

News Release
Giles County Public Schools
January 20, 2004

At the January 20, 2004 meeting, the Giles County School Board announced the retirement of Robert C. McCracken, effective November 30, 2004. Dr. McCracken has been Superintendent of Giles County Schools since July 1, 1989 and is one of the most senior Division Superintendents in Virginia. He will have served continuously for fifteen and one half years in the same school division at the conclusion of his term in office.

The School Board has named Terry E. Arbogast, II as its new Superintendent, effective December 1, 2004. Mr. Arbogast has served as Deputy Superintendent for Giles County Schools, as well as Assistant Principal and Principal of Narrows High School. In addition, Mr. Arbogast has served as the Division Coordinator of Testing. Prior to his employment in Giles County Schools, he was a Math Teacher in Fauquier County Schools, Virginia. Mr. Arbogast is completing his Doctorate of Education at Virginia Tech and anticipates receiving his degree in the Spring of 2005. Mr. Arbogast and his wife Lynn reside in Pearisburg.

Other major topics discussed at the School Board's retreat included a review of report card grading periods, the school division's drug testing program for school bus drivers, and a review of preliminary information for the 2004-05 School Board Budget. Additionally, the School Board was provided instructional reports from each school by its principal, an overview of many major databases of demographic information, student achievement information, student discipline information and other significant data regarding the operation of the school division.

The School Board also elected J.B. Buckland as its Chairman for 2004 and Ronald Whitehead as its Vice-Chairman.

Attached, please find Dr. McCracken's comments to the School Board following the announcement of his retirement.