

News Release
December 10, 2002

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2002
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,383,709.76
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for February 2003
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***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Special Presentations**

The School Board held their meeting at Narrows High School with several presentations for recognition. All were awarded certificates of appreciation and congratulations.

Three elementary Christmas Card winners, along with their certificate of congratulations, also received a \$15 Walmart gift card from State Farm Insurance, Ben Wheeler Agent: Rene Jones – NEMS; Lyndsey Jackson – EEMS; and Tarah Myers – MMS.

For NHS Student Support: Nedra Thorn, Bryan Long and Jerry and Sandy Woodyard.

Four NHS ball teams and their coaches were recognized for their outstanding seasons: NHS Varsity Girls Basketball Team; NHS Varsity Football Team; 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team and NHS 8th/9th Grade Football Team.

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

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

The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year: Marlana Phelps – MMS Teacher, effective December 2, 2002; Janet Franklin – NEMS Part-time PALS Remediation 11/4/02 – 6/1/03; the disability retirement for Marguerite Good, effective January 1, 2003; and Todd Guynn as NHS Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach.

The Board approved the supplemental employment of Michael Etzler as GHS Newspaper Sponsor for the 2002-03 school year.

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

As part of the instructional update, the Superintendent commented on the quarterly meeting with administrators, which was held prior to the regular session. So many positive comments were given by administrators, which included the many programs that involve students while addressing the SOL's. Algebra Readiness is one that the Superintendent shared that is fully implemented this year. He also commented that due to the inclement weather, the testing window is being reviewed and hopefully, a decision on testing dates will be made prior to Christmas break.

As a part of the legislative update and budget review, the Superintendent encouraged Board members to accumulate all the information they can, regarding possible upcoming legislative action. VSBA has distributed information in the last two weeks and although not all the facts are available, various budget amendments regarding basic aid are likely. More information on the real issues should be presented between December 20th and the first of January that will help sort out facts from fiction. He also asked the Board members to consider to be available to travel to Richmond on January 27, 2003 so that Giles County can join others in making their presence known and show their concern of the state's budget situation to legislators. The Superintendent also shared information regarding VA's Record on Education Funding, saying that VA ranks 13th in the nation in per capita personal income, but only 44th in state government spending for schools based on that income. He reviewed some other points of interest and again reiterated that January 27, 2003 could be a very crucial day to be in Richmond.

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

The School Board approved RFP No. 9-2002 for services as specified, awarded to low bidder, Energy Education.

The School Board approved a resolution commending all school bus drivers for their continuing efforts, and especially on December 4, 2002 during the early release of students and extreme inclement weather.

The School Board confirmed December 13, 2002 for a meeting regarding review of the Career Opportunities Committee report, to be held at the Giles Technology Center at 1:00 PM.

The School Board set their next regular meeting for Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office.

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

Congratulations were conveyed to Dr. McCracken for recently receiving the "Making It Happen" Award at the December Technology Conference. The award was received for his continual efforts to bring our school system into the world of the most current technology. Mr. Whitehead commented that Dr. McCracken was one of those students that the guidance counselor had recommended to go to trade school and study to be an electrician. And lucky for us, he went much farther than that! There is a news release on the website for those who would like to share in his achievement. It can be found on the web at <http://sbo.gilesk12.org/> by clicking on Announcements and School Division Information.

It is so nice to continue to hear positive comments in the schools and in the community about the school administration. Mrs. McMahan also commented she is happy to be a part of that.

Congratulations were conveyed to all the NHS ball teams that were recognized. We are proud of all of you!

The School Board was complimentary of the students taking pride in their schools, since renovations have been completed. The buildings look great!

The School Board enjoyed their quarterly meeting with administrators prior to the regular session. It is always a pleasure to hear the concerns and positive comments from the school perspective.

The Superintendent also commented that it has taken a long time to get to a point where folks feel they can put concerns and comments on the table, with no repercussion. It's a good feeling to be able to do that.

Mrs. McMahan stated her concern of points being added to grades involving the SOL's, and how children are receiving those points. It was consensus that this issue should be discussed at the annual School Board Retreat, to be scheduled in February 2003.