

## February 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, 2016 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard  
Eric G. Gentry  
Drema K. McMahon  
Stephen M. Steele  
Mark A. Wilburn

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. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's February 18, 2016 School Board Meeting Agenda.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Perdue, GEA President, spoke on behalf of the GEA. She stated, "As we are on the downward swing of another school year passing, we would like to address you as concerned GEA members, teachers, parents, and citizens. On Feb. 3, the GEA presented before the Giles County Board of Supervisors our budget requests and concerns. This was a very unproductive meeting and this was unfortunate. Since, that meeting I have heard the word relationship mentioned on several occasions. I want to take a moment and talk about that word, relationship. We form many relationships in our lifetime. The relationship between husband/wife, parent/child, neighbor/neighbor, sibling/sibling, employer/employee, political office/constituency, so on and so forth. Each relationship has the potential to be a healthy or unhealthy relationship. A healthy relationship is characterized by a variety of traits.

**Respect** - listening to one another, valuing each other's opinions, and listening in a non-judgmental manner.

**Trust and support** - trust that the other has their best interest in mind and support will be given

**Honesty and accountability** - communicating openly and truthfully and always being transparent.

**Shared responsibility** - making decisions together and embracing others thoughts and feelings. Being responsible to each other

**Economic partnership** - economic decisions are mutual and not self-serving

**Negotiation and fairness** - being willing to compromise, accepting change, and seeking mutually satisfying solutions to conflict.

**Non-threatening behavior** - talking and acting in a way that promotes both parties feelings of safety in the relationship. Both should feel comfortable and safe in expressing him/herself.

These characteristics can be applied in any type of relationship. An unhealthy relationship exhibits the opposite behaviors. One entity tries to control the other, no transparency, deceitfulness, lack of respect. I don't know about you but I want a healthy relationship in all of my relationships. I would like for you to consider these characteristics and examine your own relationships in every capacity and see if you are involved in a healthy or unhealthy one. We understand that there needs to be a good relationship between the school board and the board of supervisors; however, the GEA does not feel at this time that we can honestly say that we have a healthy relationship with the Giles County Board of Supervisors and would like to see that change. None the less, we would like to maintain the relationship that we have with you, the school board and central office.

During the meeting with the Board of Supervisors, it was proposed that a long term budget cutting plan be implemented by the school board. It was suggested on numerous occasions that we 'trim the fat'. The employees of Giles County School take exception to that. The Fat has already been trimmed enough and budgets should not be balanced on the backs of our employees, whether that employee is a maintenance person, teacher assistant, bus driver, teacher, or administrator. We recognize the fact that the state needs to do their part. However, we also recognize that adequate state funding is not something that we can depend on year in and year out. Tragically, it falls on the backs of the local governments. Seeking adequate funding from the board of supervisors was our sole purpose for meeting with the board. This was met with extreme resistance. The Giles Education Association is very disheartened and disgusted with the thought of anymore cuts coming our way. All staff is overworked and underpaid, and we continue to ask them to do more and more. We suggest that

they can drive a bus for extra money, they can be a substitute janitor for extra money, they can do homebound for extra money, on and on. When is enough going to be enough?

More importantly, when is enough going to be enough for the students of Giles County Public Schools. Our classrooms are overcrowded and our students are not getting the one on one attention they need to be successful. How can we expect one Kindergarten teacher to manage 20-25, 4-6 year olds by herself? She is wiping noses, monitoring the bathroom, tying shoes and teaching children how to tie their own shoes, managing the various personalities and behaviors, all the while determining learning styles and trying to teach them academics and when in all actuality most aren't ready to be in school in the first place and get all this done while they are crying to go home. Kindergarten is not the exception to the rule however. This is an issue for every grade level.

I want to give you a little insight into those children that attend Giles County Public Schools. They are precious. They come from poor and middle class families. They have dreams and aspirations. They have high expectations and they are resilient. They deserve the best we can give them.

I want to give you a little insight into the people that work for you. They are dedicated, compassionate, and hard working. They spend many nights making lesson plans, grading papers; fretting over the welfare of their students and using their own money buying them school supplies, food, and warm clothing. The statement has been made that some individuals work seven days a week in other professions and therefore, the justification for large salaries and significant pay increases. I won't necessarily disagree with that however, if our teachers got paid for all the hours they put in to their jobs they would be the ones in the top 1% of wealth in this country.

I want to give you a little insight into the GEA membership and the GEA officers. We are also dedicated and hard working. We stand together for one cause and that cause is a better education for the students of Giles County and a better work environment for our employees. We believe in each other.

Now I want to give you a little insight into who I am. I am first and foremost a mother to 2 wonderful grown children and a proud strong divorcee. I fought for it and I earned it but before all that I was and still am a daughter to one of the greatest men I have ever known. We didn't have much growing up but he worked hard and he taught my sister and me how we should live. He was a construction worker his whole life and when that work slowed he drove a coal truck in and out of the mines. He taught me to always stand up for what I believe in and to never back down. He taught me to fight through the hard times and struggles that this life was going to throw at me. He taught me to defend myself and to defend others. Now, I am also in an elected position as the Giles Education Association President and I answer to the people that depend on me to do the right thing for them. We are not backing down from this. We are not going to step aside and be quiet while more is taken from us. We are asking you to take a stand as well against any suggested cuts on the backs of our employees and our students. Thank you."

Mrs. McMahan thanked Mrs. Perdue for her comments. She stated that she thinks the School Board and GEA do have a good relationship. She stated that the School Board is adding work sessions to their schedules so they can look at their budget, including all the cuts that have been made over the years.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Arbogast distributed certificates to School Board Members in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month.

Mrs. McMahan presented Amanda Tickle, School Board Clerk, with a certificate in honor of School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**A. Meeting Minutes**

1. Regular – January 21, 2016 (amended)

**B. Financial Data**

1. Payrolls to include January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016
2. Payment of Bills to include January 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016
3. January 2016 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for March 2016

TO: Christopher McKlarney  
Interim Administrator for Giles County  
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II  
Division Superintendent  
RE: March 2016 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of March 2016. This is for the ninth 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.

<b>Original Monthly Appropriation Request:</b>	\$ 2,180,649.00
<b>(Operating + Flow-thru)</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	\$ 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.  
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#### EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mr. Mark Husband, Mrs. Jessica Gwaltney and several students attended the School Board meeting on behalf of the Narrows High School educational feature. Mrs. Gwaltney discussed the Ag Lab project and the most recent STEM project design challenge on the frozen water trough. Students designed and completed the project to prevent the water from freezing. It is still working like a charm!

#### 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. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Morgan Atkins – GHS Head Girls Tennis, Mike Thornhill – GHS Girls Softball Volunteer
  2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations:** Natalie Dilts – GHS Band Teacher (end 15-16 school year)
  3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved the updated substitute list.
  4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the bid from Contract Paper Group for services specified in IFB #2-2016 (duplicating paper).
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved Policy Revisions as recommended from VSBA Policy Services and Administration.

#### CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gentry thanked the Pembroke Ruritan Club for treating the EEMS mentors to pizza.

Mr. Gentry thanked Mrs. Riley (GHS teacher) for taking her class to Smith Valley Meats.

Mr. Gentry stated that we have a new calf at the Ag Lab.

Mr. Gentry stated that he is looking forward to going down to NEMS tomorrow to Mrs. McGlothlin's Science class.

Mr. Wilburn stated that he and Mr. Gentry attended a reading award program at EEMS about a week or so ago. They passed out popcorn and pizza and watched a movie. The kids absolutely loved it.

Mr. Steele thanked Mrs. Perdue for her dedication – it is clear that she is passionate. He stated that the board is there and are listening to her. No one understands what it takes to be an educator and he asks that they give the board members a chance. Please give them time.

Mr. Ballard congratulated Mr. Husband on his SOL test scores.

Mr. Ballard thanked Mrs. Perdue for speaking and look forward to any input they may have.

Mr. Ballard stated that since 07-08, there have been many cuts in the school system. He says some people are under the impression that there hasn't been any consolidation or sacrifice on this side, but there has been. He stated that they will work together and battle to get everything we can on or side.

Mr. Ballard stated that it was depressing hearing from Mrs. Henderson (School Health Coordinator) on how many students they see at Macy on a daily basis.

Mr. Ballard stated that he couldn't put a dollar amount on all the stuff that teachers buy and do for their students.

Mrs. McMahon stated that it was a very good day at the retreat. It is always very eye opening and great listening to all the principals and administrators.

Mrs. McMahon congratulated Mrs. Gwaltney for being Teacher of the Month. She complimented her on her comments about teaching students life lessons and preparing them for the real world.

Mrs. McMahon stated it was nice to see NHS's NRCC English class as a featured comment in the Virginian Leader.

Mrs. McMahon asked about a comment from the bus driver minutes from Bobby Fisher asking for more training for new drivers. Mr. Meade stated that Bobby was talking about riding a route prior to being on it with kids. He said it was very easy to accommodate.

Mr. Gentry stated that we had been talking about the 7 year cap experience for new employees. He stated he is for doing away with the 7 year cap. He would like to get this changed before we have any new hires.

Mr. Gentry stated that he was approached about using snow days as teacher workdays. He stated that some counties do that. A teacher that was present stated that she doesn't feel like they have any trouble getting in their work days.

Dr. Arbogast stated that as of today, enrollment is 2,384 students, which is down 4 from the last time he shared that information.

Dr. Arbogast stated that as of today, we have missed 10 days due to snow, with 2 of those days scheduled as make up days, which moved to other make-up days. So, we have missed 8 total days.

Dr. Arbogast shared the You Tube video with the School Board on Mr. Ruppert's ocean project at EEMS. This has also been shared with Dr. Mark Allen at the Department of Education and he expressed how impressed he was with it. Also, EEMS will be receiving their Red Ribbon Award next Wednesday at 2 p.m. The Roanoke Times will possibly be coming to do an article on the ocean project.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated each of the Spelling Bee winners. They are as follows: Michael Westbrook – NHS, Lola Campbell – NEMS, Rae Broyles – MMS, Jonah Williams – EEMS and Lucas Morris – GHS. The county spelling bee winner is Rae Broyles.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated Aliyah Fowlkes, senior at Giles High School, for winning honorable mention in the NRA student wildlife art contest! There were only 9 winners who were selected in this national competition.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated 4 students (Michaela Chamberlain-GHS, Caroline Hicks-GHS, Quinne Jimenez-GHS and Joshua Keller-EEMS) who advanced to the next level of the National History Bee. These students are invited to participate in the Charlotte Regional Finals on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Dr. Arbogast reminded everyone that the new ACCE application is due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Governor’s School prospective students will be visiting the school on Monday.

Dr. Arbogast stated that at the last board meeting, we discussed the EI contract. He spoke with a gentleman from EI and got an updated contract. Board members were okay signing it and sending it back.

Dr. Arbogast told board members about a VSBA conference in March if any of them wanted to attend.

Dr. Arbogast told board members about the VSBA Blue Ridge Regional Forum in April for anyone that may want to attend.

Dr. Arbogast thanked the principals for the information that they prepared for the board retreat today.

Dr. Arbogast thanked NHS for the educational feature!

**IN OTHER ACTION...**

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved Steve Garner as a new substitute bus driver.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, appointed Mr. Wilburn to serve on the ACCE Review Committee.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next School Board Meeting will be held March 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

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

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Chairman

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Clerk