

# NEWS RELEASE

January 14, 2002

Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*Mr. Buckland, School Board Chairman, brought the meeting to order and welcomed the new School Board member, Drema K. McMahon.**

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes –December 12, 2001
- Bills in the amount of \$1,559,637.10
- Appropriation Request for February, 2002
- Approval of Surplus Property

**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**\*Organizational Meeting**

- JB Buckland was appointed as School Board Chairman for 2002.
- Ronald Whitehead was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2002.
- The Board set the third Thursday of each month as Board meeting day, holding the first Thursday open in case another meeting is needed.
- Boni Kirk was appointed School Board Clerk for 2002.
- Barbara Perkins and Robert McCracken were appointed Deputy Clerks for 2002.

**\*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 School Board Chairman: Pam Johnson – MMS Volunteer.**

**\*School Board Hears Educational Feature from Giles High School**

Mr. Meade, GHS Principal, attended the meeting to introduce teachers and students, who demonstrated different projects. Babette Martin, Math Teacher and student, Christie Bowden, presented the Larson's Software, which reflected the student's perspective regarding Algebra I review. The program was impressive to Christie, who commented it is a "smart" program. She also stated that the program is just like a teacher, and shows you everything a teacher would teach. According to Christie and Mrs. Martin, there is no way that has been found where a student can trick the system. The software allows students to follow what they have just learned, not just look for right or wrong answers. A student may not bypass any part of the program, each level must be completed before continuing on. Christie demonstrated the "Try It" section and once mastered, the "Zap It" section. When a problem is missed, the student returns to previous section, but will not get the same questions each time. It does not tell the student the answer, he/she continues to work until they arrive at a correct answer and can ask for teacher assistance as needed. Also reviewed were tutorials, glossary, notebook, problem solving application, and the fact that the teacher can set the curriculum with this program. It was apparent that faculty and students were pleased with the new program, stating it is the best math program ever used.

Eugena Thomas, Librarian and the WGHS television crew also attended the meeting to demonstrate the new television station, Channel 5, at GHS. Jeff Williams, GHS PE Teacher was also on hand, being instrumental in the project offering valuable tips and techniques, with a degree in broadcasting. The following students make up the Channel 5 News Team and each highlighted their job by sharing information with the School Board: Lorne Bowman – Camera Operator; Michael Thompson – Sound

Engineer; James Kozikowski – Technical Director; Thomas Kozikowski – Graphics Designer; Erin Barnette – Weather Girl; Brandon King – News Anchor; Miles Miller – Sports; and Debra Monroe – Location Reporter. They shared various videos of sports cuts; an interview with Mr. Roberson; Behind the scenes video and the final product. It was very impressive to see what the students accomplished in their first year of television experience. A special thanks was conveyed to Mr. Albert for his assistance in the project. It is hopeful that a broadcasting class can be established and that GHS will have the capability to broadcast WGHS to the community sometime in the future!

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

- The Board confirmed the following: Resignation of Carl Collins, pending completion of workdays; Pat O'Brien as 2002 Census Director; Employment of Angela Rice – MMS, Part-time Teacher Assistant, and NHS Volunteer Coaches – Todd Guynn, JV Basketball and Gail McClung, Assistant Cheerleading Sponsor.
- The Board approved the following: Employment of Brenda Neice as MMS Custodian for the remainder of the 2001-02 school year, effective as soon as possible, and Stacy Smith as French Teacher GHS/NHS for the 2002-03 school year.

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

- As a part of the Budget Update, GEA President, Kim Wilson, and GEA Compensation Committee Chairman, Dave Graham, attended the meeting to share concerns and information regarding requests for the 2002-03 budget. They recommended that the School Board revisit the 7-year limit for new employees and distributed handouts reflecting a list of school divisions that grant full credit for previous teaching experience. Handouts were also received regarding Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience, as issued by the Board of Education. Regulations included teaching in public schools in and out of state, teaching in accredited institutes of higher learning in and out of state, and teaching in accredited private schools, to name a few. Mr. Graham and Ms. Wilson also expressed concern for the low mileage, currently .11 per mile, given teachers and employees when using personal vehicles for professional trips. They commented that the state pays approximately .27 per mile and VEA pays .30 per mile, and requested that this concern be reviewed by the School Board. Final handouts consisted of Bench Mark Date for 2001-02. GEA asked that entry salary to attract new teachers be reviewed by the School Board since Giles County ranks the lowest at this time (132 out of 132). Also, handouts regarding salary scale information was provided reflecting Options 5,6,7& 8. The issue was discussed and the Board was asked to review the current salary scale. Mr. Buckland, School Board Chairman, shared a Board concern regarding all GEA members not being aware of requests made on behalf of GEA, and asked that they be certain that all GEA members were aware of requests made to the School Board. He also stated that all Board members are concerned with the beginning salary for new incoming teachers.

The Superintendent shared additional budget information, including that we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the biennium budget that consists of 2 components, Standards of Quality and sales tax. If the sales tax drops, the formula will “up” the basic funding. Giles County is ok for now if our current enrollment remains the same. He also spoke of a possible increase in Health Care Credit and removal of construction money as two areas of concern. He will keep the Board informed as state budget information becomes available.

- As part of the Instructional Update, the Superintendent informed the Board of a class that will be offered through the Distance Learning Lab at Giles High School. It will be a psychology class for GHS students that will come directly from New River Community College. There were 13 students that expressed an interest, and he commended the 3 secondary guidance counselors for getting the class organized.
- The Superintendent reviewed various bills that are in the legislature for consideration at this time. They included SOQ bill/elementary guidance counselors, JLARC study, school

crisis/intervention, student conduct, opening school prior to Labor Day, VRS changes/Health Insurance Credit, and possible changes in diplomas. The Superintendent will keep the School Board informed as legislative data becomes available.

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

- A. The Board approved the motion to enter into an agreement to have a structural analysis completed regarding the bleachers at Narrows and Giles High Schools.
- B. An additional surplus list was approved by the School Board, to be added to Consent Items IV-C.
- C. The School Board approved a graduation date for 2002 graduation. The weekend of June 7 & 8 will be graduation dates for Narrows and Giles High Schools. Should there be no school missed for inclement weather between now and Spring Break, additional days will be added to Spring Break, which is currently scheduled for March 29 and April 1, 2002. Should school days be missed now, they will be made up after June 3<sup>rd</sup>. **(Note: January 23<sup>rd</sup> is a make-up day for January 7<sup>th</sup>, which was a snow day).**
- D. The School Board approved the following employment at the Central Office for the 2002-03 school year: Scott Meade, Terry Arbogast, and Sarah McGlothlin.
- E. The School Board approved the resignation of Doug Stevers, effective January 25, 2002.
- F. The School Board approved H.L. White as NHS All-Around MACC Coach for the 2001-02 school year.
- G. The School Board approved the request of the Pearisburg Junior Womens' Club to fingerprint elementary students as they have done in the past.
- H. The School Board approved the request of the first graduating class of Giles High School (1962), to place a plaque in Giles High School.
- I. The School Board confirmed the following dates for computer training sessions with Jeff Young, Network Administrator: January 22, 24, and 29. All sessions will be held at 7:30 AM.
- J. The School Board confirmed Thursday, February 21, 2002 for the next School Board meeting, with the annual School Board Retreat beginning at 1:00 PM, followed by the February Board meeting at 5:00 PM. If needed, a closed session will be held prior to the 5:00 meeting.

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

- A. The School Board highly commended Giles High School for the outstanding educational feature. Both presentations were very enlightening and impressive. Channel WGHS is a fine avenue for students to experience what they may want to do in the future. It was comforting to view Larson's software and know students are being assisted in the area of Math, where SOL's are constantly a challenge.
- B. All School Board members warmly welcomed Mrs. McMahon.
- C. The School Board met with the Board of Supervisors in the annual joint meeting. The continued support of the county is always sincerely appreciated.
- D. Mrs. McMahon felt there were many positive aspects of the school system!
- E. The Superintendent commended the maintenance crew for the fine job they have done renovating the hallway at the Central Office.

