

NEWS RELEASE

January 15, 2001
Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the December 14, 2000 regular meeting
- Bills in the amount of \$1,880,368.30
- Payroll for the month of December, 2000
- Revenue report for the month of December, 2000
- Appropriation Request for February, 2001
- Declaration of Surplus Equipment
- Approval of Scholarship Requests

***Pledge of Allegiance**

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

***Organizational Meeting**

- JB Buckland was appointed as School Board Chairman for 2001.
- Ronald Whitehead was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2001.
- The Board set the second Wednesday of each month as Board meeting day, holding the fourth Wednesday open in case another meeting is needed.
- Boni Kirk was appointed School Board Clerk for 2001.
- Barbara Perkins and Robert McCracken were appointed Deputy Clerks for 2001.

***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:** GHS Choral Students, Junior High and Senior High – Selected to the 2001 All District Chorus; Mary Beth Umberger as recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Scholarship Award.

***School Board Hears an Educational Feature by Narrows Elementary/Middle School**

Mr. Skeens, NEMS principal attended the meeting to introduce the Character Counts Program, along with the Excellence in Education Award that was recently received from Virginia Tech. He explained that the program has continued to “mushroom” and is still going strong. Amy Wheeler, the coordinator of the Character Counts Program also attended and shared with the Board that the program is all about manners and conduct in the school and community. Amy then introduced a 6 member committee who each portrayed an unruly student, missing an important character trait. They were: Erin Burton as Selfish Sue; Kathy Via as Blaming Bertha; Kerry Dowell as Negative Norman; Paula Tibbs as Forgetful Freda; Christy Jones - Uncooperative Ercila; Christina Spangler as Thieving Thea; and Amy Wheeler – Betsy Bigmouth. Each “unruly” student pleaded their case to the School Board. Each student wore a shirt that reflected a color that stood for their character trait that they were attempting to master. (Yellow-Respect; Green-Responsibility; Red-Caring; Orange-Fairness; Purple-Citizenship; Blue-Trustworthiness). A video was then shared with the School Board which involved the “unruly” students stranded on an island, trying to get off the island once they have mastered their character trait. NEMS students see clips of the video each Friday morning, and then are allowed to vote for one of the unruly students to get off the island for good behavior. So far, Thieving Thea and Uncooperative Ercilla had enough votes to leave the island. The next upcoming episode on the video will be where the “unruly” students plan an escape. Be sure to tune in!

This is only one aspect of Character Counts. There are numerous opportunities for kids in this program. Banners are also displayed with NEMS students names on them each time they are recognized for a certain character trait. Names on the banners are then drawn for prizes. Businesses in the area have been

so kind to donate the prizes. The committee had the "Citizenship" banner on display for the School Board to see. There is an assembly at the end of each 6 weeks in celebration of the character pillar, such as "responsibility" or "fairness". A couple of other projects through the Character Counts Program includes the "Caring" pillar, which involves all 6 and 7 graders tutoring younger students. Also, Pulsar students will be helping with the transition for head start students, and assist them in learning about coming into the elementary school. It is apparent, that this is a very beneficial program for students, as well as lots of fun for everyone!

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

The School Board approved the resignation of Jeff White, NHS Custodian, effective January 23, 2001.

The School Board confirmed the following: employment of Darlene Johnson, MMS Custodian, effective January 15, 2001 and Roger Henderson, GHS Part-Time Remedial Tutor, effective January, 2001. Also confirmed was the retirement of Ralph Hull, EEMS Custodian, effective February 1, 2001 and the resignation of Rachel Goodwin, NHS Special Ed. Teacher, effective February 2, 2001.

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

- The Superintendent shared the instructional update with the Board, which included a recent news release from the Virginia Department of Education announcing that Giles High School has been selected as an on-line site for SOL state testing. Funding is also included for updating networks and infra-structure of schools that are selected. He also shared that in the meeting with administrators' earlier, that everyone was pleased with the SOL testing window, May 21 – June 7, 2001.
- Mr. Wheeler updated the School Board on the construction projects at both high schools, which are both winding down. He invited the Board members to tour the schools at their convenience. NHS is down to small punch list items. It is hopeful GHS will have the four needed classrooms, along with the Band and Choral classrooms soon.

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

The Board set Monday, February 12, 2001 at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office for the next School Board meeting. The Board also set 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**

- The NEMS Character Counts Committee members were commended for the outstanding educational feature. It's a true example to see how involved teachers are. Their excitement gets the students motivated! It was also commented how students are so helpful when you enter NEMS. There's lots of positive responses to this program.
- Congratulations to all the students recognized! Keep up the good work!
- Appreciation was conveyed to those that requested approval to give scholarship awards. It is a nice gesture.
- The School Board is invited to the annual science fair at the Governor's School. There are 121 entrees this year. Parents will be feeding the judges and the students.
- The Giles Memorial Hospital administrator recently allowed a Governor's School student to use the hospital lab for 2 days to work on a science project. A very nice gesture!
- Kim Wilson, GEA President, commented that January 16th is the last day of SOL testing. Students have been concerned and really tried.
- The Superintendent commented that it was good to be a part of the meeting with vendors at GHS regarding the on-line testing site. He felt they were impressed with the speed of the network at GHS.