

**Giles County Public Schools
Regular School Board Meeting**

April 13, 2004

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2004
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for May 2004
- Special Education Annual Plan

***Recognition**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were selected for their outstanding efforts: Ricky Wilson – Outstanding Service/Daylight Shift, NEMS; Barbara St. Leger – Dedication to “Read Across America”/EEMS; Carolyn McConnell – Dedication to NHS; and Tonya Vaden – Efforts with Career Scope/GHS.

***Educational Feature**

Rick Franklin, NEMS Principal attended the meeting to introduce Beth Frazier, 5th Grade teacher, who brought students with her. After she introduced them, they presented how to build a “whopper” as a creative instructional strategy to prepare for the SOL writing exam. Students who participated were Nikki Mullins, Abby Davis, Tessa Williams, Phillip Parr, and Robbie Wills. Each student read various writings while one by one they added to an imitation whopper that was being built on an easel. The climax of the evening was when the students presented Board members and Mr. Franklin with a real Burger King “Whopper” in appreciation for their support! What a great presentation!

***The School Board Approves/Confirms Personnel and Contractual Items**

The School Board approved the non-reappointments as well as the appointments, re-appointments, and transfers of all personnel as recommended by principals and administration, contingent upon receipt of notification of necessary state funding. At this time there is no approved state budget for 2004-05.

The School Board confirmed the following: Retirements, effective the end of 2003-04 school year and participating in ERIP 2004-05, with 30 or more years of service in Giles County, therefore eligible for hospitalization coverage until Medicare eligible: Becky O’Dell, Barbara Whitehead, Mary Ann Graham, and Kerry Dowell. Also confirmed was the resignation of Deborah Havens, effective the end of 2003-04.

The School Board confirmed all substitute custodians and teachers to date, including 20 day employees.

The School Board reviewed an easement request from the Town of Pearisburg, and approved it contingent upon our attorney’s questions being answered which included verifying the location of the easement as not to interfere with student safety. The easement will be a part of the “Sidewalk Project” the town is implementing.

The School Board approved the following RFP’s:

- RFP No. 5-2004 to low bidder, State Farm Insurance for fleet insurance.
- RFP No. 6-2004 to low bidder, John Alderson for liability insurance.
- Quote to VML for Worker’s Comp Insurance.

***The School Board Hears Reports from the Superintendent**

- The School Board approved a proposed budget for the 2004-05 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The budget is a plan and until state revenue is known, it is an estimate of expenditures and revenues. The proposed budget amount is \$20,806,655.

- The School Board approved the proposed calendar for the 2004-05 school year with the following amendment. A motion was made and seconded to remove the graduation dates from calendar. Voting was unanimous and the calendar was then approved. A statement will replace the dates - "Graduation dates will be set by the School Board by March 15, 2005".

The School Board also discussed the issue of beginning school before Labor Day starting in the 2005-06 school year. After lengthy discussion the consensus was to ask the 2004-05 Calendar Committee to reconvene and discuss the issue once more. The Board reviewed different avenues for beginning before Labor Day but no action was taken. They requested that the 2004-05 Calendar Committee revisit the issue.

- For the instructional update, Pat Whittaker of Adventure Communications attended the meeting to share a presentation "Keystrokes for Kids". Jackie Evans, GTC Electronics Instructor also attended to introduce Ms. Whittaker and to enlighten Board members on the project his students had taken on regarding refurbishing computers for needy families that were distributed through J104 radio station. The first year 2 computers were given away with only Mercer County participating, and the second year 39 computers were distributed, with 4 counties participating, Mercer, Giles, Tazewell and Monroe. Last Christmas was the third year for the project and 70 computers were given away, being refurbished by 6 counties – Giles, Tazewell, and Russell in VA and Monroe, Mercer and Wyoming in WV. Ms. Whittaker commented it is hopeful to reach well over 100 computers in December 2004. She also stated that the beauty of the program is that it is multi-faceted. Computers are awarded to students who desperately need them, but watching the students that have worked on the computers when they see the children receive them is worth just as much. The students that refurbish them are genuinely touched when they see they have helped another child. Mr. Evans commented that you could see the light in a student's eyes when they realized they were a part of a child receiving a computer during the Christmas season. She ended with a Powerpoint presentation of pictures of students and radio commentators interviewing various folks that have worked with the program. The positive comments were numerous and the achievements overwhelmingly successful! After all, giving is what it is all about!

***Other Action...**

The School Board approved a scholarship as requested by the 1987 Narrows High School Class. The Lexi R. Thompson Memorial Scholarship will be presented to a Giles County Senior beginning in 2004, and every even year thereafter in the amount of \$500.

The School Board approved a resolution in honor of the upcoming "Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week" May 2-8, 2004. The Board wishes to recognize all employees for the outstanding jobs they do.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The School Board scheduled their next meeting for Thursday, May 20, 2004, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at 5:15 PM.

***Positive Comments**

- The School Board commended Mrs. Frazier and the NEMS students for an outstanding educational feature. The "whoppers" were a nice surprise!
- Board members commended Giles County law enforcement and our schools for working together during the recent safety issues. It gives comfort to know our law and administration can work together to maintain a safe environment. It helps us to feel our children are safe.
- Board members were extremely impressed with the energy education numbers. It is already proven to be a cost effective program for our school system!
- The robot created at the Governor's School that can throw a ball placed 26 out of 63 in recent competition. Congratulations!

- Mr. Whitehead distributed handouts of several other competitions that involved Governor's School students. Giles County students placed in the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair and the VA Jr. Academy of Science as well. Congratulations!
- GHS/Governor's School student, Ryan Olson qualified to compete in the National Science Fair in Portland, Oregon. Good job!
- NEMS recently held their Character Counts Assembly, which they tied in with the 100 year celebration for the Town of Narrows. It was very interesting, seeing different folks from different eras.
- Thanks were conveyed to Pat Whittaker for her outstanding presentation. The Board also commended GTC for being involved. It is a great program!
- Board members noticed the memorial for Beverly Harvey in front of the School Board Office and conveyed they were pleased to see the tribute to her.
- The Superintendent recently attended the GTC Capping Ceremony and commented the success of the adults in that program is highly commendable.