

NEWS RELEASE

September 26, 2001

Giles County Public Schools
School Board Meeting

Dr. Robert C. McCracken

Division Superintendent

***School Board Approves Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes of the August 23, 2001 regular meeting
- Bills in the amount of \$501,035.81
- Payroll for the month of August, 2001
- Revenue report for the month of August, 2001
- Appropriation Request for October, 2001
- Declaration of Surplus Property

***Educational Feature by Giles County Partnerships for Excellence Foundation, Inc.**

Howard Spencer, Executive Director of the GCPEF, Inc. attended the meeting to update the School Board on the activities of the Partnership. He stated how proud he is to be associated with the Giles County School System, to be able to work with the schools through the Partnership. He commended the schools for the recent test scores, and commented "the scores speak for themselves". Mr. Spencer explained that all grant money received by the Partnership is used for employment and/or finding work for local people. He spoke of a project recently funded in the amount of \$95,000 "Hammering in the Hills" that will allow indoor plumbing to homes that have none. More than \$150,000 has been placed in students' hands through the Serve, Learn and Earn Grant, which assists students in working while preparing for college. School Resource Officers are still being funded through grant money for the high schools, and SRO's for the elementary schools are still being reviewed, with the hope of being funded. Mr. Spencer spoke of numerous other projects that are being actively pursued and implemented by the Partnership, including the Career Switchers Program and a pictorial grant. School Board Chairman, Mr. Buckland, commended Mr. Spencer for the great service provided to the students of our county.

***School Board Approves Recommendations Regarding Personnel Items**

- The Board confirmed the following employment for the 2001-02 school year: Stephen Mason – GHS Math Teacher; Deidra Kessinger – EEMS Teacher Assistant; Lou Ann Morris – MMS Teacher Assistant; Paula Lee – Transfer from MMS to NEMS Teacher Assistant; Suzanne Williams – Transfer from MMS to EEMS Teacher; Carole Perry – GTC Part-time Nursing Instructor; Roger Henderson – GHS Part-time Remedial Math Tutor; and Lonnie Green – NHS Golf Coach.
- The Board confirmed the employment of Renee Comer as NHS Librarian, effective January 2, 2002.
- The Board confirmed the following resignations/retirements: Linda Knott, resignation effective 9/7/01, with suitable replacement in place; Brenda Smith, resignation effective 9/18/01; Barry Rupp, resignation effective 10/9/01; and Patricia Johnson, retirement effective December 1, 2001.
- The Board approved the following Health Assistant positions for the remainder of 2001-02: Rebecca Weiss – NHS/MMS; and Tammy Baker – GHS/School Coverage.

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

- The Superintendent shared an opening school report with the School Board stating that the student enrollment is currently at 2531. That is a positive increase from the last day of school in June, 2001 when enrollment was 2472. He also commended Mr. Wheeler and the principals for the outstanding job in dealing with bus routes at the beginning of the year, and addressing all last minute issues. Additionally, the Superintendent noted the discrepancy in the two school calendars. Parent teacher conferences will be held October 24 and 25, as indicated on the initial school calendar approved by the School Board. The calendar "booklet" that went home to parents reflected an error of October 25, 26.

- The Superintendent shared an instructional update with the School Board, which included the current scenario regarding social studies SOL's and the changes that have transpired in the last few years. The standards have recently been changed, but the test is still the same. Following a trail of created documents, a "crosswalk" document now addresses the issue somewhat to inform teachers of what to teach to meet the standards. However, there are still ongoing discussions within the state to rectify the situation.
- Mr. Wheeler updated the School Board on the construction projects. Basically, the projects are complete. We still have warranty issues we are dealing with. Outside areas have been done "in house" and are close to completion as well.
- The Superintendent reviewed the Internet Use Policy, DP, with the Board and asked for any public comments regarding the policy. As a part of the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds, an Internet Safety Policy must be in place and public comment must be solicited. There were no public comments.

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

The School Board confirmed a deed of easement with the Town of Pearisburg regarding a sewer line extension in the Bluff City community.

Set the annual budget meetings for the week of October 29th, with the School Board meeting to be held Tuesday, October 30th, 4:00 PM, School Board Office.

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

- Board members that attended the Pre-School Conference at Mtn. Lake on August 28th were highly impressed with Dr. Bill Boshier, guest speaker. He did an outstanding job!
- Howard Spencer was commended for his hard work and extra efforts regarding GCPEF. He continues to go that extra mile to help students. The Partnership Foundation gets better every year!
- Administrators met with School Board members prior to the regular meeting, and as always, it's good to get a chance to sit down with each other and review school happenings.
- It's good to hear the new administrative positions are working out well. It is a help to have more assistance in the schools, especially as we begin a new year.
- NEMS first graders recently had a "Penny Drive" to donate regarding the New York attacks. They raised \$2,000! Great job!
- The Governor's School houses 143 students this year as opposed to 121 last year. It is hopeful that a \$50,000 grant will be funded to secure a learning cottage to help with space for students.