

March 19, 2015

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:00 p.m. on March 19, 2015 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's March 19, 2015 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Malabad stated, "My name is Pam Tegelma Malabad and I am an earth science teacher and the dual-enrolment New River Community College biology instructor at Giles High School. I have been an educator for the last 15.5 years, and have been at Giles High School for 12.5 years. I would first like to thank you for this opportunity to speak before you and for your service and commitment to Giles County Public Schools. I am speaking to you today to voice my concerns over the increase in the health care premiums and the health care cap that is currently in place within Giles County Public Schools. If the employer contribution remains the same for the next year, myself and the rest of your employees would be looking at a decrease in our take home salary for next year. With the inflation rate at around 1.5% per year, it will be difficult to keep up with my expenses, such as health care for my own children (I certainly can't afford to put them on this policy), and housing costs with less to work with. I believe one of the aspects that has attracted and retained high quality teachers here and has allowed Giles County to stay competitive within this region is the great benefits package that has been offered in the past. What is going to entice vibrant teachers to come here and what is going to keep our seasoned veterans in the county if our benefits plan is no longer covered and needs to come from out of pocket? I respectfully urge you to increase the health care cap. Please explain to the Board of Supervisors that it is vital to our community to provide our teachers with a comparable percentage increase in the health cap to cover the percentage increase in the health coverage. I would also ask, in addition to the 1.5% teacher increase provided at the state level for the Standards of Quality Positions, that you strongly consider asking for additional funding to increase teacher's salaries. We, your teachers, work hard for the young people of Giles County. We educate them. We value them. We value this county. We have shown our commitment to excellence and I believe that we should be compensated for this hard work and daily dedication as seasoned professionals. When we undervalue our profession, we also tell the next generation of potential educators that maybe they should not consider teaching. I wonder if I could wholeheartedly support my daughter or son if they wanted to go into the public school teaching forum if things continue to proceed like they have. I would not want them to struggle to make ends meet, like I have, after almost 16 years in teaching in education with a Master's degree. Again, I appreciate what you do and I recognize that you have difficult decision to make. I respectfully ask that you please put your students first and make a long-term investment in their futures by making their educators your number one priority. Thank you."

Ms. Conley stated, "It's hard to believe that we are coming into the 5th six weeks and this school year is quickly coming to an end. The pressure is on. Today, though, I would like to talk about the word faith and how it pertains to us personally and professionally. Faith, as defined one way by Merriam-Webster, is the complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Faith can mean different things to different people. Where each person places their faith can vary. Faith manifests itself both consciously and sub-consciously. Every day we have faith that we are going to wake up in the morning. That there will be water for a shower and especially to make the coffee. Faith that the car is going to start. We place our faith in things that we don't even realize. Faith is a very important element in every life. Faith can be a very positive thing for a person but can also be detrimental when someone feels it has been misplaced. So, where should someone place their faith then? Living in a fairly religious community, I have heard many times that our faith should be in a higher being. I'm not going to argue that. However, where else should we be able to place our faith? Should we have faith in our government? I wish we could but they continually let us down. Should we have faith in society? I try to but there are days that too is a big disappointment. Should we have faith in the media to be non-biased? I don't think so. Should we have faith in our justice system? I hope so. So what exactly should we have faith in? From an educational perspective, I believe parents should have faith in their children that they will do their best in the classroom. I believe children should have faith in their parents to love them and protect them. I believe children should have faith that their teachers are going to teach them the best way possible and that they are going to learn something new every day. I believe that teachers should have faith in the parents; in that they are going to support their children and teachers by helping with homework and disciplining appropriately as needed. I believe that communities should have faith in their school system that would make them want to become more involved and be more positive and not as negative. I believe that principals should have faith in their teachers that those teachers are working hard every day and doing what they should be. I believe new teachers should have faith that they are going to have the available resources needed to help them be successful. I believe that teachers should have faith in their principals that they will get the support and backup needed for unity. I believe that all educational staff should have faith in their central office that they too will provide support needed for unity. Now am I living in a fantasy world? I sure hope not. Your teachers have faith that the school board and central office have the students and employees best interest at heart. We have faith that you realize the dire need for teacher assistants in the classroom. We have faith that you realize how over worked and underpaid your staff is. We have faith that you realize the hardships that will be placed on staff with an increase in insurance premiums and not raising the cap. We have faith that you realize that the teachers, the ones in the classroom every day are the experts on what is best for our students so when decisions are made that affect those students that our thoughts and opinions matter and are considered. We know

that students need summer school if they haven't passed their SOL's, we know how students learn and what we need in a calendar, we know that we need a daycare and the benefits of such a program. Are we misplacing our faith? I sure hope not and our hope is that you consider everything that has been discussed this year as needs and concerns of Giles County employees and seriously consider them. I have faith in this education system. We continue to show that we are serious about education. We continue to show that we are dedicated. We continue to provide the best education for Giles County students. Now we are asking you to not only have faith in us but to show that faith through action. "

RECOGNITIONS

On behalf of the School Board, the following was nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support: Caleb Clemons – NHS (Winning the Regional History Bee in Charlotte, NC).

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – February 19, 2015

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include February 27th, 2015 and March 13, 2015
2. Payment of Bills to include February 12th, 19th, 27th and March 4th and 6th, 2015
3. February 2015 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for April 2015
TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
RE: April 2015 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of April 2015. This is for the tenth 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
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.

5. Field Trips

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

On behalf of the Narrows High School (NHS) educational feature, Dr. Hopkins, Mr. Ryan Mason, Mr. Todd Meredith and Mrs. Melanie Atkins attended the school board meeting to discuss things from each of their departments (Math, Social Studies and English) regarding what the kids are doing in their classes. They brought along students, Haley Conley, Megan Robertson and Seema Patel from NHS. Mr. Mason (Math Co-Chair) introduced the three students and stated that they are great role models for the school. He also discussed the SOL scores and showed a PowerPoint regarding Trigonometry and why you should take it. In addition, some of the students did a bulletin board outlining some of the reasons you should learn and take Trigonometry. Mr. Meredith (Social Studies Chair) shared what goes on in their Social Studies classes at NHS. Seema and Megan showed/discussed a project on India that they had done. Mrs. Atkins (English Chair), along with Haley, discussed a 9th grade CP book project. Board members congratulated the students and teachers on such a wonderful presentation!

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. Whitehead and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Retirement**: Curtis Williams – Bus Driver (effective July 1, 2015)
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahan and unanimous voting, confirmed the

following **Resignation:** Ryan Mason – NHS Varsity Soccer Coach (effective 3/2/15), Leah Witt – NHS Assistant Soccer Coach (effective 3/2/15)

3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Gollehon and unanimous voting, confirmed the Substitute Teacher List to date.
4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Craig Johnson – GHS Head Varsity Baseball, Jacob Vaughn – GHS Baseball Volunteer, Teddy Vaughn – GHS Head JV Baseball, Jack Kellison – GHS Varsity Softball Volunteer, Jerry Huffman – GHS Varsity Track Volunteer, Mike Williams – GHS Varsity Baseball Volunteer, Mark Hubbard – GHS Track, Eric Ruppert – GHS Varsity Girls Soccer, Brittany Moye – GHS Girls Tennis, Sam Wright – GHS Track Assistant, Andrew Frazier – GHS Varsity Boys Soccer, Byron Hurley – GHS Boys Tennis, Andrew Simmons – GHS JV Boys Soccer, Neil Schmidt – GHS Varsity Boys Soccer Assistant, James Fisher – GHS Head JV Softball, Ralph Harless – GHS Head Varsity Softball, Venessa Burnette – GHS Track Assistant, Sarah Perdue – GHS Track Volunteer, Andy Wilburn – GHS JV Baseball Volunteer, Kourtney Williams – EEMS Volunteer, Leah Witt – NHS Varsity Soccer Coach, Ryan Mason – NHS Head Baseball Coach, Colin Munsey – GHS Track Assistant, Kayla Lively – NHS JV Softball Assistant Volunteer

B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration. Mrs. McMahon stated that on the policies we approved last month, she still has a concern about outdated medicine, such as epi-pens. Mrs. McMahon spoke to Mrs. Henderson and they are going to add that to their “check out sheet” to check for outdated medicine and epi-pens. Dr. Arbogast stated that a statement will be added to those policies as well. Dr. Webb asked a question on the advisory committee and asked how active the parent advisory council is. Mr. Meade stated that the Title I Parent Advisory Council is active.

C. The School Board discussed the fuel agreement with the Town of Narrows, County, PSA and School Board. There was some additional language added since the last board meeting. The Town of Narrows also requested some changes be made and Dr. Arbogast responded back to Mr. Chidester and based on his comments, it was suggested to leave the “hold harmless and indemnity” language in there and add a statement to “allow the other town vehicles to use the fuel in the case of an emergency (power outage, etc).” It will be revisited again next month with the final changes.

D. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, approved a resolution to nominate NanoSonic, Inc. into the 2015 VSBA Business Honor Roll. Local businesses have the power to shape community attitudes about public schools, and the VSBA Business Honor Roll is a way for local school divisions to recognize local businesses for their support, especially as schools face increasing budget uncertainty. The Business Honor Roll helps divisions say “thank you” for their vital contributions.

**2015 Virginia School Boards Association
Business Honor Roll**

WHEREAS, public schools and local businesses are an integral part of this community; and
WHEREAS, many local businesses play a crucial role in supporting our schools; and
WHEREAS, the economic health of our community, state and nation depends on a strong public school system; and
WHEREAS, collaboration between local public schools and local businesses strengthens schools and the business community alike by providing a well-trained and highly educated workforce; and
WHEREAS, an excellent public school system is vital to the quality of life in this community and fundamental to preserving a strong democratic society now and in the future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Giles County School Board names NanoSonic, Inc. to the 2015 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll, showing appreciation for their ongoing support of this community’s public schools. Your work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for every child who attends them.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gentry stated that he just got back from a Farm to School Conference in Charlottesville. It was awesome! They met hundreds of people across the state who are working on different methods of getting locally grown food into their school system. They got a lot of good ideas to help with the Ag lab. Very positive conference!

Mr. Gentry stated that he went to a STEM meeting with some of the teachers at the schools and they started putting together the VEX robots. We have some very excited teachers!

Mr. Gentry stated that he went to the GHS/Faculty basketball game the other night. It was a good basketball game!

Mr. Gentry discussed the school zone/school situation at Eastern Elementary/Middle. He suggested going to a Board of Supervisors meeting to talk with David Clark from VDOT. He stated it would be nice to have the rumble strips with new painting and signs and hopefully that would be helpful. Dr. Webb stated that he had contacted Sheriff Millirons and he assured him that there would be more police presence out there.

Mrs. McMahon discussed the school zone again at EEMS. She likes the idea of having the speed sign that tells you how fast you are going.

Mrs. McMahon stated that she really enjoyed the NHS educational feature. It's always nice to have students involved.

Mr. Whitehead stated that, "The 2015 Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair was held at Radford University on March 6 and 7. Students from the Southwest Virginia Governor's School (SWVGS) did very well. Eleven SWVGS students will progress to the Virginia State Science Fair and three SWVGS students will attend the International Science & Engineering Fair. Wesley Meredith, a junior at SWVGS from Giles High School placed second in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category with his project titled, "Preschool's Effect on Students' Educational Superiority". Justin Davis, also a junior at SWVGS from Giles High School, placed first in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category. Justin's project was titled, "Effects of Soccer Headgear on Impact Forces". Justin also won a United States Air Force Distinguished Achievement Award." The list is as follows:

2015 Regional Science Fair Winners

Animal Sciences

2nd—Sarah Cartee (Pulaski County)

3rd—Justin Archer (Fort Chiswell)

Behavioral and Social Sciences:

2nd—Wesley Meredith (Giles)

Biomedical and Health Sciences

1st—Justin Davis (Giles)

2nd—Alaa Ragab (Radford)

Chemistry

1st—Sam Mogen (Radford)

3rd—Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Earth and Environmental Sciences

1st—Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Materials Science:

1st—Whatley Ozer (Galax)

Microbiology and Plant Sciences

1st—Ella Reeves (Pulaski County)

2nd—Elliott Delp (Fort Chiswell)

Physics and Astronomy

1st—Ashley Jordan (Galax) and Austin Owen (Pulaski County)

2nd—Jade Murray (Pulaski County)

Grand Award:

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Ashley Jordan (Galax) and Austin Owen (Pulaski County)

Special Awards

American Association of University Women Awards

Mary Kate Nicely (Rural Retreat)

Alaa Ragab (Radford)

American Chemical Society North Eastern Tennessee Chapter Awards

Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Sam Mogen (Radford)

American Chemical Society Blue Ridge Chapter Award

Sam Mogen (Radford)

American Meteorological Society Awards

Ashley Jordan (Galax) and Austin Owen (Pulaski County)

American Psychological Association Award

Alaa Ragab (Radford)

American Society of Mammalogists Award

Justin Archer (Fort Chiswell)

Sarah Cartee (Pulaski County)

Arizona State University Sustainability Solutions Initiatives

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

ASM International Foundation Award

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Whatley Ozer (Galax)

Association of Women Geoscientists Award

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society Award

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Genius Olympiad Award

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Intel Science Talent Search

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Sam Mogen (Radford)

Alaa Ragab (Radford)

I-SWEEP Award

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Manufacturing Technology Center Award

Sam Mogen (Radford)

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club Award

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Ella Reeves (Pulaski County)

Office of Naval Research Distinguished Achievement Award

Sam Mogen (Radford)

Ricoh Corporation Sustainable Development Award

Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Society for in Vitro Biology Award

Elliott Delp (Fort Chiswell)

United States Air Force Distinguished Achievement Award

Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Sarah Cartee (Pulaski County)

Justin Davis (Giles)

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Sam Mogen (Radford)

Alaa Ragab (Radford)

Ella Reeves (Pulaski County)

United States Public Health Award

Sam Mogen (Radford)

United States Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Elliott Delp (Fort Chiswell)

Sam Mogen (Radford)

Virginia Dental Awards

Emily Llaneras (Pulaski County)

Sam Mogen (Radford)

Whatley Ozer (Galax)

Ella Reeves (Pulaski County)

Virginia Dental Association Grand Award

Alaa Ragab (Radford)

Virginia Lakes and Watersheds Association Award

Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Virginia Tech Statistics Club Award

Sydney Fain (Auburn)

Anna Makarova (Christiansburg)

Yale Science and Engineering Association, Inc., Award

Whatley Ozer (Galax)

Emory and Henry Scholarship

Austin Owen (Pulaski County)

New River Community College Scholarship

Ella Reeves (Pulaski County)

Wytheville Community College Scholarship

Bridget Boenke (George Wythe)

Mr. Gollehon stated that we had a wonderful presentation by Narrows High School.

IN OTHER ACTION...

Dr. Webb stated that the School Board recently completed their annual evaluation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent did exceptionally well; it showed the extreme confidence that the Board has for him.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the last he heard, there were 62 applications submitted for the ACCE program (NRCC).

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Callie Henderson from GHS, the local winner of the George Pearis NSDAR Essay Contest for Grade 8. She also won the District IV Competition which includes all of Southwest Virginia, from Giles-Pulaski-Carroll counties to the west, even into the state of Tennessee. She will now proceed to state competition.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated some students from the Giles Tech Center on the State HOSA results. They are as follows:

Jacob Vierling and Sylvia Shipman – 1st place in Health Education
Kelsey Guy – 3rd place in Medical Photography
Shelia Hutto – 1st place in Medical Photography
Elizabeth Thornton – 3rd place Extemporaneous Poster
Brittany Townley – recognition for Outstanding HOSA Chapter in the category of scrapbook

Dr. Arbogast congratulated students for their Regional FBLA placements:

Business Math – Jaden Robertson – 3rd place
Business Procedures – Jamie Gan – 2nd place
Computer Problem Solving – JC McGuire – 2nd place
Economics – Amber Bradley – 2nd place
FBLA principles and procedures – Courtney Riggs – 1st place
Global Business – Tanisha Flinchum and Natasha Martin – 3rd place
Help Desk – Chase Brewster – 1st place
Network Design – Nick Carter & Austin Greenway – 3rd place
Community Service – Josh Combs/Aubrey Archer
Annual Business Report – Natasha Martin, Tanisha Flinchum and JC McGuire
Officer Candidate for State Reporter – Camber Thornhill
Regional Parliamentarian – Emily Santolla
Securities and Investments – Rachel Flory – 4th place

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Caleb Clemons again for winning the Regional History Bee and also congratulated Frankie Cahoon for placing in the top 20. Good luck in the National Competition!

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mrs. McMahan and unanimous voting, approved Graduation dates for June 12th (NHS) and June 13th (GHS).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved Local Choice for the employee's insurance for the 2015-2016 school year. The plans are Key Advantage 500, Key Advantage 1000 and Advantage 65(Medicare). It was discussed to consider raising the cap that is currently \$503 for employees, but nothing has been decided yet.

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. McMahan, with second by Mr. Whitehead and unanimous voting, approved the following Volunteer Agreement – Sharlyn Thacker – EEMS Library Asst.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Whitehead, with second by Mrs. McMahan and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Coaching Contracts – Jamie Welch – NHS Asst. Soccer Coach, Ben Woodyard – NHS Varsity and JV Weightlifting Coach.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mrs. McMahan and unanimous voting, approved the following Resignations – April Seiple – MMS Preschool Teacher (effective end of 14-15 school year), Denny Hood – NHS Math Teacher (effective end of 14-15 school year), Kristen Smith – GHS Guidance Counselor (effective end of 14-15 school year).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gollehon, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the extension of the school day by 30 minutes (15 minutes before school, 15 minutes after school), beginning April 7th and running through May 29th. There have been 14 days missed with 12 of them being in second semester. Dr. Arbogast feels this is the best thing to do to help maximize the remaining instructional time for our students and to make sure we are meeting the necessary hours for credits.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Chairman

Clerk