

November 3rd, 2022

The Giles County School Board held a work session at 1:00 p.m. on November 3rd, 2022. Persons present were:

Jason B. Buckland
Melissa R. Guynn
Phillip A. Pennington
Stephen M. Steele
Mark A. Wilburn

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II, Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, School Board Clerk
Lisa G. Mustain, Assistant Superintendent

The chairman called the work session to order.

Dr. Arbogast shared information with board members about the ESCO (Energy Saving Companies) process. He stated that he sent out the additional questions to the 4 companies and that information was provided back to the board. He stated that they will begin conversations with the group that the committee recommended so they can come in and begin doing the IGA (Investment Grade Audit). Mr. Buckland asked Dr. Arbogast to negotiate with this company since they have already been in and looked at our systems and was already paid for looking at them. Mr. Steele stated that it should make their prices more reasonable since they have already looked at our systems.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the NEMS HVAC project. He stated that on November 11th, another crane is supposed to be on site. They are continuing to move forward with this project. Mr. Steele asked what the comfort level of the teachers and kids in the building. Dr. Arbogast stated that it has been much better.

Dr. Arbogast stated that there is only one more water softener to be installed next Tuesday.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the lights at the GHS football field. Dr. Arbogast has talked with ZMM several times and they are still researching. ZMM does recommend that we work with Hubble and/or Musco to “retrofit” the lights in the current poles. Dr. Arbogast will reach back to ZMM to get their thoughts on the poles and lighting.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the governor’s school relocation. He met last Friday with representatives from New River Community and Wytheville Community College, as well as other Superintendents to discuss the possibility to house the governor school students at these community colleges. Dr. Arbogast discussed questions and answers to board members that were previously talked about at previous work sessions/board meetings regarding classrooms/lab spaces and whether or not they could continue 5 days of instruction. Dr. Arbogast also met with representatives from Radford University to see if they may be interested in housing the students.

Dr. Arbogast discussed updates on the Macy McClaugherty HVAC project. An updated fee proposal worksheet was given to board members. Dr. Brown is comfortable with this proposal. Board members wish to continue with ZMM to get equipment out to bid. Mr. Buckland wants to also make sure that Mr. Ross is okay with this proposal. Mr. Steele stated that the county would like for the ESSER funds to be used first on this, prior to using carryover. Dr. Arbogast discussed carryover funds, ESSER funds and grant monies that are also available that can be used towards this project.

Dr. Arbogast informed board members that there is still no updated facilities report.

Dr. Arbogast shared information with board members regarding an Agriculture Land Lab Office. The Tech Center has asked for an ag land lab office/building on the facility near the barn and greenhouse areas. This building would include an office for the teacher, as well as a place for tools, vaccines, supplies and will also include a bathroom for students/staff. The building would cost approximately \$20k and the Tech Center can pay

up to \$10k. Our building trades and maintenance employees would be doing this project. Mr. Steele asked that Mrs. Buckland's students draw this project up.

Board members began the discussion regarding the consolidation questions/answers that were provided at the previous meeting. Mr. Buckland asked everyone the question, "what problem are we trying to solve here?" Mr. Steele stated that we are trying to solve the problem of not efficiently using the space that we have. He says we have a building that can hold 600, but we have about 280 in it. Mr. Buckland wants to know what all are we trying to solve? He said that instead of trying to destroy NHS and what works there, why don't we make people love Giles High School that much? Mr. Wilburn expressed his concern with being short on teachers. He also said that 8th graders should not be in the high school and so many problems occur due to this. Mrs. Guynn stated that she has not seen any evidence that there are problems with this. Mr. Buckland stated that the student/teacher ratios at Giles and Narrows are equivalent. Mr. Steele stated that people have always asked the question of "is there any benefit to consolidation?" Mr. Buckland stated that we should be listening to our administrators. Mr. Steele stated that he has done nothing but support our school system with the current resources that we have. Mr. Buckland stated that we aren't making a decision for the next 25 years – we need to get the roofs and HVAC fixed. We shouldn't have to decide today if we should consolidate. We can't afford to build a new school or afford to build on to Giles High to be able to fit everyone. Mrs. Guynn stated that she is open to anything if it will benefit the kids or community, but what would we be getting? Mr. Steele stated that you would have savings if you didn't have to operate two high schools, cafeterias, etc. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks Narrows High School would serve as a great middle school, but not to close it. Mr. Buckland states that he thinks we should get answers for every option that is on the table. The proposed options on the table are to have a middle school, to have only one high school, staying the same and moving NEMS 7th grade to NHS. Mr. Wilburn suggested having a meeting on the eastern end of the county to ask their thoughts on going to Narrows to a middle school. Mr. Buckland stated that one of the biggest problems is overcrowding at the elementary schools. He mentioned the possibility of moving the NEMS 7th grade to NHS. He would like to look into this. He also mentioned whether any students from Macy could be shifted to Eastern to also alleviate overcrowding? Dr. Arbogast and staff will work to prepare more answers to these questions, based on 4 options.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, adjourned the work session.

Chairman

Clerk