

News Release

February 19, 2003

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2003
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,926,084.21
- Payrolls
- Appropriation Request for April 2003
- Field Trip Request

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Special Presentations**

The School Board Chairman and Superintendent presented a plaque to GHS Varsity Football Cheerleading Squad – First Prize Regional Winner, 2002 Hometown High School Challenge Display Contest. Due to rescheduled sports, Kim Trenar accepted the plaque for the cheerleaders.

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 working relationship with the School Board, being able to work together well as years go by.

***Public Comments**

Cecilia McFaden, GEA President addressed the Board regarding budget issues and GEA concerns. Ms. McFaden was very appreciative of the Board's efforts toward teachers and brought to them handouts reflecting salary scale comparisons. On behalf of GEA, she stated that they want to protect the integrity of the scale. The feeling is that it is important to remain competitive for recruitment of teachers, with so many of our teachers close to retirement. She also distributed a GEA compensation proposal with the following requests: Current pay scale to be adjusted to render top pay to teachers when they reach year 28; that each step of the faculty pay scale be increased by 2.5%; that unused personal leave days be carried over to the following school year rather than be converted to sick leave, to accumulate to no more than 6; and that a joint committee of GEA and the school system study extra curricular activity compensation to produce recommendations for 2003-04 revisions. The Chairman explained to Mrs. McFaden that the Board wants to do everything they can for all employees, but does not want to build up hopes, when the budget issues that are faced this year are the worst we've seen. He also expressed his appreciation to GEA for their continued support and for lobbying in Richmond for our school system.

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

- The Board confirmed the following: Retirement of Judy Ray, effective the end of 2002-03, along with ERIP participation for the 2003-04 school year, and eligibility for thirty years of service with health insurance benefits; retirement of Kitty Martin, effective the end of 2002-03 with eligibility for thirty years of service with health insurance benefits; resignation of Cynthia Brame, effective the

end of 2002-03; and NHS volunteer coaches – Sara McGlothlin – Volleyball and Anna McCroskey – JV Cheerleading.

- The Board approved the supplemental employment of Kelly Lowe as Narrows High School Football Coach for the 2003-04 school year.
- The Board approved the transfer of Alleta Morrison as full-time math teacher at Narrows High School for the 2003-04 school year.
- The Board approved the following retirements along with ERIP participation for the 2003-04 school year, and eligibility for thirty years of service with health insurance benefits: Mary Beth Holton, Carole Johnston, and Sam Level.
- The Board approved David Graham in the supplemental position of Energy Management Educator for the school system, effective immediately.

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

- The School Board held their annual retreat prior to the regular meeting, beginning at noon. As a result of the retreat, the Board directed the Superintendent to review the following, bringing information back to the Board at a later date:
 - Evaluate coaching availability
 - Review After-Prom Survey w/Mr. Fowler
 - Review SOL Incentives
 - Review Labor Day Waiver – Dr. Webb asked that the 2003-04 Calendar Committee review the option of beginning school prior to Labor Day 2004-05

The Board approved the fee increase for PE uniforms at the secondary level, from \$16 to \$18.

- The Board approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and administration. The Superintendent presented information to the Board regarding a new regulation concerning student visits during school by the Department of Social Services and law enforcement. No action was taken regarding that regulation. The Superintendent will bring it back to the Board at a later date in draft form.

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

- The Board approved the deletion of all upcoming early releases in the school calendar as needed for make-up days. Should additional days need to be added as student days, the days listed will become make-up days for students as follows: Memorial Day/May 26; June 12; and June 13.
- The Board confirmed Compulsory Attendance Case No. CAR0203-1 as recommended.
- The Board confirmed RFP No. 1-2003, awarded to low bidder, Savin for duplicating paper.
- The Board approved the field trip for the PULSAR Retreat, April 9-11 at Camp Bethel.
- The School Board set their next regular meeting for Tuesday, March 18, 2003, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. The quarterly meeting with administrators will be held at Macy McClagherty School at 5:30 PM, prior to the regular session. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at 5:00 PM at Macy.

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

- The Board was very appreciative of the good food prepared by GEA and the Pearisburg Junior Women's Club in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Month.

- The Board felt they had a very productive day during their annual retreat. It's always nice to meet with the administrators to review school issues. New administrators were highly commended for their efforts and their attitudes of not being afraid of change.
- The major endeavor of the After-Prom Party has begun and all help is appreciated!
- The Bible Bus is having tremendous success with 97-98% of 7th graders participating from NEMS. The students were commended for their good behavior as well.
- Ten bus drivers recently successfully completed CPR training. Congratulations!
- Ryan Olson was congratulated for his recent "Solo Flight". Good job!
- Several Giles County students recently participated in the Governor's School Science Fair February 14 and 15.
- The Governor's School continues to get calls from parents in many counties asking how to get their child enrolled at the Governor's School. It continues to grow!
- Mrs. McMahon conveyed appreciation to Christy Lawson and SBO staff for their efforts and assistance in getting After-Prom letters out to businesses and community folks.
- The Superintendent conveyed appreciation to Christy Lawson for her efforts in preparing Retreat materials on CD's.
- The Superintendent informed the Board that the General Assembly Conference Committee should have budget information available soon.



