

News Release
November 19, 2002

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2002
- Special Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2002
- Bills in the Amount of \$1,427,339.26
- Payroll
- Appropriation Request for January 2003
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***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Special Presentations**

The School Board went on their annual school tours prior to the regular meeting. During the visit to GHS, Jerry Huffman and W.R. Johnston were recognized for their efforts in the Distance Learning Labs by being presented certificates by the Board Chairman and Superintendent.

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***Educational Feature**

Melanie Atkins, NHS English teacher attended the meeting with two of her students who presented the educational feature. Mrs. Atkins gave an overview of the two topics and then introduced her students. Calie Lambert presented information on a timeline project. She displayed a poster and explained the various sections that included literature lifestyles, main authors and their writings. The backside of the poster reflected the culture of the time and what was popular. Most of her information came from books and other materials, with about 30% being from Internet use. Kalie McCoy talked about the Choices Program, where business folks come in and speak to students. The guest speaker was Loretta Hall of NRCC, who addressed the NHS 9th grade English classes. Discussion included attitude and what areas students actually have control of their lives, and how self-discipline plays an important role. They also talked about careers and the importance of studying 15 minutes a day, everyday the week before a test. This is an alternative to studying all night the night before a test. Mrs. Atkins added that the Choices Program had not been available to them for the past three years. It's nice to have it in motion again.

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

The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year: GHS Volunteer Coaches – Maurice Milton, Assistant Basketball Coach and Ron Witt – Assistant 8th Grade Basketball Coach and Adrienne Anderson as full-time Special Education teacher at MMS, effective December 5, 2002.

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

The Superintendent shared a chart with the Board members as a part of his instructional update. He explained that by the year 2014, according to the current state requirements in conjunction with No Child Left Behind (NCLB), every school is expected to have 100% passrate of SOL's for all students, with no exceptions. He also described "tiers" that will be in force, should the 100% goal not be reached. Sanctions against schools not meeting the Annual Year Progress (AYP) goals established by NCLB are developed into five tiers. The first tier will allow students to attend any school in the division, with the division being responsible for the transportation. The second tier will allow students to attend school anywhere, with the division responsible for any services as well. Each tier becomes a bit more

complicated, with the last tier reflecting the school being reviewed for takeover by someone else. NCLB will also require all professional staff to be highly qualified by 2005. Although it is an extreme challenge, the Superintendent expressed his confidence in our administrators and teachers.

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

The Board approved November 20, 2002 as a two-hour early release day for students due to the concern of student safety and traffic issues.

The Board confirmed a field trip for GHS, W.R. Johnston for Model UN in Norfolk, VA February 12-15, 2003 for 12 students. As with all field trips, the School Board reserves the right to review field trips in January 2003 regarding terrorism issues.

The School Board approved January 15, 2003 as the deadline for those potential retirees who wish to take advantage of an incentive plan for the end of 2003-04 due to possible state budget reductions.

The School Board confirmed December 13, 2002 for a meeting regarding review of the Career Opportunities Committee report, to be held at the Giles Technology Center at 1:00 PM.

The School Board set their next regular meeting to be held at Narrows High School at 7:00 PM Tuesday, December 10, 2002. The quarterly meeting with administrators will be held at 5:30 PM, prior to the regular meeting at NHS as well.

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

The Superintendent shared with the Board a list of possibilities regarding necessary cuts should the state identify public education to be reduced. The consensus of the Board was for the Superintendent to proceed as necessary to work toward establishing budget reductions for the 2002-03 school year and considerations for the 2003-04 school year. Items mentioned by the Superintendent included:

Budget Actions to be Initiated (As of November 20, 2002)

- Workshops/In-service/Conference – Reduce operating fund expenditures supporting workshops, in-service, and conference activities by eliminating activities unless funded from grant funds. Budget target for the operating fund category is \$6,600.
- Implement a reduction in allocated instructional funds, to be held in reserve until final revenue figures are computed in June 2003. Budget target for this operating fund category is \$18,000.
- Increase Cafeteria Utility Charges to more accurately reflect actual expenses. These charges have remained constant for over fourteen years. Anticipated additional operating fund revenue for the remainder of 2002-03 is \$4,000.
- Increase Cafeteria Personnel Charges to more accurately reflect actual expenses. These charges have remained constant for over fourteen years. Anticipated additional operating fund revenue for the remainder of 2002-03 is \$6,000.
- Modify cost calculations on CSA positions. These positions are directly billed to the state through the Department of Social Services. Although we receive 100% reimbursement, there are liabilities such as leave, substitutes, unemployment and administrative costs that should be built into our overall costs and billing.
- Pursue the Energy Education, Inc. type proposal for more effective use of utilities. First year (12 month period) budget target savings for the operating fund category is \$37,400, if the proposal is accepted.

- Reduction of funding to at least 25% of encumbered non-personnel expenditures between December 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003, including all capital expenditures not funded by grant sources. Budget target savings for the operating fund category is \$45,000.

**Further Reductions to Be Considered after January 1, 2003 for the
Remainder of the 2002-03 School Year:**

- Eliminate stipends and coursework reimbursement for the intern program, unless funded 100% by grant funds, effective second semester. Budget target for the operating fund category is \$7,000.
- Eliminate stipends for the lead teacher program, unless funded 100% by grant funds, effective second semester. Budget target for the operating fund category is \$10,000.
- Eliminate stipends and/or work agreement for part time/retirement positions, unless funded 100% by grant funds, effective second semester. Budget target for the operating fund category is \$11,000.

The Superintendent shared policy regulation with the School JGA-R regarding guidelines for student "touching". The regulation did not need formal action by the School Board, since it is not a policy, but a regulation to Policy JGA, Corporal Punishment.

The Board visited each site for the annual school tours, in honor of American Education Week. Board members commented how impressed they were with student behavior, cleanliness of facilities, and the overall atmosphere at all the schools. The Board members also commented it felt good to walk in the schools and see five new administrators, and faculty members with smiles on their faces. Schools look good and are run extremely well. It makes us proud!

Congratulations were conveyed to the NHS Football and Girls' Basketball Teams. Good job!

Congratulations were conveyed to GHS student, Anna Carpenter, No 1 runner in the state. Good job!

The Governor's School finally received the \$138,750 electronically that they had been waiting for!

Colleges have been visiting the Governor's School to observe students. VA Tech has offered to come to the Governor's School to register them for college.

Governor's School Director, Pat Duncan, publicly commented on her recent visit to Giles and Narrows High Schools, and was appreciative and impressed with the students, principals and guidance counselors at both schools. It was also commented that she had 450 Giles students interested in the Governor's School.

Sandra Kelley was commended for her time spent in bringing students to the Narrows Jr. Woman's Club annual auction. They worked hard and stayed late as volunteers. She and other GTC classes provided sale items for the auction, which helped bring in additional money.