

# NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 2001  
Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

## **\*School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the May 8, 2001 meeting
- Bills in the amount of \$1,878,503.21
- Payroll for the month of May, 2001
- Revenue report for the month of May, 2001
- Appropriation Request for July, 2001
- Confirmation of Scholarships
- Field Trip Confirmation
- Confirmation of Project Return

**\*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:** John Hale on behalf of the Narrows PIN Group for his outstanding volunteer efforts at NHS; Anna's Restaurant for their outstanding volunteer efforts at NHS; and Linda Fitzgerald – Clerical Support at NHS.

Students were also recognized as follows: Eric Atkins, NHS – Historic and Academic Achievement, graduating 2 years ahead of schedule; Kim Jennelle, NHS – Winner, VSBA Art Competition; and the State VICA competition winners from the Giles Tech. Center – Becky St. Leger, Avery Dolinger, and Jason Johnston.

The 2000-01 retirees were honored prior to the meeting with a reception hosted by GEA, with delicious refreshments. They then were presented a clock and plaques for their years of service. Kim Wilson, GEA President, also presented GEA pins to GEA retirees. The retirees for this year are: Barbara Buckland, Ellen Harkrader, Alicia Coulter, Sandra Clark, Vic Edwards, Shirley Lockerby, Judy Mann, Ralph Hull, Wanda Stump, and Clate Dolinger.

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

The Board confirmed the following employment for the 2001-02 school year: Cynthia Haney – NHS Math Teacher; Carole Kostenblatt – MMS Guidance Counselor; Kathy Wilson-Klatka – GHS Guidance Counselor; Carolyn McConnell – NHS Guidance Counselor; and Angie Frame – NEMS Part-time Health Assistant.

The Board confirmed the following resignations, effective the end of the 2000-01 school year: Stacy Hutchison – GHS ISS Monitor; Jeanne Allen – GHS Guidance Counselor; John Howlett – GHS Social Studies Teacher; and Marsha Kessinger – EEMS Part-Time Teacher Assistant.

The Board confirmed the following transfers for the 2001-02 school year: Glenna Woodring – to GHS/EEMS Special Ed. Teacher position; Crystal McCall – position and location to be determined at a later date; Barbara Quesenberry – GHS Teacher Assistant; Steve Wilson – GHS ISS Monitor; and Jason Frazier – GHS Special Ed. Teacher Assistant.

The Board confirmed the employment of Bobby Gusler as NHS Custodian, effective as soon as possible.

The Board approved the following administrative positions for the 2002-03 school year, to replace the ERIP

employees: Terry Arbogast – NHS Principal; Rick Franklin – NEMS Principal; Greg Brown – MMS Principal. Pam Higginbotham was approved as EEMS principal, effective January 1, 2002.

The Board approved the transfer of Theresa Beckner for the 2002-03 school year to Giles High School as Librarian, to replace the ERIP employee.

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

The Superintendent shared graphs of SOL scores including the Spring, 2001 scores. The scores reflected hard work of the faculties and students. All Spring, 2001 scores had increased from the Spring, 2000 scores. All schools reached the necessary bench marks, which reflected excellent scores. The Superintendent and School Board members were extremely pleased with the scores, commenting that it speaks highly of faculties and students, and the extra efforts put in by all.

Mr. Wheeler updated the School Board on the renovation projects, which are close to completion. In the next four to six weeks, the final items will be dealt with. Landscaping is almost complete at both schools. There are still some roofing problems at both schools that are being addressed, otherwise both schools are almost complete.

The School Board approved authorizations as recommended. The Board authorized the Board Chairman and the Superintendent to accept RFP's and offer employment between School Board meetings, if needed. Also authorized was signatures in the absence of the Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent and School Board Clerk were approved to sign necessary documents in the absence of the Superintendent.

The School Board approved J.B. Buckland as the VSBA delegate for one year and Ronald Whitehead as the alternate delegate for 2001-02. Mr. Buckland and Mr. Whitehead abstained.

The School Board approved policy revisions as recommended by the VSBA Policy Services and the administration, which included the review of JHCC-R which reflected no changes.

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

The School Board confirmed the following RFP's:

- No. 6-2001 – Awarded to Horace Mann for third party administrator services for flexible reimbursement accounts (125K Plan) at not cost to the school system.
- No. 7-2001 – Awarded to low bidder, Castle Rock Insurance Agency, for property/inland/marine/commercial general liability, boiler and machinery and School Board legal liability insurance in the amount of \$40,091 (for a three year period).
- No. 8-2001 – Awarded to low bidder, State Farm Insurance Agency for fleet insurance in the amount of \$12,974.27.
- Also, quotes were taken for landscaping at Giles and Narrows High School, and awarded to Greenbrier Nurseries with the lowest quote, in the amount of \$2,925.
- The School Board approved the sale price of the property adjoining Macy McClaugherty School in the amount of \$16,000. Also approved was the School Board's cost of \$8,000 with the Giles County Board of Supervisors paying the remaining \$8,000 for the property.
- The School Board confirmed the renovations to the Narrows Head Start Center through a grant they have received through the National Head Start Bureau for one-time improvements. The amount of the grant is \$35,013 and will pay for the renovations. The project will be of no cost to the School Board.
- The School Board approved the Declaration of Intent for Technology Bonds, in the amount of \$250,000. The formal intent allows the School Board to be reimbursed by state funds.

- The School Board set the close-out meeting for Friday morning, June 29, 2001 at 7:30 AM, at the School Board Office.
- The School Board set the August meeting date for Thursday morning, August 23, 2001 at 7:30 AM, at the School Board Office, in conjunction with New Teacher Orientation at 8:30 AM.

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

- The Board was very impressed with test scores! They commended faculty members, students, parents, and staff members for being committed to this effort to raise test scores. It is something to be proud of!
- Seth McCracken was commended for the fine job he does at the Governor's School with technology. He consistently assists with the school's technology problems as well as upgrades the system when needed. He does an outstanding job!
- Thanks were conveyed to GEA. It has been a pleasure working with GEA this year and we look forward to next year.
- Thanks were conveyed to all of the folks responsible for the two renovation banquets at the high schools recently. It was apparent everyone worked very hard to make the banquets a big success.
- Congratulations to the 111 Seniors at GHS and 51 Seniors at NHS! Good job!
- Bus drivers were commended for the jobs they do. Some were treating their kids after school is out with pizza parties and cookouts!
- 137 students are enrolled at the Governor's School for the 2001-02 term. An additional learning cottage is in the plans.
- The Board believes that a step in the right direction has been made, in signing letters of intent with upcoming new employees. It is good when vacancies can be filled early on.
- It's hard to believe we are closing another school year. It's been a busy year, getting through the renovations and raising SOL scores were intense projects. Thanks to everyone, parents, students, teachers, staff, and administration. No one CAN'T be proud of Giles County Schools.