

July 5, 2016

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 6:00 PM on July 5th, 2016 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

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

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. On motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the agenda.

Dr. Arbogast stated that RAD equipment will be purchased for both high schools. Mr. Wilburn stated that the county is willing to give money towards it. Dr. Arbogast will check with Rhonda to see if the county will put money towards it.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Mrs. Henderson would now be doing the nurse evaluations and the principals will review them.

Dr. Arbogast discussed some of the issues at Macy with the pipes. Mr. Mills will be following up on these issues with the pipes and the air quality. Mrs. McMahon stated that there seems to have been many respiratory infections with students and staff. Mr. Mills and Mr. White will also sit down to discuss other concerns with the building. There was also discussion of fencing in some areas at Macy.

Mr. Gentry asked about the possibility of John Ross doing an audit on outdoor lights in our system to see if LED lights would be an option.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he received an email about nursing options. One of the options has interviewed for the nursing position that will be housed at Macy. If she accepts, then that will put a "kink" in the plan.

There was a discussion on the handicap parking issues that were addressed at the last board meeting. Mr. Gentry stated that he knows we meet regulations. There was further discussion on handicap parking at each schools and possible options. Dr. Arbogast will talk to the administration once all the positions are filled.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the preschool programs here in Giles. There was an email sent out to school and county employees to try to fill the new tuition based preschool. As of now, there are currently 10 spots filled.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the tile at GHS regarding the humidity problem. It was discussed with John Mills and they are going to work on that problem over the next couple of weeks. John Mills also talked to a company that did a classroom in polished concrete. Dr. Arbogast shared prices about doing tile compared to polished concrete.

There was a discussion on policy EEAB-R on activity vans. Under exception 1, strike the wording "within Giles County". This would allow employees to take activity vans outside of Giles County.

There was a discussion on the concussion letter that will be sent out to the recreation departments in the county. Board members discussed a few changes to be made.

There was a discussion on administrative vacancies (GTC Nursing and Principal vacancies).

There was a discussion on developing guidelines for individuals wanting to do scholarships. Dr. Arbogast will talk to our attorney to see if he has any options/opinion.

There was a discussion about placing wireless access points in buildings. They are currently being installed.

There was a discussion about principal coverage when they are out of the buildings. Policy current says that when an elementary principal is out of the building, then the secretary will handle the issue. When the principal is not in the county, then the principal designee will handle the issue. The board would like Dr. Arbogast to discuss this issue with principals. There was a concern about the same teacher always being the principal designee and being out of their classroom a lot. The board would like to see a couple designees and not just one.

Mr. Steele discussed a concern of GEA. The concern is that when teachers have to take classes for recertification, that some don't

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count towards a master's degree. The concern was that if they already had to take classes, then it would be nice to take classes that count towards a master's degree. Dr. Arbogast stated that taking classes are no longer required to renew their licenses, as long as they accumulate 180 points in 5 years.

There was a discussion on the transfer of sick leave days. There is a policy that states how a person can receive sick leave days from another individual.

The board discussed the amount of money paid out each month to substitutes. They would love to be able to get this number down to use this money towards something for the staff (i.e. – paying for master's classes, etc.).

There was a discussion on the student representative policy from VSBA. The student representative would only attend open, voting meetings. They discussed what the student would be doing to help with the board. They hope to have a representative from each high school to attend the September board meeting.

There was a discussion on the discipline policies, JGD/JGE, JFC and JFCF. They discussed the options for expulsion and long term suspension and the differences. One of the questions asked was if we long term or expel a child, are there any services out there for them? If a child has a disability or IEP, there are some accommodations. There was a discussion on being able to offer classes to students at their own cost. The board would like it communicated to administrators to only use expulsion if they have to.

Dr. Arbogast discussed a request from GHS to add more courses (NRCC Music Appreciation and a Foreign Language Elective).

Dr. Arbogast stated that he put together a spreadsheet and sent it to schools so they can sign up for weeks to put an article in the Virginian Leader.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Amber Nelson attended an activity over at the Moss Arts center in June. She was asked there what her needs were for art in Giles Co. They offered assistance on funding for an additional art teacher. Dr. Arbogast is unsure of all the details, but he will gather more information.

Dr. Arbogast discussed information from a group wanting to use Giles High School. He discussed it with our attorney to get his opinion. The attorney would not recommend signing off to use it more than a year at a time. He showed board members a new facility use form that was sent to him from our attorney for them to review. There was a discussion on insurance coverage.

Dr. Arbogast stated that it was requested from Bland for Mrs. Lawson to assist them with their cafeterias and in turn pay us \$5,000. Dr. Arbogast is not comfortable with that. She is currently helping Bland County, but will help them on her own time.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk