

November 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:30 p.m. on November 10, 2016 at the School Board Office. A work session was held at 1:00 p.m. that day. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard
Eric G. Gentry (Work Session Only)
Drema K. McMahan, Chairman
Stephen M. Steele
Mark A. Wilburn

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

WORK SESSION

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

The first order of business was to follow up with the information discussed at the last work session about the age limit/requirement to be in the Alternative Education Program (AEP). Dr. Arbogast stated that there are no age restrictions through Project Return as long as the kids were school aged 5 – 22. He stated that there is an opportunity to take the age limit out. Board members agreed to have Dr. Arbogast adjust the policy and bring it back to the next meeting. They would like for the age group to be increased from 6 – 12th grade. Mrs. McMahan stated that this would be to help the “at-risk” kids to keep them away from long term suspension. Also, if a student is long term suspended or expelled, they could have an option to go into AEP. Dr. Arbogast is going to check with our attorney to see if we can use the AEP if a child is long term suspended or expelled.

Board members discussed staff absenteeism briefly and decided to continue this at the board retreat.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the phone system at Giles High School. He stated that he spoke with an individual at PEMTEL. There were 3 new phones for the 3 extensions ordered for Giles High School.

The next item discussed was the memorial gift for Mr. Larry Marion. An email was sent back to Ms. Lucas letting her know that it was approved by the School Board. Dr. Arbogast asked her to follow up with Mr. Matney on details. Mr. Ballard stated that he had an email asking about how the football fields were named if the board did not approve naming the auditorium after Mr. Greer at NHS. It will be communicated back with the individual that a plaque is in the works. Mr. Wilburn stated that he has had some individuals contact him about wanting to name the GHS Bandanna Bar after Mr. Marion.

Mrs. McMahan stated that the schedule for nursing for next year is already being addressed.

Mrs. McMahan stated that the Uninitiative Program was shared with the Principals from Dr. Arbogast and Mr. Franklin. The Uninitiative program is designed to be able to eliminate “clutter” that has been in place for a long period of time for teachers. It is intended to remove items that would allow teachers more time that could be more effectively used in the instructional setting. The board is going to offer a first place (\$100), second place (\$75) and third place (\$50) award for the best ideas.

Dr. Arbogast and Rhonda Tickle discussed questions and concerns about the budget update/procedures. He and Mrs. Tickle need to know exactly what the board wants as far as budget and what the board wants to see in the future. Mr. Ballard wants to see “say if our budget is 27 million and the county is kicking in another 4 million on debt service, custodial, and bus service...we need to know what those costs are because at the end of the year when you divide it out and you have costs per pupil.” Mrs. Tickle stated that everything is reflected. The School Board reimburses the County for the school part for our custodians, garage and maintenance. He would like to know what those costs are for bus service, maintenance and garage. Mr. Ballard asked if the individuals do time sheets to which building they are in. Mrs. Tickle stated that they track certain things, but not to that magnitude. Dr. Arbogast stated that we pay for the materials, labor and benefits that pertains to our custodians, maintenance and garage. Mr. Gentry stated that we have all these personnel and we budget a certain amount for a certain teacher and all that is lumped in together, but during the course of a fiscal year, we hire in and out. He would like to see where we really are money wise as far as staff leaving and new ones being replaced. Mrs. Tickle stated that what she

sent is current. Mrs. Tickle stated that we had minor changes in bookkeeping and it was not shown on the sheet because it wasn't a big change. Mr. Gentry stated that there was a change in Administration. Mrs. Tickle stated that there was an overall savings of 55K and she didn't break them out because there were so many changes. She stated that right now, we have spent \$140K in personnel that was not in the original budget. Mr. Steele stated that last year when he was looking at the budget, the document should be more usable for everyone. Mrs. Tickle stated that before the budget meeting, she gave everyone a book with a breakup of everything including salaries/personnel/contractual information and not one person opened the book. She stated that everything that we have as an expense must be showed on expenditures for the schools. Mrs. Tickle explained the process of how the buses were bought and the reimbursement. Mr. Ballard asked for the purposes of driving costs down, if there was a number if we want to put out for bid custodial services for Giles County Public Schools, is there a figure where we can have a head count and how many hours it is going to take. Mrs. Tickle stated that there was because it is 8 hours per day and 365 days/year. In the last budget when the custodial, garage and maintenance employees were included in the schools (15-16), the schools budgeted \$794K for those people, without benefits. If you calculate benefits, that puts you at \$813K. The schools were paying \$1.2 million for everything. Right now, we are paying \$913K with the County doing it. Mrs. Tickle stated that if we were to put that out for bid, there are currently 30 individuals who may or may not have a job, may or may not have benefits/health insurance, who live and work in Giles County that support our tax base who wouldn't have it any longer. Mr. Steele stated that we aren't running "welfare" either so if we can run a better business and it makes sense for us (not saying that we do that), but we would never make a decision based on making sure someone keeps a job if there was a better financial way to do it. Mrs. Tickle stated that the one time initial savings (rough figure) for the county taking over custodians, garage and maintenance is roughly \$200K because they did increase salaries for the custodians. Mr. Steele stated that he understands, but as the school board, we still need to continue monitoring money for joint services. We need to do a better job with monitoring hours for School Board and County. Mr. Steele doesn't want them to feel like they aren't trusted, but would like it monitored because over time it could add up. Mr. Ballard stated that he is still hearing complaints about things not being done in the school. Mr. Steele stated that he doesn't feel like we are getting the service that we used to have. Mrs. McMahon asked board members what they were hearing about the services. Mr. Franklin stated that the high schools state that they need more work in the locker rooms, gymnasiums, auditoriums, trash cans and athletic events. Mr. Steele stated that it doesn't seem like we are getting the services that we need because we may not have enough people. He doesn't have any complaints about the staff that we currently have. Dr. Arbogast and Mr. Franklin are going to speak to John Mills about concerns that are being shared to the School Board. Mr. Steele stated that he doesn't want anyone to be upset, but wants them to know about the concerns and stated that it needs to be track. He stated that the county seems to be comfortable with the joint services, but it doesn't seem that we are getting the service that we need. He knows that John Mills would do everything in his power to help, but maybe it's not being communicated to him. Mrs. McMahon stated that the building administrators have said in the past that everything is going okay, but it seems now that something is different. Mr. Franklin stated that he wasn't sure if we were able to get sub custodians; Mrs. Tickle stated that we had sub custodians. Mr. Steele would like for the Board of Supervisors to see where the School Board is throughout the year as far as budget. He would like them to know the School Board's concern throughout the year. Mrs. McMahon stated that she would like for everyone to not overstep their boundaries and not ask overworked staff for stuff as far as itemization if they could be given a "blanket statement". Mrs. McMahon asked Mrs. Tickle if there was any time that she has ever felt that you didn't understand fully the budget and where money is going. Mrs. Tickle stated that she perfectly understands. She stated that she knows what she has to do to get where she needs to go. She stated she has done this for 9 years – never been short and always gotten what we needed to get – she knows what she is doing. Mr. Steele asked her if she thought that this request is saying that she doesn't know what she is doing. She stated "sometimes." Board members said that isn't the case. Mr. Steele stated that he needs to know as much as possible when going to the Board of Supervisors with information. Mrs. Tickle stated that she knows it's hard for them to fathom that she can sit at a desk and not cross those lines with school and county, but she does and takes what she does very seriously. Mrs. Tickle stated that last year, she thought that we could get \$300K from the Board of Supervisors and instead were given \$150K. Mr. Steele thinks that it is because we weren't messaging early enough ahead. Mr. Steele stated that the pressure has to start now for them (the BOS) to not be able to tell us all you are getting is \$300K and it should be illegal for them to tell us that without even knowing what they are voting on. Mrs. Tickle is stating that it is hard to raise taxes. It is not an easy vote. Dr. Arbogast wants to know what they need to see from him and Mrs. Tickle so they will have a better understanding and have a better conversation with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Steele stated that he wants to know now as much as possible where they are going to accuse us of having more money than we need. Mrs. Tickle stated that there is no extra money. Mr. Steele stated that there is no way for the school system to increase funds. Mrs.

Tickle stated that there is no way for the county to increase funds unless taxes are raised. Mrs. Tickle discussed in depth the budget so far with School Board members, including personnel/benefits. We anticipate losing at least \$13K in federal forest service money. We will not know until April whether we get that money or not. The governor has declared he is not giving the money for raises. We are already \$9K as of November 7th below where we were on sales tax as of this time last year. She doesn't not anticipate that we will receive all of the sales tax that we have budgeted. Right now, the budget is short with expenses that have occurred, but with the prepayment of fuel and the ADM being up, she thinks we will be fine with the overall budget. We will have a better idea in March of where we are budget wise. Mr. Wilburn stated that we need to educate the public on our school system and how we need help. Board members stated that they were really concerned about teacher salaries. Mrs. Tickle stated that they could try to give the teachers a raise if they have some teachers retire. Board members stated that they think most of the public wouldn't mind to have a tax increase if they knew it was going towards education. Mrs. McMahon stated that even coaching salaries were cut several years ago and they still aren't back up to where they were then. Mr. Steele stated that if we don't continue to increase salaries, our teacher quality is not going to be as good. Mr. Steele stated that we depend on the Board of Supervisors to help us with funds. Mrs. McMahon stated that they compare their staff to ours when it comes to getting a raise when our teachers have a bachelors and/or masters. Mr. Steele stated that they can't be lumped all in one pot because every person has a different job and qualifications. Mr. Wilburn stated that he would be willing to raise taxes. Mrs. McMahon asked if someone from the County is actively seeking new businesses' and Mrs. Tickle stated yes, but we don't have the infrastructure to get a lot of it. Mr. Ballard asked if the idea has ever been kicked around (because we need jobs) about getting a new Industrial Director and make it a full time job instead of Chris splitting time between the County Administrator and IDA. Mrs. Tickle said she was not able to answer that. Mr. Ballard asked how long the tax breaks last on the Celanese project. Mrs. Tickle stated that she thinks 3 years, but she is not 100% sure. Mrs. Tickle asked again what they want budget wise. Mr. Steele stated that he wishes there was a way that "regular" people could understand. Mr. Steele stated that his concern is making the Board of Supervisors realize that we are doing what we can with what money we have and we don't have any money left. Mrs. Tickle stated that she does not share stuff with anyone unless she is told too – she asked if the School Board wants the budget information sent to the Board of Supervisors. Board members stated yes, as long as an explanation is given.

Mrs. McMahon discussed our contract with Giles County for shared services that was developed back in 2014. A revised contract was sent to board members a few months ago. Mr. Ballard would like to make sure it is reread. His concern is that not one employee works for us that is in our buildings. He spoke with VaCorp on some of his concerns. He was told to make sure we have authorized drivers on our vehicles. There was further discussion on liability of employees. Mr. Ballard stated that language should be included that states that the only individuals authorized to drive county vehicles are county employees (and not inmates). Dr. Arbogast will make some changes and bring it back to the School Board.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's November 10th, 2016 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Brad Whitehead attended the School Board meeting to present a recognition suggestion. He would like for the Board to give recognition to the educators who have meant so much to Giles High School and the community over their time of service. He discussed creating a 7 member committee to evaluate potential recipients once every other year. The committee would set parameters for those nominated to be considered. Those nominated by the committee and approved by the board would have a room, athletic facility or other area significant to the recipient named after them with a brief ceremony for the school staff, recipients family and school board to attend. Mr. Wilburn asked if he was talking about classrooms. Mr. Whitehead said it could be about anything (i.e. – chorale room, math wing, etc.). He stated it could even be a Wall of Honor. Mrs. McMahon stated that the School Board has recently addressed a current policy in regards to recognition. Dr. Arbogast stated that the School Board did approve a Wall of Honor at last month's board meeting.

There were no comments on the 2017-2018 school budget.

PRESENTATIONS

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

1. Carilion Giles Community Hospital – Kristie Williams

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – October 19th, 2016

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include October 31st, 2016
2. Payment of Bills to include October 13th, 20th and 27th, 2016
5. Appropriation Request for October 2016
TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
RE: December 2016 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of December 2016. This is for the sixth 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. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Kyle Chafin – GHS Boys Basketball, Mickey Williams – GHS Boys Basketball
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Retirement**: John Jenkins – GHS Bus Driver (10-28-16)
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following Substitute Teachers to date.
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved Policy Revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Mr. Steele stated that he had a really good experience with Eastern career day. There was a lot of community involvement.

Mr. Steele stated that when he ran for election, there was a lot of discussion on consolidation and how it should be discussed again. He stated that our job as board members and community leaders is to get out from the private cab and make the right decision for our kids. This issue and several others – the board is dedicated to find out what is best for the

taxpayers and most importantly, for our kids. The board hasn't had a chance to discuss it, but it is on the agenda to discuss, and he doesn't know what is going to come out of it, but it needs to be some facts whether it is the right thing or not to do. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks more than anything, we need a middle school in our county. He stated that 13 year olds should not be going to the same dances or functions as 20 or 22 year olds. He stated that is the only thing he will add to that.

Mr. Wilburn congratulated all of the sports teams on their seasons!

Mr. Ballard stated that he has touched base with the principals on the western end and are having a great year so far. He stated that Chrissy Dunn stated that the archery program is going well.

Mr. Ballard also congratulated all of the sports teams this fall.

Mrs. McMahan stated that the Tech Center annual meeting was last week and well attended. It was a great meeting and shows how well our students and teachers do.

Mrs. McMahan stated that she did go to the Shelor Motor Mile Talent Show. The finalists from our high schools did an outstanding job. It was well represented by our student population.

Mrs. McMahan stated that the SkillsUSA district competition will be at the Giles Tech Center this year. They will need lots of volunteers.

Dr. Arbogast encouraged the board members to see the archery program.

Dr. Arbogast stated that enrollment as of yesterday was 2,404.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Fox news is scheduled to be here today to get some footage of the Ag Lab.

Dr. Arbogast stated that Ben Woods will be presenting at the VSBA Annual Convention regarding the Ag Lab.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the ACCE Appreciation Dinner was held on October 25th. It was a nice evening for our past graduates that are a part of this and thanks to the individuals who made donations and for their support of this program.

Dr. Arbogast thanked all the individuals who helped with the Career Day at Eastern. Thanks to Mr. Mills & Ms. Warwick for arranging this.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we recently went through our Summer Food Audit. Based on information we received back, we had no deficiencies. Thanks to Mrs. Lawson for all she has done on this.

Dr. Arbogast stated that they are working on the Ocean Project at Eastern and have made some progress on it.

Dr. Arbogast wished several sports team good luck as they play this week and weekend.

Emily Santolla stated that she was excited to send off a couple individuals for Cross Team, the volleyball team and then football. They had spirit week this week and everyone was excited about it.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Mr. Husband and the Tech Center for the Advisory Committee dinner last week.

Dr. Arbogast and Mrs. McMahan thanked Mr. Morris for attending the School Board meeting.

Mr. Steele asked about the evaluations for the coaches from the fall seasons. Mr. Franklin stated that they were currently

working on them now. He also stated that as of now, no concerns have been voiced.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Contracts: Morgan Atkins – GHS 8th Grade Girls Basketball, Austin Cooper – GHS 8th Grade Boys Basketball, Scotty Potter – GHS JV Boys Basketball, Dean Marshall – GHS JV Girls Basketball

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following Field Trip: Kevin Riley/Choir – March 4-5, 2017 to SWVA Comm. College for All District Concert.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved the following Employment – Steve Garner – Bus Driver (GHS).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, December 15th 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