

NEWS RELEASE
March 23, 2004

Giles County Public Schools
Regular School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2004
- Payment of Bills
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for April 2004
- Approval of Textbook Adoption

***Recognition**

On behalf of the Professional Advisory Council, the following were selected for their outstanding efforts. VDOT – For Support and Services during 2003-04 Winter Season; Tommy Saunders – MMS Volunteer; Andy Houck – GHS Student/All Virginia Choir, 2nd Consecutive Year; Tommy Lang – GHS Custodian/Support During 2003-04 Winter Season; and Jason Mills – GHS Teacher/Assistance w/Crisis Information Boxes.

Also recognized was Forest Fowler, GTC Principal and Vocational Director. He was the recipient of the Outstanding Administrator 2003-04 award, nominated through FCCLA's State President, Amy Spears.

***Report from County Administrator**

Chris McKlarney, Interim Giles County Administrator, attended the meeting to present information regarding "Twice Per Year" taxes. The Board of Supervisors recently approved such tax implementation. Chris explained the reasons for the change through a Powerpoint presentation. The main goal is to create a reserve for the county so that a "rainy day" fund can be established. It's obviously good business to have a reserve for future projects and costs that arise. He commented that there are many infrastructure projects left to do and he also reviewed the costs for taxpayers regarding the twice per year taxes. He stated that over a five-year period it would cost a taxpayer \$440 who pays \$1,000 in taxes; if another route was chosen that same taxpayer would pay \$800. He stressed that if the county wants to progress, as far as revenue resources, the twice per year tax is the most cost effective way.

***Public Comments**

Mark Givens asked that the School Board please review the issue of starting school before Labor Day. As a parent, he believes it is in the best interest of the students to begin before Labor Day. Chairman Buckland thanked Mr. Givens for his concern and commented that the Board had discussed the issue and since the recent survey reflected the majority of parents and faculty voting not to begin before Labor Day, the decision would stand as is for 2004-05.

***Educational Feature**

Janice Gautier, Giles High School Work and Family Studies Teacher attended the meeting with two of her students, Amy Spears and Caryl Comer. Amy is currently the State President of FCCLA and updated the School Board on her travels this year and what she has learned from them. She was extremely appreciative to the School Board and the school administrators for allowing her to take the time from her classes this year to be involved. She reviewed all of her trips which included shaking the Governor's hand in Richmond, sitting on various committees, and competition in Philadelphia. Another highlight of her term was collecting \$1250 as a state officer. The goal was for each officer to collect at least \$1000 in donations, and she exceeded that goal by \$250. She will retire as State President in April and has been accepted at Bridgewater College where she plans to become a Work and Family Studies Teacher.

Following Ms. Spears presentation, she, Caryl Comer and Ms. Gautier presented the "Real Care Baby", a programmed doll that students "babysit" on weekends to learn the responsibility of parenting. This baby

did everything! The students explained the process. A video is viewed by the students and an instruction manual is available indicating how to care for and hold the baby. The student that is caring for the baby wears a programmed ID bracelet all weekend and is responsible for satisfying the baby's needs during that period of time. The students demonstrated how the baby cries if the head and neck are not supported or if the diaper needs changing. The baby also burps, which can take from 20-45 minutes after feeding. The students' commented on how that is "so not fun" at 2:00 AM! Mrs. Gautier demonstrated the printer that reflects the student's behavior with the baby during the weekend. It tells how many times the baby was neglected, roughly handled, as well as the stats of feeding, diapering, and burping. Ms. Gautier creates a grade for each student from the information obtained on the printout. Amy and Caryl also shared their feelings of parenthood after taking care of the baby for a weekend. They both realize how much work and time is involved in caring for a baby and both know it's not something they want to do anytime soon. "Real Care Baby" is a wonderful project for students to help make them aware of the consequences of teenage pregnancy.

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

The School Board confirmed the following: Retirement of Howard Spencer, effective June 30, 2004; Resignation of Kathy Klatka and Audrey Reith, effective the end of the 2003-04 school year; Changes in Barbara Meredith's ERIP; Part-time Employment of Carole Johnston 2004-05/SASI; 2003-04 Spring Sport Coaches: Employment of Clyde Turner – NHS Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, Volunteer Coaches – Anne Wheeler and Cindy Lang – GHS Assistant Girls' Track; Allea Morrison – NHS Soccer; Jimmy Nottingham and Jon Bowman – NHS Varsity Football; Substitute Teachers to date to include 20 day employees. Also, employment confirmed for the 2004-05 school year as follows: Erin Patton – NHS Social Studies Teacher; Amy Rogers – NHS Guidance Counselor; Beth Umberger – NHS Science Teacher; and Mitchell Reed – GHS Social Studies Teacher.

The Board confirmed RFP No. 4-2004 to low bidder, JanPak for copy paper.

The Board approved the renewal of Anthem Health Insurance for the 2004-05 school year, with a rate increase of 9.5%. This is a decrease from the 12% increase we saw last year.

The Board approved the annual lease with New River Community Action for building use for Narrows Headstart, known as the "Agriculture Shop, located on NEMS grounds", effective July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006.

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

- The Superintendent shared Principal Delp's instructional plan of MMS with the Board along with an interesting story. The back of the plan was signed by Governor Warner. He was in Roanoke last week where Ms. Delp attended the meeting and was surprised when the Governor asked to see her instructional plan. His autograph to her included "keep up the good work".
- The School Board approved a resolution to return a piece of real property to the County. It came to the Board's attention recently that a piece of property still belonged to the School Board of which they were unaware. Having no need for the property, the School Board approved to return it to the county.
- The Board approved policy regulation JHCC-R-A and JHCC-R-B as recommended by the Virginia Department of Education.
- The Board approved the amount of \$7,480,111 for local contribution regarding the 2004-05 School Board budget. The Superintendent commented that the state has not issued a budget yet, and deadlines for re-appointments and teacher contracts are fast approaching. He is unclear at this point how the state plans to handle the budget situation. Currently the Senate version of the budget looks more promising for our school system, with \$1.5 million in new money.

***Other Action...**

The Board confirmed a field trip request for Mr. White and the NHS Band members to travel to New York April 22-25, 2004.

The Board approved a request by Brandon Sexton to place a flagpole with landscaping at the School Board Office as his project to become an Eagle Scout. He will furnish the labor. The materials will be donated.

The Board approved the request for implementation of a video production class for Narrows High School for the 2004-05 school year. Margaret Christle, the School Librarian, will be responsible for teaching and supervising the class.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The School Board scheduled their next meeting for Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at 5:15 PM.

***Positive Comments**

- The Board members were extremely pleased with the exceptional educational feature and the role it plays with helping teenagers to learn about parenthood. The sense of responsibility of the two students that demonstrated the baby's needs was very impressive. It is a relief to know there are instructional instruments available that assist with day to day issues that can affect students' lives. They commended Ms. Gautier and her students for an outstanding presentation.
- Sincere appreciation was conveyed to Chris McKlarney and the Board of Supervisors for their continued support and work toward increasing the county's revenue through the "twice per year" taxes.
- The Pulsar Program and those that work with it (teachers, law enforcement, etc.) were highly commended. The success of that wonderful program for kids cannot be measured.
- The posted signs for outdoor sporting events regarding designated smoking areas are appreciated by all! Thank you!
- The school administrators were commended for keeping our students and facilities safe. We appreciate you!
- The quarterly meeting held before the regular session was very positive. Administrators were optimistic that students and teachers are getting through SOL's with a good feeling.
- Congratulations were conveyed to Matthew Blevins, NEMS 6th grader, who placed 6th in the Regional Spelling Bee. Good job!
- Thanks were conveyed to GHS administrators for assisting with the need of band uniforms. It is greatly appreciated.
- The Governor's School Director, Ms. Duncan, met with Congressman Boucher regarding funds for a new building. It is hopeful he will be able to provide some help with this matter.
- Ms. Duncan also is inclined to believe the Governor's School will be able to log 187 student days by the end of this year!
- The Governor's School Robotics Team is working on a new model. Last year their robot was able to pick up a box. This year the new model will pick up a big round ball.
- The Superintendent reiterated that the quarterly meeting with administrators was great. It's good to be comfortable in talking together when Board members and administrators come together.