

December 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 2:30 p.m. on December 15, 2016 at the School Board Office. A work session was held at 12:00 p.m. that day. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard
Eric G. Gentry
Drema K. McMahon, Chairman
Stephen M. Steele (Board meeting only)

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Richard R. Franklin, Assistant Superintendent
Sophia Steele, GHS Student Representative (Board Mtg. Only)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

WORK SESSION

The Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the work session agenda.

The Board first discussed the idea of building the new parking lot at Macy McClaugherty School to help control the parking issue during evening student pick up. Dr. Arbogast shared that the original cost was approximately \$5K, but after speaking with John Mills, the cost has risen to approximately \$15K. Board members asked why the cost had increased. Mr. Franklin stated that they were told that the location of the parking lot had changed and now a power pole was going to have to be moved. The board still feels unsure that it fully resolve the problem with pick-up, but it will help with the fact that the school needs more parking spaces. Mr. Franklin and Mr. White have met with Town Police to try to discuss this parking issue. After further discussion, the consensus of the board was to go ahead with the parking lot, but did not want it to exceed \$15K.

The next discussion was regarding requests to go from a 6 week grading period to a 9 week grading period. Mr. Franklin has discussed this with Administrators for the last couple of months and so far, he has had no negative concerns about possibly changing the length of the grading period. The only concern Mrs. McMahon had was if it was changed, to make sure parents know if there is a concern with their child before the 9 week period. The consensus of the board was to do the 9 week grading period. This request will be shared with the calendar committee.

The next item of discussion was to discuss a monthly update to staff by the Superintendent. Mrs. McMahon stated that she liked getting the update from each work session by the Superintendent. Dr. Arbogast explained to board members the meetings he had during the month with the Administrators and the Professional Advisory Committee to let everyone know what's going on in within the school system. Mr. Gentry just asked that Dr. Arbogast inform board members about "hot topic" information. Board members felt comfortable with updating/communicating with the staff.

Dr. Arbogast asked board members if they felt like there was adequate teacher/classroom articles in the Virginian Leader and board members stated that they did.

Mr. Ballard had discussed NHS Band Booster information with Mr. Bowles and he shared information with the School Board members. He asked if we could pay a bus driver to transport the band from the school to the field? After discussion amongst board members and Dr. Arbogast, it was discussed that a field trip form needs to be filled out for them to be paid.

Dr. Arbogast and School Board members discussed custodians and the cleaning of the buildings over Christmas break.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the request from a GHS parent to form a committee to recognize those who have contributed to Giles County Public Schools. Board members decided that we would follow the policies that we have currently approved that go along the same lines. Dr. Arbogast will respond back to the individual with what the current policy states.

Dr. Arbogast and Board members discussed the Joint Services contract. They went through each page and discussed corrections/amendments. They came to a consensus with the wording. Dr. Arbogast will make the changes and will send to Mr. McKlarney for the Board of Supervisors to review. After their review, it will be brought back to the School Board for approval.

The School Board and Dr. Arbogast then discussed budget. Dr. Arbogast handed out very rough drafts of the budget sheets that consist of revenue and expenditures. The budget was further discussed with board members, Rhonda Tickle and Dr. Arbogast. Mrs. Tickle stated that she won't know if there is any carryover money until the end of June of every year. Mr. Gentry stated that he would like to know ahead of time if there is any money that can be spent. Mr. Gentry asked for a schedule of when loans pay off. Mrs. Tickle is going to get it to Dr. Arbogast to get to them.

Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard adjourned the work session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's December 15th, 2016 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Kristi Eaton attended the School Board meeting to discuss the parking/safety situation at Macy. She stated that the way the buses come in and out and the way students were picked up worked much better last year. This year the methods are reversed. The problem is that parents aren't allowed to enter school property until a certain time, so traffic gets backed up while waiting until time to get the kids. When people are trying to get to Route 100, people are crossing the double lines to get past traffic, which results in a safety concern. Mr. Jackie Martin has been in contact with Macy McClaugherty to offer possible solutions. Their main concern is a safety concern. They would like the help of the School Board to help with this situation. Board members stated that the new parking lot was approved, but they are not sure when it will be done and even if it will fully help the situation. Board members stated that the reason it was switched this year is safety concerns from children walking through the buses and cars in the parking lots. Board members stated that the #1 concern for them is the children and their safety.

Mrs. Diana Blanton attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the GEA. She distributed salary "ranking" information that they have gathered on the surrounding districts. She would like to see proper salaries to attract good, qualified teachers. GEA does support a local tax increase to help with salaries. Board members stated that something will need to be done and they will work with the Board of Supervisors to see what can be done.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mr. Brian Bowles, along with teachers/assistants, April Hobson, Cheryl Hodock, Tanya Jewell, and several students attended the meeting to present the NHS educational feature. They information about the new reading program, called Fountas & Pinnell. They also discussed the benefits of the program and the kids stated why they liked it.

Mr. Chris Gautier, along with teachers Crissy Dunn, Sarah McGlothlin, McCreery Mann and several students attended the meeting to present the NEMS educational feature. Jason and Sue Spicer, archery program volunteers, also attended the meeting. Mr. Gautier discussed the benefits of the new archery program at NEMS. The teachers and students then discussed and even demonstrated the new program.

PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Giles County School Board, the following individuals were recognized:

1. Dr. Jack Lewis – NRCC President
2. Luke Humphreys – EEMS (Christmas Card Winner)
3. Elizabeth Shipbaugh – NEMS (Christmas Card Winner)
4. Makailah Lane – MMS (Christmas Card Winner)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – November 10th, 2016

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include November 15th, 30th and December 15th, 2016
2. Payment of Bills to include November 10th, 14th, 17th, 21st, 22nd and December 2nd and 8th, 2016
5. Appropriation Request for January 2017
TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
RE: January 2017 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of January 2017. This is for the seventh month of the fiscal year 2016-17. 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: (Operating + Flow-thru)	\$ 2,242,036.00
Total:	\$ 2,242,036.00

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.

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. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Christina Thompson – GHS Varsity Basketball Cheer, Seth Davis – GHS Varsity Boys Basketball, Robby Patteson – NHS Varsity Boys Basketball Assistant Coach, Jason Breeding – NHS Volunteer JV Basketball Assistant Coach, Donna Stump – GHS 8th Grade Head Cheer, Don Epperley – GHS Varsity Girls Basketball, Bill Mance – GHS Volunteer Girls Basketball, Kathy Pierson – Volunteer GHS/NHS Swim Team, Nichole Wilson – GHS Basketball Cheer Floater, Jodie Giles – GHS JV Head Basketball Cheer, Lori Robertson – GHS/NHS Volunteer Swim Team Club, Angie Elliott – GHS/NHS Volunteer Swim Team Club
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations**: Todd Meredith – NHS History Teacher (1-1-17), Brock Lusk – NHS Varsity Boys Basketball Asst. Coach, Lindsay Lawrence – EEMS Title I (1-2-17)
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment**: Helen Beavers – Substitute Bus Driver
 4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, confirmed the following Substitute Teachers to date.
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved a Scholarship offered by the Virginia Junior Chamber International Senate.
- C. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved Policy Revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration. The BYOD policy will be discussed further at the next work session.
- D. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved a new course at Giles High School. Giles High School would like to offer a new course (20th Century History) to students. The course information is as follows:

20th Century History

238 (1 credit)

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course offers students a survey of the history of the United States from 1890 to the present. With a focus on political and economic history, students will gain a basic knowledge of American culture through a chronological survey of major issues, movements, people and events in the United States. Using supplemental materials, the course emphasizes enabling students to feel pride in themselves, their heritage, and the importance of being a responsible citizen.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Steele stated that he was at the Symphonic Ensemble concert and they are fantastic!

Mr. Steele stated that the basketball teams did great!

Mr. Gentry stated that he had the chance to look at the Ocean Wall at Eastern Elementary/Middle. It was great! It was very artistic.

Mr. Gentry stated that both the girls and boys basketball teams have been great.

Mr. Gentry stated that he was happy to see the NHS Show Choir – it was awesome!

Mr. Ballard stated that he attended the NEMS concert, GHS Chorale concert and the NHS concert – the kids did great (and he is in the Christmas spirit).

Mrs. McMahon stated that the NHS/GHS swim club and their success. She appreciates all the work that has gone into it.

Mrs. McMahon stated that she seen several teachers after Thanksgiving buying stuff for the students, which she knows was out of their own money. She wants to thank all the teachers for all they do for our students.

Mrs. McMahon stated she also enjoyed NHS choir today.

Dr. Arbogast stated that enrollment as of yesterday, we are at 2,400.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Cassidy Whitlow (NHS) and Morgan Fisher (GHS) for being recipients of the George Pearis Chapter DAR Good Citizen Award.

Dr. Arbogast also congratulated Frank Cahoon, Caleb Clemons and Hunter Orey. They went to Bluefield State and participated in their Humanities Challenge and they came in 1st place.

Dr. Arbogast reminded everyone about our new breakfast program that will be implemented starting in January. There will be a message going out to parents to remind them this evening.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he attended the Pre-K winter celebration (Charlie Brown Christmas) last week for the students and their families. He thanked Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Seiple, and all the teachers and assistants for a great evening.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we received Fall writing results. There were several re-testers from Giles High School who passed. From NHS, 16/25 10 graders passed the writing and 23/24 8th graders passed.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Tarah Clark from NHS for making 2nd Team All State for Volleyball and Allison Pennington and

Jocelyn Midkiff from Giles High School for making 2nd Team All State for Volleyball.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Sarah Burkett, Senior Extension Agent, taught 4 – 45 minute lessons for 336 2nd and 3rd grade students in 19 classes. Topics covered with each class were: Calcium: Build a Bone Bank, Smile Keepers...For Cavity Free Kids, Food Safety – Handwash 20 and Couch Potatoes Arise!

Dr. Arbogast stated that the NRV Master Gardener Association has approved awarding a grant to support the Horticulture Shed that Building Tech completed this week at Giles High School.

Dr. Arbogast thanked NHS Show Choir and Mrs. Spade for coming up today to perform.

Ms. Sophia Steele stated that she was excited to have the hallways and lockers painted.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved the following Volunteer Athletic Coaching Agreement: (GHS) – Boys Basketball Manager/Volunteer Coach – Dewayne Lewis.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, January 19th at 4:00 p.m. A work session will be held at 12:00 p.m. prior to the meeting.

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

Chairman

Clerk