

# NEWS RELEASE

October 30, 2001

Giles County Public Schools  
School Board Meeting

*Dr. Robert C. McCracken*

*Division Superintendent*

**\*School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the September 26, 2001 regular meeting
- Bills in the amount of \$1,366,009.84
- Payroll for September, 2001
- Revenue for September, 2001
- Appropriation Request for November, 2001
- 2001-02 Advisory Committees
- 2001-02 Field Trip Requests

**\*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:** Charles B. Andrews – Community Involvement/GTC; Millie Lawrence – Student Enrichment/NHS; Lynette Osborne and Christina Spangler – Project Change Drive/NEMS. Also recognized were EEMS and NEMS for becoming fully accredited by the state of Virginia.

**\*Educational Feature by GEA**

Kim Wilson, GEA President, shared a presentation with the School Board, "Brighter Futures for Virginia's Children", which is a campaign organized by Virginia Education Association (VEA). The goal is to provide quality funding for quality programs and quality teachers. Ms. Wilson explained the five areas that are necessary for quality programs: class size, reading, technology, school repair & construction, and supplies/materials. She also expressed concern for quality teachers, with the national teacher shortage, Virginia is losing to neighboring states. Other items of interest included quality funding statistics: Virginia spends less than a third of the State's General Fund on public education, whereas it use to spend just over half; The State use to pay part of the salary for almost all VA teachers, at 96%, now it pays only 79%. Ms. Wilson encouraged folks to express their concern to legislators and the Governor to let them know how they feel.

**\*School Board Approves the following Closed Session Item(s)**

- The Board approved the expulsion of Student Case No. 0102-2.

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

- The Board confirmed the following employment for the remainder of the 2001-02 school year: Tonya Vaden – GHS Special Education Teacher; Rebekah Spencer and Sandra Jennings – County-wide Part-time Testing Diagnosticians; GHS and NHS MACC supplemental positions.
- The Board confirmed the following resignations: Michael Stevers, effective October 12, 2001 and Renee Comer – Declined NHS Librarian position after initial acceptance.
- The Board confirmed the transfer of Margaret Christle to NHS Librarian, from GHS English Teacher, effective as soon as possible.

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

- The Board approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA Policy Services and administration.

- The Superintendent shared the success of “Super Tuesdays” with the Board. He commented that the meetings have been a “real hit” with professional staff. The time spent is valuable and productive, where grade levels and department levels can come together from all schools and use their thinking caps and brainstorming regarding SOL’s. He commended Jack McCall and Pat O’Brien for being instrumental in this worthwhile initiative.

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

- The Board approved RFP No. 13-2001 to Frye Roofing, for repair of the School Board Office roof. Also approved was a lease with Newberry Ford for a driver education training car for 2001-02.
- The School Board confirmed their November Board meeting for Thursday, November 15, 2001 at 1:30 PM following annual School Tours in conjunction with American Education Week.
- The School Board set 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.

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

- The Board made their annual visits for budget meetings at each school prior to the School Board meeting. It is always a good start to the school year to meet with faculties and staff. Board members were highly impressed with the appearance of the schools. Bright, clean and pleasing to the eye. Mr. Wheeler was also commended for the fine job he has done getting renovations completed.
- The Board commended EEMS and NEMS for being recognized for full accreditation. The Board is proud of all of our schools for working so hard to improve SOL scores. Teachers, support staff and administrators everywhere have put a positive spin on a negative, difficult task and worked diligently with students to create a confident atmosphere with testing. And for that, the Board thanks you all!
- Thanks were conveyed to Kim Wilson, GEA President, for her presentation, “Brighter Futures”. We are all hopeful that we can all look to a brighter future in public education.
- The Governor’s School is planning a 10 year class reunion in December. Exciting for alumni!
- The Governor’s School held parent/teacher conferences on September 27<sup>th</sup>, with a great turnout of 174 conferences held.
- The Governor’s School is still hoping for a new facility. Lots of students attending.
- The Superintendent commented on the continued efforts of students, employees and law enforcement regarding the recent bomb threat. Students do not want their schools disrupted and were commended for their willingness to stand up for what is right.
- Appreciation was conveyed to Jack McCall and Pat O’Brien by the Superintendent, for the fine jobs they are doing this year. They are taking care of jobs at the Central Office that haven’t been completed due to shortage of staff.
- The Superintendent was pleased with the students’ attitudes recently, when all schools were asked to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance at 2:00 PM. Students took the task very seriously, which reflected their patriotism.
- Kim Wilson, GEA President, also commented on student patriotism and how well they express their feelings, through poetry, flying the flag, bulletin boards, and singing patriotic songs.