

Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting  
October 30, 2002

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*School Board Approves Consent Items**

- Regular Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2002
- Special Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2002 and October 8, 2002
- September Expenditures in the amount of \$1,424,036.43
- September, 2002 Payrolls
- Appropriation Request for December, 2002
- 2002-03 Advisory Committees
- 2002-03 Field Trips (School Board reserves the right to review certain field trips in January 2003 due to various state violence issues)
- All Title Applications/Budgets for 2002-03
- Special Education Annual Plan – Additional Changes

**\*Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**\*Special Presentations**

The following were recognized for their hard work and dedication by being presented a certificate by the Board Chairman and Superintendent: Barbara St. Leger, John Maddy, and Judy Keating – For the organization of the 9/11/02 ceremony at EEMS; NHS – Carolyn McConnell – Student Support and Charles Waselchalk – Administrative Support; MMS – Mulch Project – Students: Kurt Marcussen and Michael Suttle; Terri Meador and Tim Vaughn; the GHS Golf Team – 2002 Single A State Champions.

**\*Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**\*Educational Feature**

School principals attended the meeting to share their school successes with the School Board. This year new faces are serving in the administrative role in our schools. Cindy Delp – Macy McClagherty School; Rick Franklin – Narrows Elementary/Middle School; Greg Brown – Giles High School; Rowdy Stump – Narrows High School; and Pam Higginbotham (2<sup>nd</sup> year – Eastern Elementary/ Middle School). Each principal had many positive accomplishments to share with Board members.

Mr. Stump informed the Board that the NHS community has been extremely successful in community/parental involvement, with a good remediation program and less disciplinary problems this year, and superb athletics. He commended his staff for good communication skills and student support. He feels students are comfortable coming in and talking with administrators. He explained Mrs. Wood's Appalachian Culture Class got off to a great start, worked with other teachers, Mr. Lusk, who learned to "flat foot" and Mrs. Lusk in the foods/nutrition class, all which meets the SOL Standards. Mr. Hinson's students are transplanting trees as a project. It is hopeful NHS will fly with SOL scores!

Mrs. Higginbotham expressed her thanks for her intern, Brenda Hayes, this year. It has freed Pam up to spend time in the classrooms this year, as opposed to her first year, when she had no intern. She mentioned the Character Ed. Program, which has helped all children. She hopes to showcase her teachers this year, spending more time with them and their students. This marks the EEMS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so plans are in the works for upcoming festivities. She thanked the Board for programs, Sing, Spell, Read and Write, Larson Math, Accelerated Reader and upgraded ALS, to name a few...all helps supplement what they do everyday.

Ms. Delp presented a Powerpoint presentation of MMS, including pictures of honor roll students per grade level, a trip to the Pumpkin Patch/use of pumpkins and pumpkin seeds, Life Cycles of Butterflies, geometry skills, the study of an egg...all information pertaining to SOL projects, which meet the standards. She also commended the Character Counts Citizenship Program and how well students respond to it. Among her goals this year, she hopes to establish a vision and mission for MMS, as well as provide opportunities for parents, staff and students to be involved in decisions affecting the school, just to name a few.

Mr. Franklin shared student drawings with the School Board that reflected what fun things students felt they have learned during the first six weeks of school. They included the importance of American Freedom described on 9/11; field trip to Mountain Lake, National School Lunch Week, new computers in lab; Indian culture and making medicine bags for field trips. Other highlights for students have been the recent book fair where they visit and purchase books, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders assisting kindergartners in the cafeteria. National School Lunch Week was a big success for parents, grandparents and students. Mr. Franklin commended his staff and commented how proud he is of the things NEMS is doing.

Mr. Brown also shared positive comments for GHS regarding various activities including the Agriculture Animal Care Assistant Program, the Distance Learning Lab, "A Christmas Carol" that students are preparing for, SODA - a group of students who will be teaching at Macy, a new group of students that is being established - the "GHS Ambassadors" and the Chorale's upcoming performance. He explained how they are working to keep the improved English SOL scores. He also presented a Powerpoint presentation for GHS, which reflected Phases of the Moon from Science Teacher, Ms. Tegelman and a "motion" presentation of cheerleading skills by 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, Michelle Harris.

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

The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year: Eric Dalton, Custodian, effective 10/1/02; Amy McCroskey – Part-time Speech Assistant, effective 9/30/02; Pam Tegelman – GHS MACC Math Coach; GHS Volunteer Coaches – Larry Marion, Lori Marion and Kim Medley - all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball; Mary Kay Smith – Weather Observer; Sabrina Gautier – Reinstated 10/10/02 for Student Specific Position/GHS; School Volunteers for the 2002-03 school year; and Susan Kirkpatrick – EEMS Title I Teacher, effective 10/28/02.

The Board approved the following employment for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year: Steve Songer – NHS Custodian, effective 11/1/02; Mark Hubbard – Part-time ARDT Coordinator/Instructor-County-wide; and an additional school volunteer, Cindy Coake.

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

The School Board approved new policies and revisions as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and administration, which included new policy, IKFA and new regulation, IIA-R, Page 2.

The Superintendent shared the schools' biennial plans with the School Board for their review as part of this month's instructional update.

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

- The Board approved Principal Appreciation Week as November 3-9, 2002, in accordance with the request of Governor Warner.
- The Board approved a scholarship request from the Jackie Wade Memorial in the amount of \$200 for a 2003 Narrows High School graduate.
- The Board approved a resolution in support of public education. The Virginia Board of Education, in regard to the K-12 education components of the state budget, adopted the resolution.

- The School Board acknowledged American Education Week November 18-22. They scheduled their annual school tours for Tuesday, November 19, 2002, with the Board meeting to be held at 1:30 PM.

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

- The School Board is in the process of their annual budget meetings in the schools, and each have been amazed at the concern of the state budget expressed by employees in the meetings. There have been positive comments regarding the upcoming budget, as well as concerns and questions. Any requests that have been made have not been about "me", they have all been for the benefit of students. And everyone seems very understanding in knowing that requests, more than likely, will not be granted in next year's budget. The Chairman commented that the Board is concerned of the pressure on employees about the budget issues at hand. The Board would like to somehow relieve that stress for employees.
- The principals were highly commended for the outstanding educational feature. Each one commended their staff and faculty and shared many positive accomplishments. It was commented that they are all doing a great job and it's good to see what's happening in the schools.
- Congratulations were conveyed to the GHS Band Director, Kevin White, and his students for their recent competition at Concord College!
- Congratulations were conveyed to the GHS Golf Team for their state championship!
- Governor's School Director, Pat Duncan, recently visited GHS. So many students were interested in the Governor's School, it took most of a day to see them all.
- Colleges are now visiting the Governor's School to observe students. Some visitors include UVA, VA Tech, Radford University and Emory & Henry.
- The Superintendent shared with Board members that he and Mr. Arbogast recently met with some folks regarding energy management. The intent is to educate employees about how to use and manage energy in the buildings, by turning off computer monitors and lights daily, etc. They evaluate the energy information and project how much should be spent. Should that not happen in a certain period of time, those that projected the amount will write a check for that sum. The consensus of the Board was to continue looking into it. The Superintendent plans to send out an RFP to see if there are other companies that have this plan. Currently, Carroll and Montgomery Counties are participating.
- The Superintendent also informed the Board that Special Education numbers continue to grow. Pre -school aged children are required to be identified by 2 years of age and we have no choice but to provide services.
- The Superintendent also commended the school principals this year. The enthusiasm they show indicates they are up to the challenges that face them.
- The Superintendent recently conducted a technology presentation for Superintendents at a Fall Conference. He reviewed the School Board Members' CD/Boardbooks for his audience, and they were captivated. One Superintendent has asked to come to Giles County and review the process.