

## January 21, 2016

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:00 p.m. on January 21, 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 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 21, 2016 School Board Meeting Agenda.

### 2016 ORGANIZATION

Mr. Gentry nominated Mr. Steele for Chairman. Mr. Wilburn nominated Mrs. McMahon for Chairman. Voting is as follows: Mr. Steele – Mr. Gentry; Mrs. McMahon – Mr. Ballard, Mr. Wilburn. Mr. Steele and Mrs. McMahon abstained.

Mr. Wilburn nominated Mr. Gentry for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Gentry declined the nomination. Mr. Gentry nominated Mr. Steele. Voting for Mr. Steele is unanimous. Mr. Steele abstained.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the third Thursday at 4:00 PM (odd months) and 7:00 PM (even months) as the monthly meeting date and time for the 2016 calendar year and holding the first Thursday of the month if needed.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, appointed Amanda Tickle as School Board Clerk for 2016.

Mr. Wilburn nominated Dr. Arbogast as Deputy Clerk for 2016. Voting was unanimous.

Mr. Gentry nominated Mr. Meade as the Superintendent's designee for 2016. Voting was unanimous.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

**On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were nominated for their Outstanding Efforts and Continued Support:** Kevin Riley – EEMS, Natalie Dilts – GHS, Morgan Warwick – EEMS, Jared Rader/MMS Staff, Betsy Wood – GHS

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

#### A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – December 17, 2015

#### B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
2. Payment of Bills to include December 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 & January 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016
3. December 2015 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Confirmation of Field Trips
5. Appropriation Request for February 2016  
TO: Christopher McKlarney  
Interim Administrator for Giles County  
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II  
Division Superintendent  
RE: February 2016 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of February 2016. This is for the eighth 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.

<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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### 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. Steele and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Substitute Bus Drivers**: Norman Ferguson, James Peck, Sarah Perdue, William Vaught
  2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the updated **2015-2016 Substitute List**. Dr. Arbogast explained the process of being a substitute teacher. Mr. Steele asked that he be given a list of which schools the substitutes have marked on their re-activation forms. He would like feedback from teachers as far as substitutes.
  3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Henry Buchanan – NHS JV Soccer Head Coach/Varsity Asst. Coach, Robbie Patteson – NHS Varsity Baseball Asst. Coach, Mike Lovell – NHS Varsity Softball Asst. Coach
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the VSBA Code of Conduct. The board members asked that copies be sent to the schools, one placed in the school board office and a link placed on the SBO website.
- C. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and 3-2 voting (YAY: Gentry, Wilburn – NAY: McMahon, Steele, Ballard), denied changes to policy BHD, which would have updated it to reflect changes that were made last year to School Board's salaries. Mr. Steele stated that he thinks we should not be approving any compensation for this board, especially since there are current challenges for our teachers. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved additional changes to policy BHD. The change will state that "The Chairman of the School Board will receive no additional compensation."
- D. Mr. Gentry made a motion (with comments), with a second by Mr. Wilburn, to approve the contract for environmental services from the EI group. Mr. Gentry questioned #10 on the contract because of the wording (limits our ability to get money from them if something goes wrong). Mr. Steele stated that it is an industry "no-no". Mr. Steele and Mr. Gentry asked that Dr. Arbogast check with the other consortium members and see if there was any concern with #10 and whether or not they had an attorney to review it. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Wilburn rescinded the motion. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous motion, approved the contract with EI group, with the stipulation that Dr. Arbogast checks with the other consortium members to make sure #10 on the contract is legal and get their thoughts/comments. Upon confirmation that they are okay with item #10, Mrs. McMahon will have the ability to approve execution of the contract.

### CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Gentry stated that there has been a lot going on with the ag lab. Christina Martin (STEM) and Mrs. Gwaltney's agriculture classes got a chance to work and design an iceless water trough for the cows. The trough worked on the last very cold morning. Also, Craig County came over a while back to talk with us about our Ag Lab. He also had a lady from Lord Botetourt email him to discuss our Ag Lab.

Mr. Gentry discussed JO Volleyball. There are girls from Giles, Narrows and James Monroe. He stated that our kids can "meet up to anyone". They have great sportsmanship and demeanor!

Mr. Gentry started a discussion on the 2016-2017 calendar. He stated that there has been a lot of talk about the calendar since it was changed last year. He has reached out to all of the principals and several teachers at the schools. They thought August 8<sup>th</sup> was too early to start school. He

mentioned changing the start date for kids to either the 22<sup>nd</sup> or the 29<sup>th</sup>. Most people that he talked to thought the 22<sup>nd</sup> would be better. Mrs. McMahon asked if this could wait until the retreat. She stated that she does not have any of her facts to support the upcoming calendar because she did not know it was going to be brought up. She stated that she has done extensive research on the upcoming calendar, including talking to staff, other school divisions, etc. Mr. Wilburn stated that he has not spoken to one person during the campaign that wanted to come as early as August 8<sup>th</sup>. He stated that people are telling him that our school system does not have to be like everyone else. Mrs. McMahon stated that the benefit of starting early was to finish first semester and testing before Christmas break. Mr. Ballard stated that the real difference in test scores is who you have in the classrooms. He stated that teachers would not trust him if he didn't help get the calendar changed. Several board members stated it affects work schedules, athletic practices, etc. Mr. Ballard stated that the flaw in this was that the calendar committee was given a start date last year and then had very little to work with. Mr. Steele stated that as he was talking to many people at Eastern, an overwhelming amount of teachers wanted to start the end of August and stated that it would not affect their testing scores. Mr. Ballard stated that he remembers seeing in minutes last year when the schools sent a vote on when they wanted to start that some at EEMS did not send a vote because they said that no one was listening anyway. Mr. Ballard stated that we need the trust of the teachers. Mrs. McMahon stated that the board from last year was also very adamant that it would not be tolerated for teachers not to be able to voice their opinions. On motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Steele and 4-1 voting (YAY: Gentry, Steele, Wilburn, Ballard – NAY: McMahon), approved the change in the start date of the 16-17 calendar to August 29<sup>th</sup> (for students). Mr. Ballard stated that he thinks when we reconvene, we need to approach it in a different manner. He stated that we need to let the calendar committee get feedback on when teachers want to start and do their research. Mr. Ballard thinks we need to have both high schools on the same schedule and it would be easier to make the calendar. He thinks that for the 17-18 school calendar, they can decide on whether they want to start earlier in August or later in August. Dr. Arbogast will get the calendar committee together to finalize the 16-17 calendar since the start date was changed and then have them start gathering information/feedback from staff members regarding the start date in order to prepare the 17-18 school calendar. Dr. Arbogast will present the information as he gets it from the calendar committee.

Mr. Steele stated that he was super excited to be on the board. He stated that there are a lot of folks out there that believe in them and know that they will make things happen. The challenge is real, but it's a great board. He stated that Giles County is the best place in the world.

Mr. Ballard stated that he was also excited to be on the board and has a lot of passion for the school system. He is getting positive comments on the recent SOL testing.

Mr. Ballard discussed the custodian/maintenance agreement and he figured out from Dr. Arbogast that nothing was actually signed. It was discussed many times, but not ever approved or signed. There were several meetings held with our custodians/maintenance to discuss the transition.

Mr. Ballard discussed years of experience to become a high school principal and also the high school schedules. Dr. Arbogast stated that they could discuss this information at the retreat.

Mr. Ballard discussed ways to attract new teachers. He mentioned the possibility of having real estate taxes waived for new teachers for so many years after purchasing their home in the county. Dr. Arbogast stated it would be a discussion to have with the County. Mrs. McMahon stated that it would certainly help to increase the starting salary.

Mr. Wilburn stated that he was proud to be on the School Board. He thinks they do have a lot to offer. They all want the same thing for our kids. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Mrs. McMahon stated that several board members attended the Crisis Intervention training at GHS. It was excellent. The Sheriff's Office did a wonderful job!

Mrs. McMahon stated that all the drug testing during winter for the students was negative!

Mrs. McMahon asked that the School Board members submit a wish list to her for the top 5 requests for the budget.

Mrs. McMahon stated that at the budget meeting with the GEA the other day, she stated that we need more of a presence at the Board of Supervisors meeting. She stated he would like our board to attend some of their meetings and present more information/facts to them.

#### **IN OTHER ACTION...**

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the Resignation of Billy Lucas – Head JV Boys Basketball/Head 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track Coach.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved Mr. Steele as the new Governor's School

representative.

Dr. Arbogast stated that enrollment as of yesterday was 2,392, which is a decrease of 34 from June, 2015.

Dr. Arbogast discussed SOL results from NHS so far. So far, English is at 81.25%, Math is at 84.15%, History is at 88.17% and Science is at 79%. Very positive!

Dr. Arbogast discussed the entrance/exit pullout at GHS because it was mentioned at last month's board meeting. Dr. Arbogast and Mr. Meade talked with Mr. Mills at the high school and he felt it was better to have the School Resource Officer in the parking lot in the mornings and afternoons. He didn't feel like it was an issue on the buses getting out.

Dr. Arbogast discussed radios at the elementary schools. These are going to be installed soon. This was done for a safety measure.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Lynn Williams has been notified that she is one of ten semifinalists for the McGlothlin Award. Good luck to her! Also, she is the 2016 VA DAR Teacher of the Year for American History.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated the gentleman who were named to the All-State Football Team. They are as follows: Austin Cunningham – GHS Offensive Unit – First Team, Brian Mann – GHS Offensive Unit – First Team, Cameron Perkins – GHS Defensive Unit – First Team, Max Riley – GHS Offensive Unit – Second Team, Brian Mann – GHS Offensive Unit – Second Team, Patrick Beidleman – GHS Defensive Unit – Second Team.

Dr. Arbogast distributed information on some different safety latches for doors at the schools. They are currently trying out one at Macy and a different one at the Tech Center. Mr. Steele asked about the ADA compliance on these latches. Dr. Arbogast stated that the fire marshal had been here, but wasn't sure whether there was a problem with the one that was on a door at the Tech Center. He also questioned whether an individual in a wheelchair would have any problems with these.

Dr. Arbogast discussed dates for the School Board Retreat. It will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the possibility of a new archery program at NEMS and he hopes to be able to proceed with it. Mr. Steele asked if it was too late to see if other schools are interested in doing this program.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he and Mr. Meade met with a gentleman from the YMCA at Virginia Tech to get information on our summer food program. The gentleman stated that he would like to get something like ours initiated in Montgomery County.

#### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with the School Board retreat.

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

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Chairman

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Clerk