

News Release

January 14, 2003

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2002
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,407,768.06
- Payrolls
- Appropriation Request for March 2003
- GTC Advisory Committee for 2002-03 school year

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Special Presentations**

The School Board Chairman and Superintendent presented plaques to the following for their efforts and achievements.

- *Marguerite Good – Central Office Employee; 22 Years of Dedicated Service in Giles County Schools – She will be missed!*
- *Anna Carpenter - GHS Student; 2002 State Champion, Girls' Cross Country
Mrs. McMahon commented that Anna's coach, Mark Hubbard, had highly complimented Anna by saying that she was a good athlete, but she is even a better person than she is athlete.*

***Organizational Meeting**

- JB Buckland was appointed as School Board Chairman for 2003.
- Ronald Whitehead was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2003.
- The Board set the third Thursday of each month as Board meeting day, holding the first Thursday open in case another meeting is needed.
- Boni Kirk was appointed School Board Clerk for 2003.
- Barbara Perkins and Robert McCracken were appointed Deputy Clerks for 2003.

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Educational Feature by EEMS**

Mrs. Higginbotham, EEMS Principal attended the meeting on behalf of the "Sing, Spell, Read and Write" Program. She introduced Mrs. Mary Scott Coffey, first grade teacher and many first grade students who presented a music sing along to the School Board. It included the short vowel song with the A-Z alphabet sounds and pictures to music with words and also, the Ferris Wheel activity, which helps students to learn their vowel sounds by adding consonants to the vowels in song. They also did the marching parade song, which included a long vowel song. The students participating were part of the implementation of "Sing, Spell, Read and Write" during the 2001-02 school year, when the program was first implemented. Those attending were: Lenzi Anger, Andrew Bernard, Adrienne Ruble, Breann Burton, Makayla Cook, Michaela Douthat, Robbie Dwyer, Shelby Elles, Zachary Henry, Jacob Hudson, Carson Journell, Brad Lipes, Andrew Martin, Brittany Means, Nikki Morgner, Charlotte Peer, Savannah Stanley, Joseph Widrig, Amber Williams, Lindsey Harless, Heather Falls, and Clara Williams. The School Board enjoyed the presentation very much and commended EEMS for such a fine presentation.

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

- The Board approved the following retirements, 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: Marilyn Albert, Barbara Meredith, Barbara Shepherd, Carol Wimmer, and Claude Wimmer.
- The Board approved the following NHS supplemental positions for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year:

MELANIE ATKINS	MACC/ENGLISH
LARRY GREER	MACC/SOC. STU.
GARY HINSON	MACC/SCIENCE
ALLETA MORRISON	MACC/MATH
H.L. WHITE	MACC/OVERALL
ANGELA TERRY	NEWSPAPER
ANGELA TERRY	YEARBOOK
SHELLY BOGGESS	SR. SPONSOR
TERESA LOWE	SCA

- The Board approved leave without pay for Susan Stafford, effective January 3, 2003 through the end of the 2002-03 school year.
- The Board confirmed the following volunteers: Gail McClung – NHS Cheerleading and Lynda Atkins – NEMS/classroom or as needed.

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

- The Superintendent introduced Amy Spears, GHS student, who presented the GHS “Spartonian” newspaper to the School Board. Amy also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the paper, and commended her staff for their hard work, and sponsor, Mr. Etzler along with Mr. Lilly and Mr. Brown for their assistance and encouragement in getting the newspaper up and running. She also thanked the School Board for their support as well. She left copies of the “Spartonian” for each Board member as a token of appreciation. Also as a part of the instructional update, the Superintendent informed the Board that the heavy equipment operators’ class has begun at GTC, beginning Monday, January 13th. Also, the rebuilding of computers is under way, with the first set of computers being complete and distributed in December.
- The Superintendent updated the Board regarding budget and legislation. Along with all other VA Superintendents (133 total), he attended a press conference in Richmond on January 13, 2003, to discuss strategies for funding for public education. The Superintendent commented it was so good to have so many educators in the same place, making a statement for public education and to really feel like someone was listening. Although there are three budgets to get through, the House version, the Senate version and the Conference Committee, it is hopeful that public education will not suffer as great a cut as first anticipated. Among the good news was funding for VA Governor’s Schools did not change in the Governor’s prepared amendments. Monies that may be cut may be rolled into student achievement grants, such as health incentive and technical assistance funds. Some cuts included all VA best practice centers, Stanford 9 Testing, diagnostic test for Algebra Readiness, and SOL in-service training. The Superintendent felt very positive about the meeting, and confident that public education finally gained the attention it deserved. However, the Board and public must make their demands known to General Assembly members.

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

- The School Board approved a gas line agreement with Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. regarding an easement on the MMS property.
- The School Board set their next regular meeting for Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at the School Board Office. The annual School Board Retreat will begin at noon, followed by the regular meeting at 5:00 PM.

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

- Appreciation and thanks were conveyed to Mr. Fowler for the afternoon the Board spent at GTC in December. The Board commented they could have stayed longer if their schedule allowed, it was indeed a delightful visit.
- EEMS was commended for the outstanding educational feature. Students obviously enjoy “Sing, Spell, Read and Write”; their expressions while singing were priceless!
- Amy Spears was commended for her fine presentation and the fine job done by the newspaper staff. Technology has brought school newspapers a long way!
- It is good news to hear that the amendments to the state budget include funds for the Governor’s School next year.
- The Board commented that Marguerite Good will be missed. She’s done a fine job for Giles County Schools!
- Coaches were commended for all sports, in the long hours they put in for practices and travel for the sake of the students, with low pay. It takes energy and a real interest to be dedicated to sports.
- It’s nice to see the banners at the elementary/middle schools reflecting full accreditation. Congratulations!
- The computers that are being rebuilt and distributed to those that need them reflect a very touching display of kindness. It is good to hear folks express their appreciation.
- There was a recent article on nurses that stated out of 132 school divisions, only 45 have a nurse in every school. We are very fortunate to be one of those 45 divisions!
- The Superintendent reiterated his positive feelings from his Richmond visit with the Governor. He called it a rewarding opportunity!
- The Superintendent commented that until the budget issues are resolved, a long term substitute has been placed in Marguerite Good’s position, and the position will not be posted at this time.