

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting
News Release

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2002
- Special Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2002
- Bills in the amount of \$ 1,645,656.40
- Revenue for March, 2002
- GASB Fixed Assets Inventories
- Appropriation Request for May, 2002

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***School Board recognizes the following for their hard work and dedication by being presented plaques by the Superintendent and School Board Chairman:** Dr. Michael McMahon – Outstanding Volunteer Efforts at GTC.

***Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

***School Board Hears Educational Feature from Narrows High School**

Terry Arbogast, NHS Principal, thanked the School Board for allowing NHS to present the educational feature, and emphasized how they would show how teachers and students could have fun with the SOL's. The SOL standards that were covered in the project were 10.3, 10.5, 10.7 through 10.10. He introduced Betsy Wood, English Teacher who had created "Students Often Laugh" (SOL) and students created writings, turning fairy tales into news stories. Students, Jonathan Kidd and Wendi Jones shared various writings by students, which were very comical. Some of the headlines were "Goldie Confesses to Vandalism Charge" which told the story of Goldilocks; "Wolf Charged With Destruction of Property", which was the story of the Three Little Pigs: Bacon, Ham and Porkchop); "Abusive Stepmother Arrested in New York", the story of Cinderella; and "Delinquent Boy Vandalizes Prize Winning Plant", the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. A couple of student comments included "That's the first homework I've done all year!" and "It's fun stuff to work with!" It was a very delightful evening seeing students actually smile from having fun in class! Mrs. Wood also shared with Board members that two new electives would be offered at NHS next year, Speech Applications Class and Appalachian Culture. The speech class will support the SOL's in reading and writing. The Appalachian class will allow students to learn about the area they live in and be proud of it!

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

The School Board approved the all appointments, non re-appointments, and transfers as recommended by principals and administration.

The School Board approved the following employment for 2002-03 school year: Peter Hawthorn – GHS/NHS French Teacher; Sherry Miller – NHS Chemistry Teacher. Also approved was the resignation of Meagan Bradshaw, effective the end of 2001-02.

The School Board confirmed the following employment for 2002-03: Greg Brown – GHS Principal and Kevin White – GHS Band Director; Also confirmed was the employment of Tara Johnson – EEMS Custodian, effective 4/15/02.

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

- A. Following discussion, the School Board approved the proposed 2002-03 school calendar as recommended by the Calendar Committee.
- B. The Superintendent shared information with the School Board as part of the instructional update. He and Mr. Arbogast attended an awards ceremony at Virginia Tech on Wednesday night, where NHS Teacher, Gary Hinson, was recognized as recipient for the 2002 Science Teaching Award. He was chosen from among many candidates from Virginia areas. Well-known scientists also attended the meeting as a part of the presentation.

The Superintendent also explained the process of the Textbook Adoption Committee, who began their task for K-5 reading books in Fall, 2001 and the Board approved the recommendation at the March meeting. However, the state issued a memo changing the entire cycle for textbook adoption for SOL's and K-5 reading books. The Superintendent commented that financially, it is in our best interest not to adopt at this time, but unfortunately, parents and teachers spent many hours reviewing for the best possible company to recommend. No action was needed.

- C. The Superintendent updated Board members on the 2002-03 budget proposal. The county requested that the School Board reduce their budget by \$666,539, so the Superintendent explained various budget areas and ways to cut back. Included was to establish the proposed starting teacher salary initiative of \$26,290 for 0-4 years; consider 2% increase for employees; remove textbook adoption funds from the budget; and fully implement the cuts of the 11 positions that have been pending, along with capital outlay reductions. Current teachers would receive a step increase, but no a percentage raise. Following discussion, the Board approved the changes to the proposed budget, bringing the county money amount to \$7,366,539, or a reduction of \$500,000.

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

- The School Board approved surplus property as recommended, to be disposed of in the most economical manner.
- The School Board confirmed professional leave for the VEA Convention in Roanoke, VA, April 11 and 12 for the following employees: Tracy Ervin, Shirley Hubbard, Cecilia McFaden, Phyllis Radford, C.G. and Eugena Thomas, Kim Wilson.
- The School Board approved a scholarship request from the Pembroke Volunteer Fire Department and Castle Rock Lodge #334 for \$750 to be awarded to a 2002 GHS Senior, that meets the criteria.
- The School Board set the next School Board meeting for Thursday, May 16, 2002 at the School Board Office at 7:00 PM. If needed, a closed session will be held at 5:15 PM.
- The School Board confirmed their attendance at the Blue Ridge Forum on May 22, 2002 in Radford.

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

- Congratulations were conveyed and appreciation was expressed to Dr. McMahon for his outstanding volunteer efforts at GTC. Recognition very much deserved!
- Thanks were conveyed to NHS for the educational feature. It's always a pleasure having students with us, seeing that they can have fun with the SOL's! Someone once said, "Imagination is one of the most important attributes of a teacher!"
- Selected Governor's School students will be traveling to Epcot Center April 24-28 to enter the robot they built in competition. Also, three students from Giles County are participating in the state science fair for the Governor's School in Ashville. Good luck!
- Mr. Whitehead attended the GTC Capping Ceremony recently in Narrows. It was very enjoyable to see the students complete their course.
- It's nice to see a nice big sign in front of GHS!

- Mrs. McMahon participated in the county academic fair, which was very successful. She also was very impressed with the GHS Team 8 that deals with eighth graders. The group can handle and recognize problems extremely well. She commented that she has noticed that NHS seems to always have people at the school after hours. It doesn't close down right after school and that speaks well of the community.
- The Superintendent commented that he is glad to continue to be a part of recognition presentations for teachers and students, who don't always make the newspapers.
- The Superintendent also shared that he is working with Radford University in the adjunct capacity, and he constantly hears from folks in larger areas and school divisions that they don't have what we have in Giles County in regard to technology and instructional planning. It is a good feeling to have what we have, when others don't.
- Three professional educators from our school division will have the opportunity to go to China for a month of study in July 2002, through a grant with Virginia Tech. The deadline for letters of interest is April 19, 2002.

Picture of Recognition at the Meeting

