

News Release

May 6, 2003

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2003
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,829,567.21
- Payrolls
- Appropriation Request for June 2003
- Special Education Annual Plan

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Special Presentations**

Giles County Teacher of the Year

Karen Yolton, 2003 Giles High School Teacher of the Year was named as the 2003 Giles County Teacher of the Year at the Board meeting. All Teacher of the Year nominees were introduced and recognized by being presented a plaque by the School Board Chairman and Superintendent. Frances Breedlove-Croy – NEMS; Toma Eaton – EEMS; Gloria Hurt – MMS; and Betsy Wood – NHS.

Other Recognitions

The Board recognized SACS Chairpersons for each high school for their outstanding performance during the 2002-03 School Accreditation: GHS – Bruce Frazier, Bob Lilly, Babette Martin, Anne Wheeler, Karen Yolton. NHS – Melanie Atkins, Margaret Christle, Gayle Kirby, Sam Level, Judy Ray, Betsy Wood.

The Board also recognized the following: Michael Etzler – GHS Newspaper Sponsor; Randall Roe – GHS Team 8 Leader; Tonya Vaden – GHS Special Education Transitional Coordinator; and Thelma Yost – Bookkeeping Transition.

2003 VICA District and State Competition Winners were recognized:

<i>Ashley Bales</i>	<i>Thomas Lang</i>
<i>Chris Cumbee</i>	<i>Kevin Law</i>
<i>Bryan Davis</i>	<i>Brandon Porterfield</i>
<i>Rachel Dunford</i>	<i>Derek Rogers</i>
<i>Matthew Galliher</i>	<i>Jamie Snider</i>
<i>Michelle Hilton</i>	<i>James St. Clair</i>
<i>Ben Hollie</i>	<i>Lindsey Suydam</i>
<i>Ryan Hughes</i>	<i>Derek Trenar</i>
<i>Brent Johnson</i>	<i>Tammy Wilson</i>
<i>Allen Kidd</i>	

***Educational Feature**

Sarah McGlothlin, Special Programs Coordinator, attended the meeting to introduce Karen McCraw (Parent Coordinator) and Jessica Morris (Education Coordinator) of the Parent Resource Center. They presented a Powerpoint presentation that shared goals and various resources that assist parents, students and educators. Provided for assistance are a lending library and a 24-hour answering service. The motto is "Together We Can Make It Happen". They distributed handouts to the Board members that included a fact sheet and 2 PRC newsletters that have been printed this year. Karen and Jessica both attended the annual NRV Parenting Fair this year, where they gave out over 100 coloring sheets to kids that visited their table. The Parent Resource Center is a great asset for Giles County Schools!

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

- The Board confirmed the following employment for the 2003-04 school year: Craig Johnson – Computer Technician and Michele Thompson – Speech Therapist.
- The Board confirmed the part-time temporary employment of Debbie Coker as a Psychological Assessment Evaluator, April 15 – June 11, 2003.
- The Board approved current substitutes as recommended including substitute teachers, 20-Day employees, substitute bus drivers and substitute custodians as recommended.

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

- The Superintendent shared with the School Board a Powerpoint presentation regarding SOL Saturdays at NEMS, GHS and NHS, which included pictures of students in action. Other schools are doing before/after school activities regarding preparation for SOL testing. NEMS included 93 participants, NHS – 13 and GHS– 27. All were very successful and are looking forward to more scheduled activities.
- The School Board confirmed the following scholarships:
Rusty Coffman Scholarship Fund – 2003-04 school year, for NHS Senior
GHS Class of 1982 Scholarship Fund – 2002-03 school year, for GHS Senior
And to include request received on Board meeting day:
NHS Class of 1982 Scholarship Fund – 2002-03 school year, for NHS Senior
- The School Board approved the proposed 2003-04 school calendar as recommended by the 2003-04 Calendar Committee, to include two make-up days for first semester, December 19, 2003 and January 16, 2004.
- The School Board approved the Career Technical Education (CTE) Plan and Budget as recommended. Mr. Fowler, Vocational Director and Principal, attended the meeting to answer any questions that the Board had. He explained that state legislation changed last year where Federal Perkins money must be approved by the local School Board.

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

- The Board approved the following RFP's:
No. 6-2003 – To low bidder, Tickle Septic (\$400 for cleaning of gas traps and septic tanks).
No. 7-2003 – To only bidder, Blue Flash (.09/gas and .10/diesel for tanks at maintenance building)
- The Board approved a field trip for FCCLA students and sponsor, Janice Gautier in Philadelphia, PA July 5-11, 2003 to participate in the Star Events Competition.
- It was the consensus of the School Board for students to be released 3 hours early the last day of school, June 11, 2003, if no more school is missed this year for inclement weather, etc.

- The School Board set their next regular meeting for Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. A reception honoring this year's retirees will be held at 6:30 PM for retirees and Board members and will be hosted by GEA. Should a closed session be necessary, it will be held at 5:15 PM. The Board set the close-out meeting for Monday, June 30, 2003 at 7:30 AM.

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

- Thanks were conveyed to the Mr. Fowler and the Giles County Technology Center staff for hosting the Intergovernmental meeting on April 28th. The school tour was enjoyed by all that attended. Board members commented that so many people at the meeting were not aware of all the instruction at the Tech Center. GTC is working hard to get more publicity, and to make community members more aware.
- Appreciation was expressed to Sarah McGlothlin for her hard work and extra efforts regarding the Special Education Annual Plan, as well as her role as Special Education Coordinator.
- Thanks were conveyed to Karen McCraw and Jessica Morris for the outstanding educational feature regarding the Parent Resource Center.
- Congratulations were conveyed to Dr. McCracken for being named the new Chair of the Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL).
- Mrs. McMahan commented that After-Prom was a great success. Approximately 280 students attended. Thanks were conveyed for all of the donations received.
- Congratulations were conveyed to EEMS for the fossil research article that was a part of the VSBA Showcases for Success recently. The program has also been recognized in the National Geographic magazine.
- NEMS was congratulated on its excellent assembly for their Character Counts Program. Dr. McCracken and Amy Wheeler were also interviewed on the PBS TV station regarding the program.
- Congratulations to all the elementary Academic Science Fair winners.
- Southwest VA Governor's School students continue to do well in the state science fair, even among the bigger school systems that compete!
- Scholarships for this year for the Governor's School total \$1,297,672 to date!
- Volvo began a \$500 scholarship for the Governor's School several years ago and then challenged anyone to match it. This year the scholarship is \$10,000!
- August 14, 2003 is the first day for Governor's School students next year.
- The Superintendent distributed the Spring edition of the Giles County Schools newsletter to Board members.
- The Superintendent distributed brochures from NRCC that ensures a permanent schedule for distance learning classes and guaranteed slots for our students in labs.
- The Superintendent distributed AEL information that reflected work that is being done for the state of VA by AEL staff.