

News Release

April 8, 2003

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2003
- Special Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2003 and April 3, 2003
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,812,508.61
- Payrolls
- Appropriation Request for June 2003
- Declaration of Surplus Items

***Pledge of Allegiance**

The School Board Chairman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Fowler, Principal of the Giles County Technology Center, attended the meeting to introduce Eddie Williams, Building Trades Instructor and student, Scottie Williams, who demonstrated interesting equipment that is used in the Building Trades Program. They demonstrated a laser level (David White Torpedo Level) that is used in plumbing and other professions as well. It can be used to locate drill holes, find a slope on pipes, and also for drop ceiling purposes. They also demonstrated a Stanley Intelli-Measure that figures square and cubic feet. Board members enjoyed “practicing” with the devices and brushing up on their skills somewhat. Mr. Williams also updated the School Board regarding the house that is being built at the Tech. Center. He stated the size of the house is 1352 square feet (52' by 26') and will go out for bid once it is completed. Currently they are still working on installing cabinets and plumbing. It is hopeful to sell and move the house by next year, in order to prepare for another housing project. Mr. Williams expressed his appreciation to Mr. Fowler and the School Board for their continued support of the project.

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

- The Board approved all appointments, non-reappointments and transfers as recommended by principals and administration for the 2003-04 school year, including schools, bus drivers, Maintenance/Garage, and School Board Office.
- The Board approved the retirement of Reba Warner, effective the end of 2002-03, with participation in the “20 Day” Plan for 2003-04.
- The Board confirmed a request from Sam Level, to rescind his letter of non-retirement that was submitted to the Board at their March 2003 meeting. Mr. Level’s request is to do ERIP for the 2003-04 school year, with the 30 years service w/health insurance benefits.
- The Board also confirmed the following: Resignation of Lisa Warstler, effective the end of the 2002-03 school year; employment of Doris May, NHS Custodian, effective April 2, 2003;

employment of Whitney Turner, GHS Math Teacher for the 2003-04 school year; and employment of Kim Tilley, GHS Bookkeeper, effective April 10, 2003.

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

- The School Board discussed the 2003-04 Calendar Committee's recommended proposed calendar at length and moved to table the calendar, asking that the committee revisit the issue of no make-up days on the calendar for first semester. The Board also discussed the possibility of starting school before Labor Day in 2004-05. That discussion was also tabled until a later date. The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve a "ten minute" plan beginning April 14, 2003 through the remainder of this school year, to serve as make-up time for missed school days. The Board approved the recommendation, which allows buses to run five minutes earlier in the mornings and five minutes later in the evenings daily through the end of this year.
- The principals attended the meeting to present information regarding the Social Studies/History Curriculum/Breakout Testing possibilities. Each principal explained their faculty's preference regarding the testing, and the Board approved each school's plan as recommended.
- The secondary principals also gave their faculty views regarding extra incentive points (5 and 10) on SOL testing. Both schools/faculties agree that the points should be eliminated. Although it is important to use incentives to help students strive to do well on SOL tests, it is just as important that the grade given be the grade earned. Following discussion, the Board approved the recommendation.
- The Superintendent updated the Board regarding Narrows High School Bleachers. It was the recommendation to accept the architect's Option 2 for the repair/renovation of the bleachers that authorizes the work be completed by the School Board and County staff. The option applies to seating area on the home side only. Visitor bleachers are inspected annually and are currently in good condition. The Board approved the recommendation of Option 2.

***School Board Takes Action on Other Items**

- The School Board approved a field trip for two GTC students to attend the national VICA competition in Kentucky in June 22-28, 2003. Alvin Jones and Sandra Kelley will be the attending teachers.
- The School Board approved the advertisement of the housing project being built at the Giles County Technology Center, as soon as it is completed.
- The School Board set their next regular meeting for Tuesday, May 6, 2003, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. Should a closed session be necessary, it will be held at 5:15 PM.

***School Board and School Staff Present Comments and Mission Statement Accomplishments**

- The School Board members were extremely appreciative to the Board of Supervisors for their approval of the 2003-04 School Board budget. It is always good to work through the questions and concerns annually, and still leave the table in agreement. Thanks to the Board of Supervisors for going that extra mile for the school system and for their continuing support each year!
- The Board commended the Giles County Technology Center for their educational feature. It is always a pleasure hearing updates from the vocational programs. They especially commended the housing project, stating that this type of project was started about twenty years ago and has been ongoing. It is good to see students using everyday application in something that could be their livelihood later in life. It is hopeful there will be more involvement with the community and Tech. Center. It's certainly a place to be proud of!

- It was commented that it is good textbooks are being reviewed. And also that the social studies/history issue is being resolved.
- Pat Duncan, Governor's School Director is hopeful to propose that high school teachers be invited to visit to learn about the operation of the Governor's School.
- At least one student from Marion will be attending the Governor's School next year. That is very impressive, with the amount of travel involved.
- Mr. Whitehead distributed invitations to the May 8th Governor's School Awards Banquet to be held at New River Community College.
- The Superintendent shared with the Board the plans for 7th grade trips. Elementary principals have met and decided that unless we go into a "higher alert" regarding the war or if something drastic should happen in our country, they will continue with the plans for the 7th grade trips. School Resource Officers will be traveling with students.
- The Superintendent shared results of the School Renewal Team (SACS) that recently reviewed our secondary school plans. They were impressed with both high schools and had several commendations for each regarding their school renewal efforts. Good job!
- The Superintendent reminded the School Board that they will be hosting the next Intergovernmental meeting on April 28, 2003 at the Giles County Technology Center, 6:00 PM. A tour of the Tech. Center will begin at 5:00 for anyone who has not had the opportunity to walk through. The Superintendent commended GTC saying it's a great program with great faculty members, and it is important to make it better known. Several folks had called asking for directions for the Intergovernmental Meeting.