conduct their projects. Many students work onsite at SWVGS and some work in research labs at Virginia Tech, Radford University, and other locations. Students submitted the Introduction sections of their research papers on December 11, and will submit their Methods section on December 18. Research Project Workdays will continue January 4-8. Second semester classes will begin January 11, and the SWVGS Science Fair is planned for February 4, at New River Community College.

Mr. Gollehon stated that he is always tickled to see the kids that win the Christmas card contest!

Mr. Gollehon thanked the teachers for all that they do every day. He stated he did not know if he could keep up with all they have to do every day.

Mr. Gollehon stated that he really enjoyed the educational feature tonight. The kids did a great job!

Dr. Webb personally thanked Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Gollehon for all of their hard work and dedication – he stated that it has been an honor to serve with them and the rest of the board. He also thanked Dr. Arbogast and the rest of the school board office staff, and administrators. He has always valued their knowledge and friendship. He offered to the new board, he knows they will face some challenges and as like last year, he would like for them to get their wish list ready to start working on the budget. He would like the board to match the governor's proposed budget increase of a 2% raise. He would also like to see employee's insurance paid. In addition, he would like the board to reevaluate the 7 year policy for teaching experience. He would like it increased to at least 15 or even completely eliminated.

Dr. Webb stated that he and the Superintendent attended the Virginia Nutrition Summit in Richmond last week and stated that Giles County is well known throughout the state for their summer lunch program.

Dr. Arbogast stated that as of today, enrollment is 2393, which is down 11 from the beginning of the month.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the Habitat House is going to be dedicated tomorrow at 4 p.m. in Narrows.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Mr. Riley, Ms. Farmer, Ms. Dilts and Ms. Spade for their band and choir concerts.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Lynn Williams, GHS teacher, for being named a semifinalist in the 2016 McGlothlin Awards for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Sarah Burkett, Senior Extension Agent, for providing nutrition education programs to our elementary programs.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he anticipates to send out intent forms the first week of January to all employees.

Dr. Arbogast thanked the individuals who helped with the preschool Polar Express at Macy last Friday.

Dr. Arbogast thanked the Jazz Band from GHS for the wonderful educational feature.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the employment of Lora Cox – MMS Nurse (effective December 18th, 2015).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved an updated VSBA Policy Services Agreement for a term of one year, effective February 1, 2016, and terminating January 31, 2017. The Code of Virginia requires the board to maintain and follow up-to-date policies and further requires that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held **Thursday, January 21st 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