

**Giles County Public Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
May 20, 2004**

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2004
- Payment of Bills to include additional check register for May 22, 2004
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for June 2004
- Declaration of Surplus Items
- Textbook Adoption

***Recognition**

The School Board recognized the following for their dedication and student support:

Jane Hazelwood – MMS Custodian; Brian and Kim Squibb – MMS Volunteers; Jerry Frazier/Anna's Restaurant – NEMS Support.

State VICA Winners, GTC students were also recognized for their outstanding achievements in this year's competition:

<i>Amanda Atkins</i>	<i>Paul Hyatt</i>	<i>Robbie Renqvist</i>	<i>Miranda Smith</i>
<i>Ben Davis</i>	<i>David Kiser</i>	<i>Scott Sevy</i>	<i>Alicia St. Clair</i>
<i>Cody Fisher</i>	<i>Jessica Lucas</i>	<i>Kristy Sloan</i>	<i>Miranda Stephens</i>
<i>Jeremiah Flack</i>			

Ryan Olson, GHS and Governor's School student was recognized for his outstanding achievements in 2003-04:

*Grand Prize Winner – Engineering, 2004 Virginia Science and Engineering Fair – Local, Regional & State
(First Student from Southwest Virginia to Win the State Award in its Thirteen Year History)*
Second Place Winner – Engineering, 2004 International Science and Engineering Fair
Recipient of the Eastman Kodak Photography Award, 2004 International Science and Engineering Fair
2004 NASA Award – Best Overall Entry – Aerospace Vehicle Systems
2004 Lee Jackson Essay Competition Scholarship Award

***Educational Feature**

Sarah McGlothlin, Special Programs Supervisor, attended the meeting to introduce Special Education teachers that provided the program. Ellen Jones, MMS teacher shared with Board members a video of students who learned their vowel sounds by singing a song to the tune of "Are You Sleeping". Each verse contained vowel sounds and words with vowel sounds, making it easier for the students to remember each vowel. She also had three students present who sang a song and demonstrated sign language. The students were 5th graders, Nicole Stump, Angela Grubb, and Jessica McGinnes. They did a great job!

Tonya Vaden, GHS teacher who also serves as Transition Coordinator, shared information with the School Board regarding the transition program and Career Scope. The program assists students in preparing for life after high school. It teaches them the importance of change in their personal life, employment, and independent living. As 9th graders, the process begins with Career Scope, an assessment which takes students through an interest inventory. At the end of the 10th grade, Mrs. Vaden meets with the Vocational School Principal to discuss vocational options for students. She also spoke of the PERT reports that is a more intensive evaluation for students who attend Woodrow Wilson in December of each year. The students spend 9 days away from home working in different areas such as laying brick and other jobs and living independently while being supervised. She commented it is a wonderful program to help students learn independence. Mrs. Vaden also informed Board members that Virginia Tech is interested in improving their college entrance numbers of students with learning disabilities. College student mentors may be available to assist high school students that are interested

in going to college. The transition program not only aids students, but is helpful to parents and IEP meetings as well. It brings families together to find what is best for their child. Mrs. Vaden was very appreciative of the opportunity to serve as Transition Coordinator and to present this important program to the School Board.

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

- The School Board confirmed the following employment for the 2004-05 school year:
- Jeannie Layton – GHS Ag. Ed. Teacher ; Donna Davis – GTC Clinical Instructor ; Melissa Cowan – Early Childhood Special Ed. Teacher-Itinerant/Center-based; and the transfer of Karen Letts to NHS Math Teacher from MMS, and Trisha Young as the Supervisor of Testing and Information Management.
- The School Board confirmed the following coaches for Spring sports: Dan Taylor – NHS JV Baseball and Todd Lusk – NHS Boys' Tennis.
- The School Board confirmed all substitute teachers to date, including 20-day employees.
- The following resignations were confirmed, effective the end of the 2003-04 school year: Karen McCraw, MMS Teacher Assistant; Linda McCarthy, GHS/Elem. Art Teacher; Dawn St. Clair – GHS/Special Ed. Teacher/Facilitator
- The retirement of Merrell Hedrick was confirmed, effective the end of 2003-04.

The School Board confirmed the following RFP's:

- No. 8-2004 to low bidder, Sysco for cafeteria items
- No. 9-2004 to only bidder, Flowers Baking Company for bakery items
- No. 10-2004 to low bidder, United Dairy for dairy items

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

The Superintendent shared raw unofficial scores regarding SOL writing scores. All schools show significant improvement from the previous year. Official scores will not be released until Fall.

The School Board confirmed the following scholarships to also include NHS Class 1982 \$450 Scholarship Award to an NHS Senior.

- Practical Nursing Professional Advisory Committee - \$100 to GTC Graduate
- Pembroke Telephone Cooperative - \$500 GTC/GHS Graduate
- Rotary Club - \$500 to GTC Graduate

The School Board approved the 2004-05 CTE Plan and budget for Federal Perkins Grant as recommended.

The School Board approved a new budget to be presented to the Giles County Board of Supervisors based on the new money received from the state. Should the county approve the budget, employee salaries would be increased and the teacher salary scale would begin at \$31,000 for new teachers. The Superintendent explained the new teacher salary scale, which would include \$400 steps and \$1600 bump at 24 years and every four years thereafter. Raises will be at least \$100 per month or \$1000 per year for teachers. The Board also asked that salary scales be established for all employee groups by the end of the 2005-06 school year, but so those employees would not have to wait a year for a salary increase, they too were given \$100 per month raises. Also, from the new money, one half of the budget will go for VRS retirement for employees and increased health insurance premiums. This approval is pending approval by the Giles County Board of Supervisors.

The School Board approved a resolution in support of School Resource Officers for the elementary/middle schools. Sheriff Bryan Altizer and the Towns of Pearisburg and Narrows are currently working on grants to obtain SRO's for these schools. The resolution reflects the School Board's support

of the grants.

***Other ...**

Mr. Arbogast presented the School Board members with information regarding Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). He distributed handouts of Policy GAA and Regulation GAA-R which were approved by consensus of the Board as a first reading. Final approval of the policy will be presented at the June 30th meeting. GAA-R will be issued by the administration prior to that time, with the Central Office proceeding as necessary.

***Next School Board Meeting**

The School Board set the next meeting for June 30, 2004 at 7:30 AM. On June 3, 2004, the School Board will join retirees for a reception in their honor at the School Board Office at 4:00 PM, hosted by GEA.

***Positive Comments**

- Thanks were conveyed to the Special Programs Department for the outstanding educational feature. The students and staff did an excellent job!
- Congratulations were conveyed to all those recognized at the meeting. It's always a pleasure seeing parents, staff and students be recognized for their efforts and achievements.
- Board members have had the opportunity to "walk through" with the Energy Education Coordinator, David Graham. It is very interesting to see what takes place to report how energy is being saved in our facilities. The reports are very impressive and reflects the savings in utility use.
- Board members attended the Blue Ridge Forum on May 19th and were pleased to visit with other Board members and see how surrounding counties are progressing.
- Positive comments were heard regarding the NEMS 7th grade trip this year. It was a great trip for everyone!
- The cost of athletic events for student tickets has been a concern. AD's and administration continue to review the issue. Thanks!
- The recent Artshow at the School Board Office was very nice. It is always a pleasure to see the talents of our students.
- Congratulations to the schools who placed in the VSBA "Showcases for Success"!! NEMS for Character Counts, MMS for SOL Specialist and GHS for SOL Capsule Theory. Good job!!
- Congratulations to the GHS Band, they recently competed and got a SUPERIOR rating. Great job!
- The Governor's School recently held their annual Awards Banquet. Approximately \$1,841, 640 in scholarships were given to students. Congratulations!!
- It's really good to be one step toward a budget for this year!