

January 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:00 p.m. on January 15, 2015 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

E. G. Gentry
J. M. Gollehon, Jr.
Drema K. McMahon
J. L. Webb, Jr.
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 Dr. Arbogast.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's January 15, 2015 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Tracy Ferguson attended the meeting to address more calendar concerns. She stated, "Good afternoon! I would like to address some concerns that I have regarding the 2016-2017 school calendar. While I was, and still am, adamantly opposed to starting school so early in August, I am now more upset than ever when I see the reality of what this early start will do to the testing schedule of our students. Our projected testing window will begin on April 10 for the 2016-2017 school year. This means that students will begin testing much earlier than we have in the past....So the advantage of starting earlier—will be lost. Starting school early and testing late is a practice known as 'gaming' and gives an unfair advantage to school systems. That is why the Virginia Department of Education's testing windows for schools are based on their start date. Not only is the testing window starting much earlier than normal, but the testing window will be interrupted by Easter break in the middle. This is very disruptive for students. Teachers will not want to test on a two-hour-early release day or the day we return from a longer break. This discontinuity will only harm the children and hurt our test scores. Also, much ado has been made over the 'wasted time' that occurs at the end of the school year. However, Macy has SOL tested until the very last week of school, sometimes doing makeups almost to the last day of school, in addition to having two Awards Assemblies, 7th grade field trip to Washington DC, band and choir concerts, the Accelerated Reader award field trip, and field days. The 2016-2017 calendar will leave 2-3 weeks in our calendar AFTER SOL TESTING--which is what the board reiterated time and again that they wanted to avoid. This new calendar will make that situation much worse than it has been in the past several years. One reason that was given to finish the first semester before Christmas was to have a better SOL testing schedule for Narrows High School in the fall semester. While I understand that way of thinking, in accomplishing that goal for NHS in the Fall—we have essentially given the students a break during SOL testing in the Spring AND more instructional time occurring AFTER SOL TESTING. After seeing the reality of what an early August start would do to our testing schedule and the havoc it would wreak on our instructional time, I would urge the board to reconsider. A week before Labor Day is an acceptable compromise, but we certainly don't want to do the students of Giles County, and our test scores, ANY DAMAGE."

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support:
Natalie Fuentes - GHS, Kevin Riley - EEMS, Rhonda Colavecchio - GHS, Lauren Green - GHS, Jami Ross - MMS, Jessica Lowry - MMS, Brandi Smith - MMS, Jeff Williams/GHS Varsity Football Team

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 - December 18, 2014

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include January 15th, 2015
2. Payment of Bills to include December 18th, 2014 & January 6th, 7th & 8th, 2015
3. December 2014 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for February 2015
TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II

Division Superintendent
RE: February 2015 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of February 2015. This is for the eighth 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:	<u>\$ 2,160,084.00</u>

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.
/at

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

On behalf of the Giles Tech Center educational feature, Mr. Fowler introduced Craig Johnston (Computer Systems Technology Instructor) and senior student Mark Wohlford, who presented information about the Computer Systems Technology program. Mark started off by thanking the School Board and instructor for allowing him to present. Also, he thanked the School Board for supporting the Tech Center. He then showed pictures of all the senior classes at the Giles Tech Center and then went on to explain what ~~all~~ they do in their class on a daily basis. Some examples of the things that they do are: assemble and load software on the computers that are in our school system, repair hardware issues, prepare for SkillsUSA, TIA A+ Certification and the Workforce. Mark also discussed parts of a common school PC.

School Board members thanked Mark and Craig for such a wonderful 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 Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following Employment: Amanda Dunbar – MMS School Nurse (effective 1/12/15)
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, confirmed the following Supplemental Contracts: Melanie Atkins – NHS MACC English, Sherry Miller – NHS MACC Head Coach/MACC Science, Larry Greer – NHS MACC Social Studies, Ryan Mason – NHS MACC Math, Josh Sparks – NHS MACC All Around
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, confirmed the updated 2014-2015 Substitute List.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gollehon stated that he thoroughly enjoyed the educational feature! It was a great presentation by Mr. Wohlford.

Mr. Whitehead updated the School Board on information from the Governor's School. He stated that "Beginning next week, SWVGS will offer a new dual enrolled course with Radford University. This Cybersecurity course will address relevant issues in security and privacy related to time spent online. Vulnerabilities, threats, and exploits on social media and smart phone devices will be demonstrated, as well as ethical and responsible cyber citizenship will be modeled. Students will learn basic Linux use through command line, basic file structure, basic shell scripting and environment variables. Networking basics, IP addressing, and common protocols for social networking sites will be introduced along with HTML and Javascripts. Students will learn of security vulnerabilities through analysis of a site attack. The connection between cookies and web based privacy profiles will be explored as well as cryptographic solutions for securing social media. The format of the course will be hybrid in nature. Recorded online lectures will be available for introduction to content and students will explore scenarios and develop skills using case studies, tutorials, modules, specifically developed software, and structured capture the flag events. This unique, optional, elective course is being offered to seniors."

Mrs. McMahon stated that she spoke to Mr. Meade about the concern that was in the bus driver minutes. Mr. Meade stated that it had been taken care of.

Mrs. McMahon stated that she would like the board to consider changing Policy KD-R by increasing the speaking time allotted for those that are addressing the board, because she felt like the time that was allowed for presentations was not much time. The time now for public comments is 3 minutes and was revised April 2014 changing it from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. Mrs. McMahon feels that perhaps 5 minutes might be a sufficient time and maybe get prior approval if more time is needed. She was asked by Mrs. Chidester to copy her presentation from the last meeting, since she did not get time to finish sharing the information. Her presentation had lots of great information. Mrs. McMahon stated that we could even leave it at 3 minutes and put in a sentence that says if the speaker feels that more time is necessary, prior approval can be obtained through the board chairman. The board would like for Dr. Arbogast to work on a statement to add on to the 3 minute time limit to allow individuals, by request, to have more than 3 minutes. Mrs. McMahon stated that the wording in the policy should be very clear and approval should be given prior to the meeting. The revised policy will be presented in February for approval.

Mrs. McMahon thanked Dr. Webb for 40 years of service to the Narrows Lions Club.

Mrs. McMahon thanked those of the calendar committee for all their work, data and preparation. We all appreciate all the time and effort that has gone into this.

Mr. Gentry mentioned bus security. On the last cold day, some of the buses got unplugged overnight. He mentioned that they make some lockable boxes. Mr. Meade stated that Bobby is looking into this.

Mr. Gentry stated that Mr. Klaus from NanoSonic went to DC with Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Journell, Mrs. Austin, and Mrs. Blanton this past week and had a very good conversation with the DOT Staff Members on the grant. It was a really positive trip and it appears that Giles County may be favorable.

Mr. Gentry stated that there was an article in the Southwest Times about NRCC. It states that NRCC wraps up their first 3D printing class. He stated that we have been doing this now at the Tech Center for several years. We are so blessed to be ahead of the curve!

Mr. Gentry distributed an article to the School Board from USA today that discusses an individual that was dropped from a college because of an older "tweet." He wants students to be very aware of things like this that could happen to them.

Mr. Gentry stated that the bull went in the Ag. Lab this week. This is the start of a good thing. Such an exciting project!

Mr. Gentry stated that he would like to talk further about the details of the 16-17 calendar.

Dr. Webb stated that he really enjoyed the educational feature! Mr. Wohlford did such an excellent job!

Dr. Webb stated that we are about ready to get the ACCE program off of the ground pretty soon. This program developed from a program out of Western Community College. The bottom line is that qualifying students from Giles County have the ability to attend NRCC tuition free. We have been working with Chris McKlarney's office for about a year and a half now. Giles County is the first county of all the participating counties to have this program for our students at NRCC. We have had to come up with certain guidelines for acceptance into this program. Next week, meetings will be held at GHS and NHS with parents of seniors to discuss this program. It was estimated that we would need approximately \$150,000 to get this program started the first year. The County has already allocated \$75,000 this coming year towards the program and to date, we have raised about \$128,000 (including \$75,000 from Giles County). This money, unfortunately, has to be raised every year. We will really have to depend on the community to make it work every year.

Dr. Arbogast recognized NHS for receiving the VHSL "Stay in the Game" award for 2013-2014 school year. They were recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship and there were no player or coach ejections last season. This is a great recognition for them!

Dr. Arbogast recognized several of GHS football players that were selected to the 2014 Group 2A All State Football Team. They are as follows: Brett Whitlow – First Team Running Back, Camron Perkins – First Team Defensive Lineman, Dakota Shrader – First Team Linebacker, John Teats – First Team Defensive Back, Austin Cunningham – Second Team Offensive Lineman and Brian Mann – Second Team Defensive Back. Congratulations to these young men!

Dr. Arbogast stated that we had some discussion at the last board meeting regarding CPR/First Aid/AED training for our coaches. We were able to ask for some additional information from our two high schools. We received information back that coaches are required to take a basic VHSL Coaching Course, which is an all-in-one online course that satisfies the VHSL minimum coaching and education mandate. It

includes some first aid items, but it does not include the CPR/AED component. Mr. Gentry stated that he thought it was going to be the head coach. Dr. Webb stated he felt it was important for someone to be there, even if it wasn't the head coach. Mrs. McMahon stated she felt that one person should be on site that is certified, even if it is the trainer. If it's not the head coach, maybe they can appoint a designee that will be at practices and games. She stated that it is very important for at least one person to be there at all times that has training.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we are in the process of finishing the second round of drug testing. Hopefully in the next couple days, I will be able to share results and how everything has gone.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the Joint Services Board Agreement. He received an update earlier in the week from Mr. McKlarney. At some point, Mr. McKlarney and he will need to sit down and discuss some of the items that he has shared from our counsel regarding the Joint Services Board, particularly about who the employees will be "employed" by. This needs to be "ironed" out before we move forward. Dr. Webb stated that if some of our employees go to the "county" side during this transition, he wants to be comparing "apples to apples" and doesn't want our employees to move backwards with benefits or anything else.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Mr. Fowler, Mr. Johnson and Mark Wohlford from the Giles Tech Center for their presentation on Computer Technology Systems.

IN OTHER ACTION...

Dr. Arbogast discussed the Ag Land Lab. All board members were given copies of the business proposal. Within the proposal, it talks about a community advisory board that needs to be made up of members from Giles County School Board, Giles County Board of Supervisors, etc. He stated that we need to appoint someone from the School Board to be a part of the community board. The County is also in the process of approving an individual from there. Dr. Arbogast made a recommendation to appoint Mr. Gentry to this advisory board. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved Mr. Gentry as part of the community advisory board. Mr. Gentry abstained.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the following Field Trip:

Who: Sara Slone/GHS Chorale

When: February 13-14, 2015

Where: Union High School

Funding: Boosters

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the Transfer of Tammy McGuire to EEMS Special Education Teacher Assistant position (from NHS).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the Employment of Megan Fritz – MMS Elementary Teacher.

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, approved the Resignation of Seth Brown – Maintenance Employee (effective January 28th).

Dr. Arbogast stated that he had the 15-16 and 16-17 calendars that were provided to them and stated that we need to decide if we need to move forward. He stated that he received a letter from an individual stating that there are a lot of concerns at NEMS about the new schedule (16-17 calendar) and the testing window. They stated it would not be a good situation with Easter break falling within the testing window, because it could jeopardize all schools scores. Also, they stated that we had to change the schedule because the School Board did not like extra days at the end of the year, but we still have them in the new calendar. They see nothing positive about the proposed 2016-2017 schedule. Also, there is a concern about what would happen to 7th grade trips at the end of the year. Dr. Arbogast stated that they were also provided with a copy of the 2016-2017 calendar that was prepared at the calendar committee meeting on Monday based on the direction of last week's board meeting. In the calendar, it also laid out the projected testing windows. Dr. Arbogast stated that the projected testing window would go from April 10 – May 5. Mr. Gentry asked when the testing window is decided (from first day or school or last)? Dr. Arbogast stated that it is decided from when school starts. He stated that we can't predict what DOE will send us for 16-17, so what is provided is projected, but he feels confident that this is pretty close to where it will be. Mr. Gentry discussed the testing window during Easter break for 16-17. Dr. Arbogast stated that he feels like we will lose about 4 days of testing because of break. Mr. Gentry asked Dr. Arbogast if he had talked with administrators about the new calendar. He said he has heard concerns from principals about the testing window and the 7th grade trip and possibility of doing away with it. Dr. Webb asked if he knew how other school divisions, such as Montgomery County, were handling the new testing window. Dr. Arbogast said he was not sure. Mr. Gentry mentioned the 4 hour early

release on the last day of school and wanted to know why we did that? Dr. Arbogast stated that it was not discussed during the last calendar committee meeting. Dr. Webb mentioned the idea of discussing the 16-17 calendar at their retreat days in February, but stated that he felt comfortable with the 15-16 calendar. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the 2015-2016 school calendar.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, February 19th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Chairman

Clerk