

News Release

June 4, 2002

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2002
- Special Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2002
- Bills in the amount of \$1,777,114.17
- Revenue for May, 2002
- Appropriation Request for July, 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: The following students were recognized for their outstanding achievement:** *Courtney Olson – 2002 All-USA High School Academic First Team and Selection for All Virginia Chorus; Jared Martin – Selection for All Virginia Chorus; Heather Trenar – 1st Place Winner, VSBA Artshow; Kala Marshall – 2nd Place Winner, VSBA Artshow; Michael Heim – Participant, VSBA Artshow.*

Also recognized was Carl Smith, of Best Electric, Inc. – Support of Auto and Building Trades Programs at GTC.

2001-02 Retirees were recognized as well. Prior to the regular meeting, GEA hosted a reception in honor of all retirees. Although several were unable to be at the meeting, each received a plaque for dedicated service from the Board Chairman and Superintendent.

*Jerry Albert
Beverley Cheney
Nancy David
Wilma Dunn
Brooks Fullen
Edd Holt
Pat Johnson*

*Wilven Kessinger
Rosemarie Marshall
Jack McCall
Trish Muldoon
Pat O'Brien
Dean Rowe*

*Clara Skeens
Ron Skeens
Jennifer Sullivan
Eugena Thomas
Jim Wheeler
Sue Wheeler*

***Public Comments**

A group of community people attended the meeting in support of Rick Cook, regarding the Assistant Varsity Football Coach at Narrows High School for the 2002-03 school year for which he was not hired at the May 16th Board meeting. Patricia Dent, Kathy Waldron, Steve Janning and Dr. Don Clements addressed the Board and asked that the Board reconsider the employment of Mr. Cook for the NHS coaching position. They each gave positive comments for their request. Chairman Buckland explained that a second recommendation would need to come from Narrows High School regarding the position since the first recommendation was denied. Then that recommendation would be considered; however, a closed session would need to be held due to the law as stated in Paragraph One and Four of the Virginia Code.

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

The Board confirmed the following effective the end of the current school year: Resignation of Steve Mason; Resignation of Thomas Miller, contingent upon suitable replacement; Retirement of Brooks Fullen.

The Board approved the following employment for the 2002-03 school year: Brenda Smith – NHS Guidance Clerk; Jason Burton – Maintenance Worker; Jerry Albert – Part-time-Maintenance/Facilities Consultant and Jack McCall – Part-time Title I & Elementary Curriculum.

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

The Superintendent informed the School Board of the change in the 2002-03 school calendar regarding the Pre-School Conference Day at Mountain Lake. It has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 29th from August 27th due to conflicts at Mountain Lake. He also reviewed the Professional Development Activities for 02-03 and distributed handouts to the Board members. Another item of interest was the NHS publication, the "Green and Gold Times". The Superintendent commented on the outstanding writing skills in relation to the SOL Writing Exam. He spoke highly of the professional aspects of the document and also commended Tanya Reece, students and others who have worked so diligently to make the newsletter a success. He also shared that raw scores should be received June 5th regarding the most recent SOL scores.

The School Board approved Mr. Buckland and Mr. Whitehead as the VSBA Delegate and alternate respectively to the 2002 Annual Convention in Williamsburg.

The School Board approved the following authorizations for the 2002-03 school year: The Chairman and Superintendent to accept RFP's and offer employment between School Board meetings, if needed; and Terry Arbogast, Deputy Superintendent and Boni Kirk, School Board Clerk to sign documents for the 2002-03 school year, in the Superintendent's absence, as requested by the Virginia Department of Education. The Chairman clarified the procedure for Mrs. McMahon the newest Board member.

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

- The School Board approved Jared Rader as GHS Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for the 2002-03 school year.
- The School Board confirmed the 2001-02 close out meeting for June 28, 2002 at 7:30 AM.

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

- Congratulations were conveyed to the participants in the VSBA Art Show. Giles County has had a first place winner for two consecutive years. That's GREAT!
- The retirees were commended for a total of 527 years of service! The Board wished them the best of luck; they will all be missed!
- Thanks were conveyed to GEA for the nice reception they provided for the retirees.
- The year has rapidly gone by. It has been a very successful year, renovations and successful SOL scores. It has been a good year overall!
- Mrs. McMahon recently toured the Giles Tech. Center and was extremely pleased with what she saw there. Keep up the good work! She also participated in the NHS Job Fair and commended those that organized such an undertaking. It was very successful.
- Scholarship funds for the Governor's School has exceeded \$1,000,000 for two consecutive years. Scholarships from Giles County have increased from \$500 in 1993 to \$2500 for Governor's School recipients.

- Governor's School students recently participated in the VA Academy of Science, where three Giles County students placed: Emily Smith – 1st Place, Shelly Devereaux – 2nd Place, and Jeremy Kidd – Honorable Mention. Congratulations!
- Kim Wilson, GEA President thanked the Board for allowing them to host the reception for retirees each year.
- The Superintendent received a letter from VML Insurance that commented our school system on regarding a recent safety visit. It stated that we probably had the best safety record in the last five years in Southwest Virginia! Thanks were conveyed to Mr. Wheeler for his guidance through the finale of the renovation projects and maintaining such a good safety record. Good job!
- The Superintendent shared a letter from the Giles County Animal Rescue Inc. with the Board members, regarding an animal shelter. He informed the Board that a letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to let them know of the willingness to support such a project, once certain areas of concern are addressed. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed.

Pictures of Recognition at the Meeting Below

Picture No. 1

Retirees that were present: Row 1: Trish Muldoon, Wilma Dunn, Eugena Thomas, Nancy David and Rosemarie Marshall. Row 2: Jerry Albert, Jim Wheeler, Brooks Fullen, Edd Holt and Wilven Kessinger.

Picture No. 2

Courtney Olson, Dr. McCracken, Chairman JB Buckland – *Courtney chosen for 2002 All-USA High School Academic First Team*

Picture No. 3

Carl Smith, Dr. McCracken, Chairman JB Buckland - *Carl Smith, of Best Electric, Inc. – Generouse Support and Community Involvement in Auto and Building Trades Programs at Giles Co. Technology Center.*

Picture No. 4

Row 1: Larry Marion, Dr. McCracken; Row 2: Jared Martin, Courtney Olson, Chairman Buckland - *Jared and Courtney – Selection for All Virginia Chorus*

Picture No. 5

Heather Trenar, Dr. McCracken, Chairman Buckland - *Heather Trenar – 1st Place Winner, VSBA Artshow*







