

**News Release**  
**Giles County Public Schools**  
**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**December 9, 2003**

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2003
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for January 2004
- Confirmation of Surplus Items

**\*Recognition**

The Board recognized Jay Williams, outgoing Board of Supervisors' Member, for his twelve years of dedicated service and support to the school system as a Supervisors' member.

The Board recognized the elementary Christmas Card winners for their outstanding artwork: Brittany Boone – MMS; Raven Cole – EEMS; and Allen Oney – NEMS. The three students received certificates of congratulations. \$15 gift certificates to Walmart were later presented to them by their principals on behalf of the School Board.

The Board recognized Narrows High School for their efforts in serving as a community shelter during the November 19<sup>th</sup> flood. Those assisting with the shelter were: Rowdy Stump, Steve Brady, Linda St. Clair, Nancy Millirons, Eric Dalton, Mike Umberger, and Jon Bowman.

The Superintendent and Board Chairman recognized those recommended by the Professional Advisory Council the following for their outstanding efforts: Patricia Jacobs – Andrew Johnston House Museum/Children's Educational Programs and Claude Wimmer - \$500 VEA Grant Award for School Supplies.

**\*Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**\*Educational Feature**

Mr. Stump, NHS Principal, attended the meeting and introduced two NHS Math teachers who presented the educational feature. Alletha Morrison gave an overview of the Math 8 rotation schedule for students, which has been extremely beneficial to both students and teachers. She commented that the rotating block has been successful and affords teachers more time to work with students and students more time to learn. Angie Nottingham presented the Jeopardy math game that she had created on Powerpoint by linking math questions to math answers, specifically pertaining to SOL's. Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Nottingham both acknowledged that the students are much more interested when playing a math game. It creates more learning and students seem to retain the knowledge better. Bingo is also another game that has been formatted for math. It was a very interesting presentation!

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

- The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year: Wanda Stump – ASAEP/GED Program, GTC, November 1, 2003 – June 11, 2004; Teresa Akers – GHS Part-time Health Assistant/Student Specific Assistant – 4.5 Hours Per Day; PALS Remediation Part-time: EEMS – Jean Vogler, Margaret Journell, Brenda Martin; NEMS – Billie Jean Gautier. EEMS Volunteers – Lorrie Stevers and Wanda Looney; NHS Senior Sponsor – Larry Greer (filling in for Shelly Boggess).
- The Board confirmed the resignation of Linda St. Clair – NHS Part-time Health Assistant, effective December 5, 2003.
- The Board approved all substitute teachers to date including all current 20-day employees.

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

- The Superintendent commended school principals on having their biennial plans in place. He stated he is proud of the work of each school in preparing their plans along with the day-to-day tasks they have to do. They all continue to do a good job with good planning.
- The Superintendent asked Board members to contact their legislators as part of the legislative update, regarding the VRS initiative to become independent, which in turn would cause rates to increase to 8.1% from 3.7% and would cause localities to contribute close to 5% more. Therefore, VRS rates need to be lower for locality expense.
- In his budget review, the Superintendent stated that if the Governor's tax reform effort is not met, there will be no new revenue for school divisions. If the effort is met, it could drop the composite index from 31% to 29%.

### **\*In other action...**

- The School Board approved a two-hour early release for staff and students on December 19, 2003, which will be a make-up day due to recent inclement weather.
- The School Board approved the renewal of a five-year contract with VSBA Policy Services that assists the school division with policy and law by scrutinizing all policies before distributing them to school divisions.

### **Next School Board Meeting**

- The January 2004 Board Retreat/School Board meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, January 20, 2004 with the retreat beginning at noon, followed by a closed meeting at 4:00 PM and the regular Board meeting at 5:00 PM.

### **\*Positive Comments**

- Board members conveyed their sincere appreciation to Jay Williams for all of the support he had provided through the years to the school system as a Board of Supervisors member and is appreciated as a current employee (bus driver) as well. It was commented he would certainly be missed on the Board of Supervisors and it was difficult to truly know how to thank him for all he has done. Mr. Gollehon commented that in the past, Jay helped with the GHS Band by giving his time at no cost and being a great chaperone!
- Board members commented that they were pleased with the decisions made regarding the November 19<sup>th</sup> flood. Children and staff arrived home safely and many positive comments were heard regarding NHS 's service as a shelter.
- It is good to hear positive comments regarding the Family Preservation Program that is in place in elementary schools.
- Positive comments were a result of the recent visit of the Fire Marshal. She commented how well our school system worked with the mandatory regulations that are required to be in place. John Mills was also commended for the joint effort and continued support he gives the schools during the Fire Marshal's visits.
- Montgomery County still may be interested in sending students to the Governor's School next year, which means slots will have to be monitored carefully since a larger number of students may be applying. Also, the Governor's School is looking forward to grant money for a new building.
- The Board met with administrators during a quarterly meeting prior to the regular Board meeting and was very positive. It's always nice to sit down with administrators and talk about what is going on in the schools.

- Thanks were conveyed to Angie Nottingham and Alleta Morrison for their very informative presentation. It is comforting to know that teachers are continuing to work toward higher SOL scores!
- The Superintendent commented that the Energy Education Committee met this week and even though there was an 11page to-do list discussed, the committee was highly complimented by the Energy Ed. folks as being a very cooperative group of people to work with.