

## September 23, 2021

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on September 23, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

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

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent  
Lisa G. Mustain, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum  
Amanda J. Tickle, School Board Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 School Board Meeting Agenda.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Moses, parent, attended the School Board meeting to encourage the School Board members to go back to Phase 1 or 2. He stated his concerns are for the safety of the children. His children have come home from school complaining of headaches from wearing the masks all day. He would like the board to take a stand and let parents choose what is best for their children.

Ms. Ellie Burnett, EEMS teacher, attended the School Board meeting to discuss COVID and her concerns from COVID and the amount of cases. She says that her student's safety is her main concern and the only way to protect our students is to have them socially distance and wear a mask. She thanks the School Board for the mask mandate.

Board members each gave their opinions regarding masks. Mr. Wilburn stated that mask wearing is such a tough decision. His granddaughter already has breathing problems, so it's tough. Mr. Pennington stated that he knows people know his opinion on masks – he knows it is a tough decision, but he doesn't think they serve a purpose. He stated he hopes no kid ever gets really sick, but thinks it should be up to the parents for their children to wear a mask. Mrs. Guynn stated that she doesn't think the masks work or make a difference. She doesn't like to see children outside on the playground wearing a mask and parents should be able to decide whether their children wear a mask. Mr. Buckland stated that when they voted, they were in "red". He does think it should be up to the parent; however, it is best for our children to be in a classroom. He thinks we are where we need to be; otherwise, we would have to shut down again. Mr. Steele stated that he knows the board thinks that the decision should be up to the parent to whether their children where a mask, but they had to make the decision they did due to funding and keeping teachers and students in the classroom. He stated that they are doing the best they can. ~~The~~

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following consent items:

#### A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022
2. Special – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

#### B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021
2. Payment of Bills
3. August 2021 Revenue & Expenditure Reports
4. Surplus
5. Appropriation Request for October 2021  
TO: Christopher McKlarney  
Interim Administrator for Giles County

RE: October 2021 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the months of October, 2021. This is for the fourth month of the fiscal year 2021-2022. I would appreciate the Board's consideration of this request. The request for the operating budget is consistent with the approved operating budget submitted by the School Board.

Original Monthly Appropriation Request	October	1,950,000
--	---------	-----------

This request is one-twelfth of the operating budget and includes the anticipated monthly expenditures in the flow-thru account. Our year to date appropriation and expenditures are contained in the monthly summary.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brown, MMS Principal, along with 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. Campbell and 3 students, attended the board meeting to discuss their 7<sup>th</sup> grade civics and science class. They discussed the activities that they have been doing in class and upcoming events that they will be doing throughout the year.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. The Superintendent recommended action and Board approval of the following personnel/contractual items:

1. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment**: Mark Middleton – EEMS Middle School Teacher (21-22), Haley Vest – NHS Teacher Assistant (8/30/21), Kameryn Fields – NHS Teacher Assistant (8-19-21), Laura Rodgers – EEMS Teacher Assistant (8/30/21), Adarah Williams – EEMS Teacher Assistant (9/7/21), Matthew Mullins – GHS Business Teacher (8/30/21), Ashley Pennington – NHS Secretary (10/1/21), Kayla Massey – NHS Teacher Assistant (9/13/21), Melissa Dodson – NHS Spanish Teacher (9/13/21), Stephanie Mitchener – NEMS Middle School Teacher, Cymberly Cressell – MMS Title I Teacher (9/13/21)
2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts**: Kelly Ratcliffe – GHS Head JV Volleyball, Randy Weddle – GHS Girls Tennis Head Coach, Chris Helvey – NHS Head JV Football Coach, Jon Bowman – NHS Asst. Varsity Football, Colin Munsey – NHS Head Cross Country, Verena Riley – GHS Head Cross Country, Bradley Sutphin – NHS Head Girls Basketball, Nancy Quesenberry – NHS Asst. Girls Basketball, Byron Brown – NHS Head Girls JV Basketball, Bryan Strader – GHS Varsity Football, Benji Ratcliff – GHS Grounds Keeper
3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting (**Mr. Buckland abstained**), confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Anthony Ratcliffe – GHS Football, Joseph Clark – GHS Assistant Golf Coach, Alvin McGuire – NHS Football, Alyssa Smith – NHS Volleyball, Courtney Whitt – NHS Volleyball, Matthew Mullins – NHS, Henry Buchanan – NHS Football, Jason Buckland – NHS Football, McCreery Mann – NHS Football, Kameryn Fields – NHS Cheer, Deborah Green - NEMS
4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Resignations**: Carmen Wright – MMS Nurse (8/17/21), Sharon Cecil – GHS Teacher Assistant (8/15/21), Jennifer Claytor – MMS Teacher Assistant (9/9/21), Troy Whittier – GTC Ag Lab Land Manager (8/31/21), Haley Vest – NHS Teacher Assistant (9/3/21)
5. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following **Supplemental Contracts**: Randy Weddle – GHS Social Studies Department Head/GHS MACC Social Studies, Shane Dalton – GHS Yearbook, Diana Blanton – GHS Head MACC/MACC All Around/Science Department Head/MACC Science
6. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved

the following **Retirement**: Christy Lawson – Food Service Supervisor (6/30/22)

7. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the 2021-2022 Substitute List to Date.

B. The School Board discussed the speech bid (RFP 17-2021). Mr. Wilburn made a motion, with second by Mr. Pennington to approve this bid. After discussion, Mr. Wilburn withdrew his motion. Mr. Buckland stressed the importance of having an in person SLP, as opposed to “tele-health”. He also wanted to make sure they could staff these positions. Mr. Wilburn mentioned the idea of helping individuals in the school system already to obtain this degree. Mr. Steele discussed the option of being able to get out of this contract if we needed to if we are able to hire an SLP. Mr. Buckland moved that we table this issue until we have another special meeting. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the motion to table the speech bid.

C. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration.

#### **CONCERNS/COMMENTS...**

Dr. Arbogast stated that current enrollment is 2,199 for in county students. There are 29 students of those that are full time virtual. Also, we have 1,299 out of county full virtual students through Stride.

Dr. Arbogast stated that GHS SADD/YOVASO Club has invited Mr. John Halligan to deliver a presentation on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> for all middle and high school students. He will also be at GHS on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> for community members to attend.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated the GHS Golf Team who took second in the MED district championship. They qualified for region next Thursday at Ole Mill with a team score of 329.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the Muddy ACCE Race and when it would be. There will be announcements made at the schools.

Dr. Arbogast stated that information for the budget meetings have been sent out to them. He asked board members to look at the dates and let Amanda know which ones they could attend.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the last facilities meeting. He stated they met on August 30<sup>th</sup> with CMTA to discuss guaranteed energy savings contracting (performance contracting). From that meeting, CMTA was asked to visit the school sites and do a deeper evaluation so they could provide the committee with more information. A gentleman came to the schools to gather more information and will present back to us in a few weeks about their findings.

School Board members had a discussion on the possibility of bringing back the Emergency COVID leave policy. Dr. Arbogast shared information that he has received back from other school divisions. Mr. Buckland declared that with respect to COVID Leave, he has a special interest in such a transaction, but he can fairly and independently participate and objectively discuss that. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved to bring back this policy and make it retroactive, going back to the start of the school year. This policy will be in effect through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Documentation will be provided along with these forms when appropriate.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, went into a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Code and Paragraph 1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. Following discussion, Mr. Pennington moved to go to regular session. Mrs. Guynn seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. The School Board, unanimously, certified that the meeting was in regards to personnel and conducted under section 2.2-3711.

VOTE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

There was no action from closed session

---

Clerk of the Giles County School Board

---

Date

**IN OTHER ACTION...**

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Coaching Contracts: Caitlyn Taylor – GHS Cheer Assistant Coach, Robyn Keaton – GHS Cheer Coach, Steven Malik – GHS Middle School Boys Basketball.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following Employment: Mindy Caldwell – MMS School Nurse (10/11/21), Chris Townsend – GTC AG land Lab Manager (10/4/21).

**NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

The Chairman, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.

---

Chairman

---

Clerk