

# NEWS RELEASE

March 21, 2002

Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

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

- Regular Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2002
- Bills in the amount of \$1,436,009.83
- Appropriation Request for April, 2002
- Declaration of Surplus Property
- Special Education Annual Plan Revisions
- Consent Items Amended to Include Additional Check Register

## **\*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:** Teacher Assistants for Instructional Achievement: Rosemarie Marshall – EEMS, Beverley Cheney – MMS, Anna McCroskey – NEMS, and Ryan Olson as recipient of the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Kristi McCall, Macy McClaugherty School Teacher, was announced as The Giles County Teacher of the Year. Other candidates were: Bernice Davis – EEMS; Lynn Williams – GHS; and Sarah McGlothlin – NHS and were also recognized.

## **\*Public Comments**

Charles Waselchalk, NHS teacher and Kim Wilson, GEA President, addressed the School Board regarding the changes in the 2001-02 school calendar, which extends the Easter Break, in the event of no more inclement weather. Mr. Waselchalk's concern was in regard to needing that time to prepare students for SOL testing. Ms. Wilson spoke on behalf of GEA, requesting that the School Board honor the work of the Calendar Committee. She also expressed concern of the schedule change for parents and teachers. Chairman Buckland commented that he didn't know of any other county in Southwest Virginia that gave their teachers as much say in matters as our school system, and if the Board made a mistake, they apologize. He also stated that the calendar change was a Board decision, which the Board felt was best. Mrs. McMahan also commented she was sorry that it happened to the calendar committee, but there were two options and a decision had to be made. She also shared that it was not the intention to overstep the boundaries of the calendar committee or show disrespect.

## **\*School Board Hears Educational Feature from Giles County Technology Center**

Mr. Fowler, GTC Principal/Director attended the meeting to introduce Mr. Jackie Evans, CISCO Instructor, along with his student, Lauren Robertson, who is a CISCO participant. Mr. Evans updated the School Board regarding the CISCO program, explaining that we are a local academy, with the parent academy being New River Community College. There are no textbooks and it is a four-semester program. Students are able to access CISCO on-line, and the benefit is they can access 24 hours a day, from home if they have Internet access. There are two degrees, CCNA, which is comparable to an Associate Degree, and CCNP, which is comparable to a Bachelor Degree. There is currently a great demand for computer technicians and network administrators, and CISCO provides the training necessary to obtain such types of employment. Test-out software is now available for students, which simulates a router, and allows students to learn the router process without having to get to a router station. Lauren expressed

her feelings in saying that being hands on really helps. The Superintendent commented that the state has approved the CISCO Certification to be used as an alternative for the SOL test.

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

The School Board confirmed the following personnel actions:

- Resignations: Bobby Sheets, effective immediately, Catherine Beck, Linda Fitzgerald, Patrick Butler and Jennifer Bush, effective the end of the current school year.
- Retirements with ERIP for 2002-03: Frances Breedlove-Croy, Bob Lilly, Carol Lilly, Margaret Redmond, and Honore Webb.
- Retirements – Wilven Kessinger, Rosemarie Marshall, Edd Holt
- Retirement w/20 Day Program for 2002-03 – Clara Skeens
- Volunteer Coaches: Clyde Turner – NHS Baseball, Chris Bales – GHS Varsity Baseball Ass't., Tonya Vaden – GHS Ass't Girls' Tennis.
- Also confirmed: Mason Bragg – NHS JV Baseball Coach; Helmut Keiner - Continued Consultant for this school year; Sarah McGlothlin – Transfer to School Board Office, effective March 4, 2002 for training for 2002-03 Special Ed. Coordinator position.

The School Board approved the employment of Audrey Reith as GHS Ag/Horticulture Teacher for the 2002-03 school year.

The School Board, upon recommendation, approved the decline of assistance regarding a health insurance request 0102INS2.

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

- A. The Superintendent shared good news with the Board members regarding a recent Fulbright Grant application. The grant has been approved and as a result, the Giles County School System is among those that will solicit employees who are interested in traveling to China this summer for a month of study as part of the project. There are no funds needed from the School Board, just professional leave approval and since it is in the summer, there will be no cost for substitutes.

The Superintendent also shared SOL successes from various schools. NEMS developed flash cards made from Flanagan and Mott materials to assist students in Social Studies. Also, 3rd graders have used Marco Polo to demonstrate volume, by using centimeter cubes to build buildings. MMS 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have a science lab, where students wear lab jackets and goggles just like scientists. Fourth graders dissected owl pellets to explain the food chain. NHS students have acted out Constitutional amendments and created Powerpoint presentations on the American Revolutionary War.

- B. The Superintendent updated the School Board on the state budget. There is a budget in place. He reviewed the elimination of certain funds in the budget which include changes in current VRS/Group Life and an increase in percentage paid by Board for retiree health care credit. Other programs eliminated were teacher salary incentive money, SOL teacher training/materials money, health fund grant money, additional teacher incentives, and maintenance supplement incentive funds. The elimination of the Governor's Best Practice Centers and decrease of funds for the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium is also a grave concern.
- C. The School Board approved the recommendation of the Textbook Adoption Committee, Harcourt contingent upon successful negotiations with the publisher. The recommendation was Harcourt School Publishing.

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

- A. The Board confirmed the following RFP's:  
RFP No. 2-2002 for pest management services to low bidder, Dodson Brothers Exterminating.  
RFP No. 3-2002 for the purchase of two school buses to low bidder, Kingmor.

- B. The Board approved the renewal of Trigon/Local Health Insurance for one year.
- C. The Board confirmed Elevating Equipment Inspection Service in Roanoke to replace CEEIS, our current company that has dissolved. CEEIS recommended the company, Elevating Equipment Inspection Service with a three-year contract for the same price as CEEIS.
- D. Following discussion, the Board directed the Superintendent to be certain the schools were following the student dress code that is in place.
- E. Following discussion, the Board approved a motion to require the elementary schools to offer the Bible Bus Program to students in either sixth or seventh grade whichever is the choice of the school's teachers and administration. It is currently offered in to fourth graders. Due to loss of instruction time and the SOL's, it will not be offered to fifth graders.
- F. The Board approved the motion to decline participation in the 20 Day/Health Insurance Program, after retirement. In order to be a participant of the program, it must be requested at the time of retirement.
- G. The Superintendent shared a list of classes with the School Board from Narrows High School that are possibilities for Distance Learning. No action was needed, the consensus of the Board was for the Superintendent to proceed and bring back the information for approval once it is finalized.
- H. The School Board's next School Board meeting is set for Thursday, April 11, 2002 at the School Board Office at 7:00 PM. If needed, a closed session will be held at 5:15 PM.

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

- Congratulations were conveyed to the four Teacher of the Year candidates. All teachers deserve recognition and the Teacher of the Year Committee does an excellent job each year with the process.
- Thanks were conveyed to GTC for the CISCO presentation. It's good to see that Giles County is right out in front with technology.
- Thanks were conveyed to Kim Wilson and Charles Waselchalk for their points of concern, they were well taken. The Board was apologetic to anyone who felt they made an error in the calendar change. The Board feels this situation will not occur again, since the 2002-03 Calendar Committee has been directed to establish graduation dates for next year.
- Mr. Gollehon commented it is good to see all the positive things happening. It is disturbing to him why there is dissatisfaction among teachers. He reminded those present that in the eight years he has been a School Board member, the Board has gone out of their way to do for teachers. He also stated that when he was a teacher, there was no opportunity to discuss issues with the Board.
- Mrs. McMahon has been visiting the schools and has been extremely pleased with the display of cleanliness and bright hallways.
- The Superintendent shared that the Board and administrators met for their quarterly meeting prior to the regular Board meeting. The Board's time is appreciated as they meet with the administrators during the year. It was a congenial meeting and as everyone looked around the table, the realization set in that lots of those folks would be retiring this year.

**Pictures of Those Recognized at the Meeting**

Teachers of the Year



Giles County's Teacher of the Year



Ryan Olson for 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award



Teacher Assistants for Instructional Achievement

