

Superintendent's Comments: January 20, 2004

As most of you are aware, this is my 15th year serving Giles County. Over that period of time I have had numerous opportunities to move to “bigger” and what some say better opportunities. I have always found that bigger is not necessarily better (obviously from my height of 5’6”), but I can assure you there is not a School Board or staff that is better than Giles County. Together we have continued to improve the opportunities for our students and staff. We have gained the respect of our region and the state. We have updated our facilities, we have moved our students and staff into the technology age, we have made many improvements to our instructional programs, we have earned accreditation for our schools, and we have met Adequately Yearly Progress in all of our Title I schools. I have not done this; WE have done this together with the help of you the School Board, the Board of Supervisors and the dedicated employees of Giles County Public Schools.

My retirement will complete the planned three-year transition of the majority of the administrative team of Giles County Schools. I am very thankful for the Board’s support through this process and I know I can continue to trust you as we transition to a new leader. You will have in place by December 1st a young, energetic and enthused team of administrators that are very capable of leading our schools for at least the next several decades. That team faces many challenges including the high accountability of No Child Left Behind and the dwindling of resources from outside funding sources. The new team will need the same level of respect and support that this Board has provided me for the past 15 years.

You have selected an excellent young man to carry on your objectives and high expectations. I will remind you that Mr. Arbogast is exactly the same age that I was, when you named me as your Superintendent in 1989.

Thank you for providing me with exciting challenges and opportunities to make a difference in Giles County. It has been and will continue to be for the next 10 months an honor and privilege to serve the students, staff, and School Board of Giles County Schools.