

May 9, 2016

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 6:00 PM on May 9th, 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. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Gentry and unanimous voting, approved the agenda.

Mr. Andy Wilburn attended the meeting to address the School Board regarding his son Brevin. He discussed his junior/senior year in high school and how important it was to have math classes, especially for college reasons. He stated that a few weeks ago, they get a letter regarding the test their son would have to take and pass to get into the LPN program at the Tech Center. Mr. Wilburn stated that they bought books and apps to help their son with the test. They then received a letter stating that their son did not meet the requirements to get into the LPN program (by 3 points in the reading portion). He then spoke to Mrs. Fontaine about the requirements. He made an appointment and met with Mr. Fowler. He stated that Brevin has done great in his first year. He discussed his conversation with Mr. Fowler during the appointment. He then met with Dr. Arbogast and Dr. Arbogast stated that there was nothing that could be done. Mr. Wilburn read the vision statement for Giles County Public Schools. He stated that he sent a FOIA request for "TEAS-test scores" in nursing and shared the information with board members. Mr. Wilburn stated that he was told "55" was the cut off, but he has let people in with a score of "54.8". Mr. Wilburn stated that something was wrong with the program. Mr. Wilburn stated that Mr. Fowler does not visit the nursing classroom. Mrs. McMahon and Mr. Gentry stated that they feel Mr. Fowler is behind all of his programs. Mr. Gentry stated that we do need to be precise/consistent when it comes to the "55" score and to prepare the child and give notice/requirements for the test. Mr. Steele asked what Mr. Wilburn was asking of this board. Mr. Wilburn stated that he is upset his son did not get into the LPN program. He wishes he would have known the reading was the most important, he wouldn't have pushed math onto him and he feels that the school did not prepare him. Mr. Wilburn stated that Mr. Fowler stated that Brevin could reapply in a year or apply for the RN program at NRCC. Board members stated that there is a full class already in place going in the LPN program. Mr. Wilburn doesn't feel the process was fair to his son. Mr. Gentry questioned whether Brevin could take the test again now. Mr. Steele asked if there were others who did not pass the test who may want to take it again if they had the option. Mr. Wilburn stated that he hopes it doesn't discourage Brevin to continue. Board members discussed looking into the program and the requirements of this program. Dr. Arbogast is going to gather some information for School Board members.

Mrs. Lawson attended to discuss cafeteria personnel with board members. Dr. Arbogast stated that he met with two groups of cafeteria ladies, per their request. The bottom line from the conversations was that they wanted their hourly rate increased. Mrs. Lawson stated that they talked to area school systems around us. There are currently 7 cafeteria employees who are currently on our health insurance. She distributed information on cafeteria staff hourly rates, which shows that the salaries are inconsistent and all over the place. A salary scale was presented to board members for cafeteria staff. Board members discussed the financial statuses of the cafeterias and how the scale would affect them. Mrs. Lawson stated that she had some ideas of how to increase the free/reduced lunch count. There was more discussion on free/reduced lunch, as well as the cafeteria employee salary scale. There was also a discussion on cafeteria employee benefits, including personal and sick leave days. Also, there was a discussion on possibly increasing cafeteria manager hours to 8 per day and making them FLSA exempt. Dr. Arbogast will share the information with the principals to make sure they are okay with the salary scale.

Mrs. McMahon stated there was information from the attorney general on the public not addressing personnel issues in open session, which we have never allowed. Our policy says that we are not going to allow them. The attorney general says that we are taking away the rights by not allowing them too. Her question to the School Board is, "do we continue to follow our policy?" Mr. Gentry stated that we should follow the attorney general orders. Mrs. McMahon stated that if something comes up at the next board meeting, she would state that the board would appreciate it if they did not speak on personnel.

Mr. Wilburn discussed RAD equipment and whether we will have the funds to help pay for it. Dr. Arbogast stated that he does not know at this time.

Dr. Arbogast went into discussing the budget. He stated that best case scenario, we may have \$100K carry over money. Without having two teacher assistants, the amount requested to the Board of Supervisors was \$299K. If we have 3 new teacher assistants, the amount was \$342K. There was a discussion on how much savings there would be on new hires. He stated that it's hard to anticipate how much carry over money we may have because all the bills still have to be paid for the next two months, including buying a new drivers education car. Mr. Steele asked the Board's thoughts on only doing 1% raise for administrators instead of the 2%. The other 4 board members immediately disagreed. Dr. Arbogast stated that the principals wouldn't be happy if they only give 1%. Most of the principals are SOQ funded, so we would need to do the 2% raise. There was a lengthy discussion on how to adjust the budget to get to where we need to be. There was a discussion on what to do with raises since we won't have state monies for raises until December.

Chairman

Clerk