

News Release

November 15, 2001

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the October 30, 2001 regular meeting
- Minutes of the October 23, 2001 special meeting
- Bills in the amount of \$1,556,572.03
- Payroll for October, 2001
- Revenue for October, 2001
- Appropriation Request for December, 2001
- Declaration of Surplus Property

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

***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:** Jeremy Kidd – Academic Excellence, 2001 Summer Governor's School; Cindy Ratcliffe – NHS Custodian – Outstanding Custodial Assistance.

***Educational Feature by MMS**

Mr. Rowe, Principal of Macy McClaugherty School, attended the meeting to introduce Tami Hall, who works with students and computer technology. Mrs. Hall reviewed various projects by students relative to SOL's through technology. Students, Todd McCracken and Katie Griffith, 4th graders, illustrated the Civil War page on the computer, and explained how to find questions. In turn they write the questions down to study. Different links identify battles and victories, soldiers and how they lived, descriptions of uniforms and flags. Fifth grader, Kemper Fox, spoke of the special computer, which allowed students to pick a planet of the Solar System, and write a report. They were able to access the name of the planet, size, location, weight, age and place in the Solar System. Sixth graders, Taylor Suydam and Astleigh Hobbs, talked about a science project regarding butterfly research, where the website, Enchanted Learning.com is used. He presented his final product which was a Word document with a picture of a butterfly. Mrs. Hall also spoke of the website, Enchanted Learning.com being a kid-friendly website, which is sectioned off into subject areas, with an illustrated dictionary for each section and is easy for students to access. She also mentioned the Advanced Learning System (ALS) being a good computer program, especially for math. Mr. Rowe conveyed sincere thanks to the School Board for all of the computers and other technology equipment. He stated that we are way ahead of other school systems in the area in technology.

***School Board Confirms Recommendations Regarding Personnel Items**

- The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2001-02 school year: NHS Coaching assignments: Wayne Gautier – NHS 8th Grade Boys' Basketball, Debbie Lusk – NHS JV Cheerleading Sponsor, and Jackie Evans – Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach; Carrie Gillespie – Part-time County-wide Educational Testing Specialist

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

- The Superintendent shared with the School Board that the Technology Literacy Grant has been approved in the amount of \$57,700. It will be allowed to use half of that money for laptop computers for teachers to continue staff training. It is hopeful 20-25 laptops can be purchased.
- The Superintendent distributed handouts regarding an update on the Six-Year Plan. Schools are currently developing their new biennial plans, along with student achievement and remedial plans. The Superintendent reviewed the plan documents and procedures with the Board. The formal evaluations will

be presented to the School Board at the December Board meeting.

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

- The Superintendent distributed an additional check register to VML for \$1,404 that was written after initial check registers for the month were sent out. The Board approved the check register as recommended.
- The School Board approved Regulation GDBA-R revision regarding substitute bus driver pay.
- The School Board approved the continuation of negotiations with Hicok, Fern, Chapman and Brown, regarding reporting on an annual basis, to meet a requirement of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which issued Statement Thirty-four, Reporting Model (GASB 34).
- The School Board approved a pilot program as requested by Macy McClagherty School for the remainder of the 2001-02 school year, regarding a computerized report card for sixth and seventh graders. It is similar to the report card students will have in the 8th grade. In order to implement the report card permanently, Macy will have to revisit the School Board with an updated report at the end of this school year, and make an additional request. The Superintendent distributed handouts for the Board's review.
- The School Board confirmed the December Board meeting for Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at the School Board Office. The quarterly meeting with administrators will be held prior to the meeting at 5:30 PM at EEMS. Should a closed session be needed, it will be held at EEMS at 5:00 PM.
- The School Board set Thursday, January 17, 2001 for the Annual School Board Retreat to begin at 1:00 PM at the School Board Office, followed by the regular January Board meeting at 7:00 PM. A closed session, if needed, will be held prior to the regular session.
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***School Board and School Staff Present Comments and Mission Statement Accomplishments**

- Mr. Buckland was welcomed back for another term as a School Board member.
- The Board made their annual School Tour visits in honor of American Education Week. It's the first time they have toured as a group since all facility renovations have been completed. They were highly complimentary of the bright classrooms and cleanliness of each facility, a positive learning environment. The School Board conveyed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Giles County for funding and supporting public education.
- Macy was commended for their educational feature. It's good to see the technology training for our students.
- The Governor's School now has 143 students!
- The Governor's School is working on a grant for robotics at Radford University. It is hopeful it will be approved.
- The Superintendent commended the custodial staffs at all of the schools for the fine job they are doing keeping their facilities clean and safe for students.
- Kim Wilson, GEA President, commented that Virginia's new Governor, Mark Warner, had called Richmond the day after the election to inquire about education.