

**Giles County Public Schools
News Release
February 17, 2004
Regular School Board Meeting**

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2004
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for March 2004
- Field Trip Requests to include GHS and Pulsar

***Recognition**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, School Board recognized the following for their outstanding efforts. They were presented a certificate of appreciation by the Superintendent and Board Chairman: Reverend Diane Jackson – GHS Volunteer; Marilyn Fields – GHS Volunteer; Babette Martin – GHS Teacher/Support of Distance Learning Lab.

Also, Jeff Young, GCPS Technology Administrator, was recognized for his continued technology support, specifically broadband access and constant network upgrades.

Also, Mrs. Barbara Hobbs, Board of Supervisors Chairperson, attended the meeting to distribute certificates to School Board members in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. She commented that it is a pleasure to have the continued good working relationship with the School Board.

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Educational Feature**

Brenda Hayes, EEMS Principal, attended the meeting to introduce teacher, Stel Molleur, and her two 7th grade students, Kelsey Snider and Zach McCann, who presented information and software regarding “dysgraphia”. Ms. Molleur explained dysgraphia to be a problem with the writing process that some students experience. She commented that the root of the problem is found within the processing system involved in sequencing, especially the motor movements which should be sequential and very automatic. She reviewed the signs of dysgraphia which includes illegible writing despite time and attention given to task; omitted words; unusual grip of pencil; inconsistent page position with respect to lines and margins; and mixtures of print and cursive writing, slant, shape and sizes of letters. Kelsey demonstrated the voice recognition portion of the software. By reading sentences on the computer into the microphone, each word would highlight when pronounced correctly at a good pace. It assists students in speaking more clearly and to read less fast. Zach demonstrated the punctuation portion of the software, where he would read all words and punctuations including commas and periods. In order for the computer to pick up the accurate words, the student must sit up straight, and speak loudly, slowly and clearly. It was extremely interesting for the Board members to see the software work through the students’ demonstrations.

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

- The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year: Jeff Spicer – EEMS Custodian, and James Meadows, NHS Custodian, both effective 2/16/04; all substitute custodians and substitute teachers to date including 20 day employees; and the transfer of Mike Smith to evening GHS custodian from evening EEMS custodian.
- The Board confirmed the resignation of Mike Umberger, effective 1/30/04.
- The Board approved the retirement of Susan Stafford, effective the end of the 2003-04
- The Board approved the employment of Crystal Perdue – GHS Special Ed. Teacher for the 2004-05 school year.

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

The Superintendent shared totals from the recent survey regarding beginning school before or after Labor Day and report card distribution every 6 or 9 weeks. Surveys were sent home to all parents, and it was posted on line for employees to complete. The totals were as follows:

Parent #'s	Staff #'s	Survey Choices
997	218	Prefer schools to open after Labor Day
576	61	Prefer schools to open before Labor Day
1270	194	Prefer report cards be distributed every six weeks
286	87	Prefer report cards be distributed every nine weeks

Dr. Webb voiced his concern of starting before Labor Day and the instructional time that is missed when there are numerous snow days, particularly at NHS on the block schedule. There was discussion among the Board regarding opening after Labor Day. The survey numbers will stand at this time with school beginning after Labor Day for the 2004-05 school year.

The Superintendent shared various bills in legislation as part of the legislative update. He commented that a resolution to take control of schools has moved forward, but is mainly directed at schools that have not met accreditation. He encouraged the Board members to talk to their legislators regarding No Child Left Behind.

As a part of the Instructional Update, the Superintendent announced the students from the Giles County Technology Center, who are the regional winners of the recent VICA competition. They are:

B. J. Sparks

Auto Service Technology
1st ~ District

Miranda Smith

Promotional Flyer
1st ~ District

Robbie Renqvist

Electronics Applications
1st ~ District

Scott Sevy

Electronics Technology
1st ~ District

Jessica Lucas & Kristy Sloan

Occupational Scrapbook
1st ~ District

Ben Davis & Cody Fisher

3D Visualization & Animation
2nd ~ District

Mark Bowman

Auto Maintenance
2nd ~ District

Ammani Parry

Architectural Drafting
2nd ~ District

David Kiser

Electronics Applications

2nd ~ District

Darrell Haymore

Promotional Flyer
3rd ~ District

Jeremiah Flack

Technical Drafting
1st ~ District

Amanda Atkins

Technical Illustration
1st ~ District

Justin Knight

Metals
1st ~ District

Phillip Fillinger

Plumbing
1st ~ District

Cody Fisher

Promotional Flyer
2nd ~ District

Darrell Haymore

Precision Machining
2nd ~ District

Paula Hyatt

Cosmetology
2nd ~ District

Alicia St. Clair

Technical Illustration

2nd ~ District

Robert Rash
Electronics Technology
3rd ~ District

Joey Gilmer
Technical Drafting
3rd ~ District

Next School Board Meeting

- The March 2004 School Board meeting was set for Tuesday, March 23, 2004 at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. Prior to the regular meeting, a quarterly meeting with administrators will be held at Giles High School at 5:30 PM. Should a closed session be necessary, it will be held prior to the quarterly meeting.

***Positive Comments**

- The Board members were very complimentary of the educational feature and how amazing it is to see what software can do for students, it is definitely good training. The teacher and students did a fine job in their presentation.
- Thanks were conveyed to Mr. Arbogast, the Athletic Directors and others involved in the “No Smoking” signs that were made for the outdoor events at the schools.
- A parent recently praised our school system to Mrs. McMahon, saying that teachers always welcome parents in our schools!
- As a member of the Health Advisory Committee, Mrs. McMahon shared that the committee recently met and discussed their interest in wellness and nutrition for students. They will be checking on grant availability for possible funds to begin a program for students.
- The Chairman commended the Superintendent and Mr. Arbogast for the fine job that has been done in calling schools off during inclement weather. It’s a tough call sometimes and they have done an excellent job.
- Congratulations were conveyed to all those recognized at the meeting and to the VICA winners. Good job!
- Mr. Whitehead distributed a list of 2004 Science Consortium winners from the Governor’s School. Giles County students included: Christopher Wood, Gloria Tuckwiller, Joseph Yost, Carly Correll, Kelly Givens, Laura Maxey, Greg Caldwell, Kelsey Gorrell, Kristine Bronnenkant, Amanda Rader, Jackie Devereaux, Jenna Carpenter, Andy Houck, Ryan Olson, Michael Chidester, Brittany Scott, Lorne Bowman and Sarah Woodyard.
- The Superintendent shared with the Board that he had met with the new sheriff, Byran Altizer recently. He was pleased to announce that Sheriff Altizer is making every effort to have deputies or himself at EEMS at bus release time, to maintain the traffic situation. Also, they were able to arrange for School Resource Officers (SRO’s) to work with fingerprinting at the School Board Office on Monday mornings 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM for potential school employees and volunteers who need to be processed. It was very encouraging to know that the Sheriff would like to see an SRO in each school in the future.