

NEWS RELEASE

April 11, 2001

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the regular March 8, 2001 meeting
- Minutes of the special budget worksession – March 20, 2001
- Bills in the amount of \$1,622,089.19
- Payroll for the month of March, 2001
- Revenue report for the month of March, 2001
- Appropriation Request for May, 2001
- Confirmation of Professional Leave Request

***School Board Recognizes the following who were nominated by the Professional Advisory Council for their hard work and dedication by being presented plaques by the Superintendent and Board Chairman:** Academic Fairs – EEMS – Barbara Shepherd and Beth Umberger; NEMS – Kathy Via, Sarah Wheeler, and Jeff Bucklen; MMS – Brenda Hayes and Drema McMahon. John Mills – Community Involvement/County Bldg. Official; Frances Breedlove – Community Involvement/NEMS; Becky St. Leger – Community Involvement/GTC.

The 2001 Teacher of the Year was announced. Charles Waselchalk who was recognized as Giles County Teacher of the Year, and will advance to regional competition. Other candidates were Lawanda Robertson/MMS who was recognized as Elementary Teacher of the Year and Patricia Bayless/GHS who was recognized as Secondary Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to all!

Dr. McCracken, Superintendent was recognized as the recipient of the 2002 Region VII Superintendent of the Year. He will continue to the next level of state competition. Good luck!

***Public Comments**

Kim Wilson, GEA President, addressed the School Board on behalf of the GEA Board of Directors and the NHS Faculty/Staff, regarding the guidance transfers that will take place for the 2001-02 school year. It was requested that the School Board revisit the decision regarding the transfers.

School Board Hears an Educational Feature by Macy McClaugherty School

Dean Rowe, Macy McClaugherty School Principal attended the meeting to introduce the Coordinator of the Macy Student Assistant Program, Marilyn Albert. Mrs. Albert explained the program to the Board, stating that 6/7 grade students who had free time before or after school, and were not involved in Band or Chorus, were eligible to apply as a student assistant. Students have various jobs in this position, from assisting the younger students to helping teachers in the classroom. Mary French, 2nd grade teacher, commented that three different groups benefit from this program: the young students by being tutored and assisted by older students; teachers, by having extra help with bulletin boards, washing chalk boards, and the students that serve as the assistants, by building their self confidence. Hannah Johnson, student, also attended the meeting to tell how being an assistant has affected her. She commented she saw how much work teachers have to do and assists Mrs. Cornwell on Tuesdays and Thursdays with various chores. She also said it made her feel good to know she is helping people.

Vicky Johnson, MMS teacher, addressed the Board to share information regarding a middle school conference that she and Marilyn Albert attended as presenters. Stating that they “put Giles County on the map” on the East Coast, they were simply overwhelmed with the positive feedback they received from their

audience. Each presented information on projects from their classroom, a unit on poetry from Mrs. Albert and a children's books unit from Mrs. Johnson. They returned filled with enthusiasm and are entertaining the thought of returning to the conference again next year. They conveyed their appreciation to the School Board for allowing them to attend the conference.

***School Board Approves Recommendations Regarding Personnel Items**

The School Board approved all re-appointments, non-reappointments and transfers as recommended by principals and administration for the 2001-02 school year.

The Board approved the following employment for the 2001-02 school year: Catherine Beck – NHS Chemistry/Science Teacher and Lisa Boggess – NHS English Teacher. The Board confirmed the following resignations, effective the end of the 2000-01 school year: Melanie McClung – NHS Chemistry Teacher; Bruce Kemp – NHS Math Teacher; and Tara Yates (currently on leave of absence). Also confirmed were the following retirements Clate Dolinger – Eastern District Bus Driver; and Marilyn Albert and her participation in the ERIP Program for the 2001-02 school year. The following transfers were confirmed: Erin Burton from NEMS P.E. Teacher to GHS P.E. Teacher; Ellen Jones from NEMS Full-time Special Ed. Teacher to MMS Part-time Special Ed. Teacher; and Wanda Stump from full-time GHS Special Ed. Teacher to half-time GHS Special Ed. Teacher and half-time EEMS Special Ed. Teacher.

The School Board approved NHS Coaching positions as follows: Sarah McGlothlin/Softball; Jimmy McCroskey/Boys-GirlsTrack; Jennifer McCroskey/Assistant Track; Kent Miller/Boys Tennis; Todd Lusk/Softball; McCreery Mann/JV Baseball; and Barry Rupp/Girls Tennis.

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

The Superintendent shared various learning techniques from each school regarding SOL incentives, such as putting test taking tips on the daily announcements, math review by using one-foot tiles on the hallway floor, measuring the area of each shape, and a science technique that centers around concrete and abstract thinking when cupcakes are made from a "secret recipe". Schools continually focus on the importance of SOL testing and strive to make it easier for students.

Mr. Wheeler, Assistant Superintendent, updated the School Board regarding the renovation projects. NHS is in the final stages and the punch lists for GHS have been completed. It is hopeful the gym floors will be refinished this summer. As for the roof work, details at both schools are to be completed.

The Board approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and administration.

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

- The School Board completed the annual evaluation for the Superintendent. The Board's comments were that Dr. McCracken continues to do an excellent job for Giles County Schools, and remains in good standing with the School Board.
- The Board approved the professional leave request for attendance to annual the VEA Convention April 26-28 for Eugena Thomas, C.G. Thomas, Kim Wilson, Cecilia McFaden, Beth Roe, Mary Beth Holton, and Janice Gautier.
- The Board approved RFP No. 5-2001 for duplicating paper awarded to low bidder, Paper Supply.
- The Board approved, in the proposed budget for 2001-02, to adjust revenue codes to include the state's capital grant. The revision does not change expenditures, just the revenue.

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

Congratulations were conveyed to all Teacher of the Year Candidates! It is always a pleasure to see teachers recognized for the fine job they do! Best of luck to Charles Waselchalk as he advances to regional competition.

Congratulations to Chad Jessee for being selected to perform with the All-Virginia Concert Band in

Fredericksburg. Good job!

Congratulations to GHS MACC/Science who placed 2nd, with 6 wins and two losses, and brought home a trophy! Way to go!

Congratulations were also conveyed to Dr. McCracken as the recipient of the 2002 Region VII Superintendent of the Year. Best of luck as you move forward to state competition.

Macy McClaugherty School was complimented on the outstanding educational feature. As always, each month we learn something new regarding the activities that schools continue to provide for students. The Student Assistant Program is a good project for all involved.

It is good to get the Personal Leave and Supplementary Policies changed and finalized. Hopefully, it will suit everyone's needs.

The Governor's School continues to encourage counties to recruit students to attend the Governor's School. 188 students visited the Governor's School between November, 2000 and March of this year.

Congratulations to all the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair winners from Giles County! Keep up the good work!