

News Release

March 18, 2003

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2003
- Special Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2003
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,480,583.82
- Payrolls
- Appropriation Request for May 2003

***Moment of Silence**

The Chairman requested a moment of silence for the Harvey family, in honor of Beverly Harvey, GHS Bookkeeper, who passed away.

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Public Comments**

A public hearing was held regarding the 2003-04 School Board Budget, and the floor was open to the public for comments. The Superintendent explained that annual budget meetings had been held at each site with employees in October, and that other budget work sessions had been held as well. There were no public comments, nor were there any public comments under the general portion of the agenda.

***Special Presentations**

The School Board Chairman and Superintendent presented certificates to several students. Andy Houck and Nicole Reed were recognized for making the 2003 All VA Chorus.

Governor's School students were recognized who had placed in this year's Southwest VA Governor's School Science Consortium and the Blue Ridge Highlands Science Fair. Mr. Whitehead, School Board Member who serves on the Governor's School Board of Directors, and Mr. Buckland, School Board Chairman, presented the certificates. Students recognized were:

<i>Kristine Bronnenkant</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Bram Luyendijk</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Summer Brown</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Laura Maxey</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Marley Campos</i>	<i>NHS</i>	<i>Miles Miller</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Anna Carpenter</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Ben Morris</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Traci Collins</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Brittani Morris</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Carly Correll</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Brandon Moye</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Jacqueline Devereaux</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Ryan Olson</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>C.J. Dunford</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Brittany Scott</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Joel Frazier</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Emily Smith</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Courtney Good</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Britta Stables</i>	<i>NHS</i>
<i>Kelsey Gorrell</i>	<i>GHS</i>	<i>Gloria Tuckwiller</i>	<i>GHS</i>
<i>Andy Houck</i>	<i>GHS</i>		
<i>Jarrett Lane</i>	<i>NHS</i>		

***Educational Feature**

Mr. Rick Franklin, principal of Narrows Elementary/Middle School, introduced Sue Hyatt and Tammy Frazier, NEMS third grade teachers, who presented programs that are being used to help students with SOL's (Standards of Learning/Testing). Tammy and Sue reviewed a powerpoint presentation and explained curriculum frameworks that are used to enhance student's skills. They shared that visual learning is extremely successful, and appropriately, "In Sight, In Mind" is their motto. They reviewed various concepts that hold the students' interest with board displays as well. They challenged the Board members, by dressing up and giving clues about various famous people, with Board members guessing who they were portraying. Some included Pocahontas, Jackie Robinson, Susan B. Anthony, Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross. Following the presentation, Mr. Franklin commended the professionalism of the NEMS teachers and their commitment to technology. The Superintendent conveyed his thanks to them for their communication with parents and the public regarding SOL strategies and encouraged Board members to visit NEMS in the near future and observe the 3rd grade classrooms.

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

- The Board confirmed the following: Resignation of Marlena Phelps, effective the end of the 2002-03 school year; Resignation of Bryan Pattenon as 2003 NHS Varsity Boys' Baseball Coach; RIF of Charles Sanders, effective March 14, 2003, due to withdrawal of student; Supplemental employment of McCreery Mann as 2003 NHS Varsity Boys' Baseball Coach, Michelle Burton as 2003 NHS Varsity Girls' Softball Coach; Gary Lowery as NHS JV Baseball Head Coach, and Tonya Vaden as GHS Girls' Head Tennis Coach. Also confirmed, were volunteer coaches: Chris Bales – GHS Varsity Baseball Assistant, Jackie Phillips – GHS Assistant Girls' Track; Danielle Kerr – GHS Assistant Girls' Track and Dawn St. Clair – GHS Assistant Girls' Softball.
- The Board approved the following: Marilyn Mustard as NHS Girls' Tennis Coach, Jennifer McCroskey as NHS Girls' Assistant Track Coach, and Volunteer Coaches: Clyde Turner – NHS Varsity Baseball; Todd Guynn – NHS JV Baseball and Cindy Lang – GHS Assistant Girls' Track.
- The School Board approved the resignation of Brenda Niece, effective immediately.

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

- The Superintendent shared with the School Board that at the last ADM meeting, principals had brought great ideas to the table regarding the missed instructional time for students, and ways to make that time up. It was very exciting to see the numerous ideas that would benefit our children. Also, the school crisis plans have been reviewed regarding alert issues and action plans in the event of a crisis. Each area was discussed, from phone systems to bus driver plans and safety plans for parents and students.
- The Board approved the Superintendent's 2003-04 proposed budget to be submitted to the Giles County Board of Supervisors. The proposal consists of \$17,840,953 for operating budget and \$2,305,852 for flow thru funds for a total of \$20,146,805. The county portion would be \$7,316,539.
- The Board approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and administration. The Superintendent presented a new regulation, KNAJ-R, to the Board regarding student visits during school by the Department of Social Services and law enforcement. The Board approved the regulation as recommended.

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

- The School Board confirmed RFP No. 2-2003 to low bidder, Kingmor Supply for the purchase of 2 school buses in the amount of \$50,782 per bus. Other proposals were received from Merryman (\$52,045) and VA Truck (\$52,281).

- The School Board approved the continuation of Anthem (Blue Cross/Blue Shield/Trigon) health insurance for employees even though there will be a 12% increase. One other quote was received from VACO, which would have been a 17% increase, as opposed to the 12% increase. The Superintendent also shared with the Board that there were not enough interested participants in the Southwest VA Consortium to review with other vendors and services for the 2004-05 school year regarding health insurance. Only 4 school divisions out of the Region VII Study Group (19) were interested in participating in a survey; therefore, no survey will be done at this time.
- The School Board approved the Energy Management Conservative Policy as recommended, as part of the Energy Management Education Plan that is in place.
- The School Board approved the request from Sam Level, to rescind his letter of retirement for the 2003-04 school year.
- The School Board set their next regular meeting for Tuesday, April 8, 2003, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. Should a closed session be necessary, it will be held at 5:15 PM.

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

- The Board members commended all of the Science Fair winners for their outstanding projects. Mr. Whitehead distributed a Governor's School newsletter that recognized all of the Giles County students that placed in the Science Fair. Good job!!
- Congratulations were also conveyed to the All VA Chorus participants. It is always good to see students recognized for their accomplishments.
- Appreciation was conveyed to NEMS for the excellent educational feature. It is great to see teachers continue to strive and conquer the SOL's! It was also commented that the 3rd Grade pod is very impressive. Student and teachers are excited about learning and there is not a square inch of wall showing, due to the curriculum frameworks that are displayed regarding SOL learning.
- The administrators in the high schools were praised for their efforts in dealing with parents and students. A parent had been referred to one of the schools last week and there could not have been a better response from the principal. Board members went on to say they continue to be impressed with all the new administrators as this year progresses and success continues.
- Governor's School students recently submitted essays to the VA Jr. Academy of Science. However due to the weather, they were on an extremely tight timeline for submission. As a result, a parent offered to hand deliver the papers to Richmond for the students. Thanks!
- The Superintendent commended school employees for their assistance during the Giles High School tragedy. Everyone pitched in and helped in a time of need. He conveyed his thoughts and prayers to the Harvey family.



Left to Right: Back Row: C.J. Dunford, Andy Houck, Brandon Moye, Mr. Buckland, Kristine Bronnenkant, Jarrett Lane, and Mr. Whitehead.
First Row: Brittany Scott, Kelsey Gorrell, Carly Correll, Dr. McCracken, Emily Smith and Marley Campos



Left to Right: Dr. McCracken, Nicole Reed, J.B. Buckland, Andy Houck, Larry Marion (Chorale Teacher)

