

NEWS RELEASE

February 12, 2001
Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the January 15, 2001 regular meeting
- Bills in the amount of \$1, 669,166.58
- Payroll for the month of January, 2001
- Revenue report for the month of January, 2001
- Appropriation Request for March, 2001
- Lease Confirmation
- Declaration of Surplus Equipment

***Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Buckland, Board Chairman, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***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:** Chelsea Barnett – EEMS student for volunteering at the local nursing home; Teri Epling – EEMS Volunteer; and John Kinney, Jr. – GTC Volunteer.

School Board members were recognized in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. Barbara Hobbs, Chairperson of the Giles County Board of Supervisors attended the meeting and presented the Board members their certificates of recognition.

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

The Board confirmed the following: Alicia Coulter – Retirement, effective the end of 2000-01; Resignation of Joe Sadler, Bus Driver, effective 2/9/01; Resignation of Darlene Johnson, MMS Custodian; Employment of the following: Mike Stevers, NHS Custodian and Joey Sadler, EEMS Custodian, effective 2/12/01; Carl Collins – MMS Custodian, effective 2/14/01; Kent Miller – NHS Special Ed. Teacher, effective 2/2/01; Janet Franklin - part-time, NEMS PALS Program; Kari Jennelle and Tammy Brown – GHS Girls' Tennis Coaches.

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

- The Superintendent shared the instructional update with the Board, which included a review of a Lead Teachers meeting, with guest speaker, Dr. Oliveira from the Governor's Best Practice Center. He presented an academic review and walked his audience through the process. The Superintendent also commented that a new program, "Virtual School" is in place through computer, involving opportunities for staff training at no cost through WVPEC. He talked about legislation and house bills that have passed the House and are now in the Senate for review. House bill no. 2122 – to develop new criteria for students who have passed a course but failed SOL test twice. House bill no. 2163 – to change accreditation standards to reflect 75% SOL test results and 25% of other measures such as attendance of the student, etc. House bill no. 2394 – the blending of grades with SOL test scores. The House has passed these bills, however Senate is just now reviewing them.
- Mr. Wheeler updated the School Board on the construction projects at both high schools, commenting that both high schools are close to completion, with Narrows High School somewhat closer than Giles High School. NHS is working on the final punch list. GHS will begin balancing the heating/air system, which should make the heating much more uniform. Progress has been made with the new roofing contractor at GHS. Mr. Wheeler also commented that the roofing company at the Giles Co. Tech.

Center has done an excellent job.

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

The School Board approved the Virginia School Boards Association's Code of Ethics, which was developed for Board members as they strive to demonstrate appropriate behavior/conduct as a public school board member.

The Board approved the following RFP's:

RFP – Tech-2001 for computer hardware, to include vendors C&H Computers and Madison Computer Consulting in the list of eligible vendors (Gateway, Dell and Compaq) to provide computer hardware for Giles County Schools.

RFP No. 1-2001 for uniforms for garage/maintenance staff, awarded to Aramark Uniforms for services specified in RFP #1-2001 for a 3 year period.

The Board confirmed Thursday, March 8, 2001 for the annual School Board Retreat at 11:00 AM, followed by the quarterly meeting with administrators at 5:30 PM at Macy McClaugherty School, with the regular March Board meeting at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office.

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

- Thanks were conveyed to GEA for the delicious desserts they provided in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.
- It is good to hear that the renovation projects are winding down and coming to an end. It will be nice to think about all of our buildings being adequately maintained. Mr. Wheeler was commended for the fine job he has done through the projects. His long hours and extra efforts are to be commended. Well done!
- Congratulations to the NHS and GHS band members that were chosen for the All-Region Band!
- Congratulations to Courtney Olson as recipient of the recent Earth Essay Contest. She will be travelling to the University of Miami for an awards dinner in March.
- Several Giles County students recently did very well in the Governor's School Science Fair. Out of 14 categories, 7 1st place winners were Giles County students. Good job!
- Kim Wilson, GEA President, commented the appreciation on behalf of the GEA, to all of the Board members. They all seem to have time for questions and answers to concerns when GEA comes to them.
- The Superintendent recently attended the VSBA Legislative Conference. He was very pleased with the support of the local legislators and their positive comments regarding our area and being on top of things regarding educational needs. Several legislators attended a breakfast meeting with the Region VII Superintendents and were very complimentary of the group's efforts.