

News Release  
Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting  
May 16, 2002

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2002
- Special Meeting Minutes – April 17 & 22, 2002
- Bills in the amount of \$1,478,233.28
- Revenue for April, 2002
- Appropriation Request for June, 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:** Sheila Pfister – Giles County Health Department – Continued Support of Giles County Schools. The following Special Ed. Teachers were recognized for the leadership during the Collection of Evidence for the VA Alternate Assessment Program: Pat Fullen, Marcia Murray, Janet Vittum, Janice Walkup, and Mitzie White.

Students were also recognized: T.J. Atkins – Outstanding Talent in Creating a Civil War Replica; and Giles County Technology students for USA VICA Competition – First in District Competition: Rachael Fleeman, Matthew Galliher, Jessica Manning, Shanna Lucas and Kayla Rakes. Placing in state level contests were Sarah Johnson – 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Angela Reece – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and Jamie Snider – 4<sup>th</sup> Place.

**\*Public Comments**

Veronica Stump, a parent from Macy McClougherty School, addressed the Board on behalf of a group of Macy parents, regarding concern of the reduction of 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms for 2002-03, from three classrooms to two. She stated that the important learning skills will be missed in larger classes and that smaller classrooms allow more individual attention. Mr. Buckland, the Board Chairman commented that no one disagrees with the concern and it was discussed with the Board of Supervisors. He also stated that the Board has instructed the Superintendent to look at the budget if additional funds become available; however, it is probable a decision cannot be made until the beginning of the school year.

**\*School Board Hears Educational Feature from Department of Special Programs**

Patricia Muldoon, Director of Special Programs, attended the meeting to introduce Dale Matusevich, Transition Coordinator with Radford University, Dept. of Special Education of TTAC, who commended Narrows High School for their participation in TTAC. Two years ago, NHS applied for a grant that would provide services to improve opportunities to students with disabilities. He commented that it is an honor to work with Mrs. Muldoon and NHS, a warm, welcoming environment where it's a pleasure to attend meetings, stressing that faculty members are always eager to come to the table and work together. English teacher, Betsy Wood in turn complimented T-TAC for providing funds, expertise and materials at no expense to the school division. Even registration fees and cost of substitute teachers are paid for by T-TAC. Mrs. Wood updated the Board on T-TAC projects used in the classroom. LINCS Table is used for concept development. It links different pieces of knowledge together to form a chain, where Mrs. Wood gave examples. Math teacher, Marilyn Mustard talked about the "Frame", which is given to students in a blank format to work equation formulas. Students are given the sheet from the very first day to use daily.

They log the information, read it, explain it to the teacher, and then they are ready to do an actual equation. The passrate was 30% prior to the "Frame" being used, and is now 72%. English teacher, Melanie Atkins spoke of two items supplied by T-TAC that have been extremely helpful. First explained was a handbook for each teacher that includes goals, challenges teachers face and solutions for those challenges, team teaching strategies, an explanation of special education terms, a child study form, and quick reference access. Secondly, she spoke of a student profile sheet regarding transition from 7<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. Within the profile sheet, 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will provide learning styles of students, so high school teachers can better know their new students. Mrs. Wood summed up the program by sharing her experience of team teaching with Sarah McGlothlin, Special Education Teacher. It was a pleasant, rewarding experience; they had five IEP's and 2 unidentified and had a great time helping kids learn. As Ms. Wood stated "All education should be special".

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

The Board confirmed the following employment for the 2002-03 school year: Maria Maddy – Teacher/NEMS; Connie Wheeler – NHS Secretary; and Debbie Lusk – Work and Family Studies Teacher/NHS.

The Board approved the amended list of coaching/extra-curricular assignments for Narrows and Giles High Schools for 2002-03.

The following appointments were approved for the 2002-03 school year: Steve Brady – NHS Assistant Principal; Jared Rader – GHS Assistant Principal; and Cynthia Delp – MMS Principal.

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

The Superintendent shared that raw scores have been received for end of course tests, NHS 78.18% and GHS 73.87%. Both are above the 70% benchmark, which makes them fully accredited in the writing component. He also informed the Board that a public hearing is being scheduled through the Department of Education regarding giving verified credit for those who did not pass the SOL exams. However, there will be no alternatives for the English/Writing test.

The School Board approved the first reading of Policy IKAB-R regarding class rank, to be finalized as a policy revision and other policy revisions as recommended by administration and VSBA Policy Services, including JFC-R, page 3 and JFC-R-1, page 6.

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

- The School Board approved the recommendation of expulsion for Case No. 0102-3.
- The School Board confirmed RFP No. 4-2002 to low bidder, JanPak, for janitorial supplies in the amount of \$1,440.38
- The School Board confirmed their attendance at the Blue Ridge Forum on May 22, 2002 in Radford.
- The School Board confirmed the next School Board meeting date as June 4, 2002, 7:00 PM at
- The School Board confirmed the annual administrators' outing for June 6, 2002 at Claytor Lake.
- The School Board Office, and 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**

- The Board approved July 5<sup>th</sup> as a holiday in addition to the July 4, 2002 holiday. Due to July 4<sup>th</sup> falling on Thursday, the Board granted employees a two day holiday.
- The Board Chairman informed the public that the Board had completed their annual review of the Superintendent and continues to be pleased with his excellent work and dedication to Giles County Public Schools. It is the hope of the School Board that Dr. McCracken will be with us for a long time to come.
- The Board is always pleased to see what is going on in our school system. All of the student/faculty recognition and SOL scores are just part of the excitement in Giles County Schools.

- Mrs. McMahon attended the After-Prom party. She was extremely impressed with the support of the community for this worthwhile project. It was well attended by students and everyone enjoyed themselves.
- Congratulations to Courtney Olson. She was one of five Virginia high school students recently named to the All USA High School Academic First Team. Each of the 20 first team members will receive a \$2500 cash award from USA Today. Out of 1600 nominees, Courtney was among those chosen. We are very fortunate to have students of this level in our schools.
- Congratulations to Morgan McMahon, who received honorable mention in the VA State Science Fair, where Governor's School students participated.
- Sincere thanks were conveyed to the Department of Special Education for the fine educational feature. It always nice to see teachers excited about learning!
- The artwork of students that was displayed in the School Board Office for the annual art show was outstanding. It was an accumulation of all of the art this school year. The quality of the art by students was excellent!
- Thanks were conveyed to the employees that will be retiring this year. All of the hard work over the years is deeply appreciated.
- T.J. Atkins was commended for his work on the Civil War Replica that he created! Good job!
- The Superintendent received a nice letter from Amy Spears, GHS student, who has served as a state officer, State Vice President of Public Relations for the Virginia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She was appreciative of the support and encouragement that allowed her to serve in such a role.

**Pictures of Recognition at the Meeting**





