

## **January 20, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:30 p.m. on January 20, 2022 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. A work session was held at 3:00 p.m. prior to the meeting. Persons present were:

Jason B. Buckland	Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Melissa R. Guynn	Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk
Phillip A. Pennington	Lisa G. Mustain, Assistant Superintendent
Stephen M. Steele	
Mark A. Wilburn (participated electronically)	

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Arbogast.

The School Board held a work session prior to the regular meeting to discuss the new mask mandate executive order by Governor Youngkin. Dr. Arbogast stated that wearing the mask has helped us to keep in person instruction. The health department states that we are at near peak. Dr. Arbogast discussed what is included in the new executive order. He stated that students will still have to wear masks on buses since it is a federal requirement. Right now, we have not received local guidance from the Virginia Department of Health or from VDOE. Board members discussed their thoughts on the new mandate, as well as their thoughts on current practices that are currently in place regarding testing, contact tracing, exposure, etc. Dr. Arbogast got Holly Lesko from the Health Department on the phone to allow the School Board to ask questions to help clarify any issues.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's January 20, 2022 School Board Meeting Agenda.

### **2022 ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Pennington nominated Mr. Steele for Chairman. Second was made by Mrs. Guynn. The voting for Mr. Steele was unanimous. Mr. Steele abstained.

Mr. Pennington nominated Mr. Buckland for Vice-Chairman. Second was made by Mrs. Guynn. Voting for Mr. Buckland is unanimous. Mr. Buckland abstained.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the third Thursday at 4:30 PM as the monthly meeting date and time for the 2022 School Board meetings.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, appointed Amanda Tickle as School Board Clerk for 2022. The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved Terry Arbogast as the Deputy Clerk for 2022. Voting was unanimous.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, nominated Mrs. Mustain as the Superintendent's designee for 2022. Voting was unanimous.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Robert Moses attended the meeting to discuss a concern that he has. He is currently a host parent for an exchange student from Norway that is attending GHS as a senior. When she first got here, she was told that she couldn't get a diploma from here, but she could walk with the graduating class. Now, he says, they are being told that she is not allowed to walk. Mr. Moses stated that they don't have graduation ceremonies in Norway and he would like to request that the Board allow her to be a part of the experience here.

Mrs. Sabrina Gautier attended the meeting to discuss the new mask mandate. She discussed current COVID information, including masking and deaths. She encourages the new mask mandate from the new governor. She also discussed funding (ESSER, CARES, etc) that Giles County has received during the last few years and she stated that every school should have an air purifier to help make the mask mandate go away. Mr. Buckland stated that the schools were asked about getting air purifiers in the past. He also stated that they are currently working to get HVAC upgrades, but it just takes time to get these projects done. In closing, Mrs. Gautier stated that

all students should be able to get into games free.

Mr. Kenny Spencer attended the meeting and followed up on what Mrs. Gautier discussed about adopting the new mask mandate by Governor Youngkin. He agreed to let the parents decide whether they want their children to wear masks. He stated that a nurse does not override a doctor and a child should be able to come to school if they aren't experiencing any symptoms. He thanked the School Board for the dedication they have put into this.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**A. Meeting Minutes**

1. Regular – November 23<sup>rd</sup> & December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**B. Financial Data**

1. Payrolls to include
2. Payment of Bills
3. December 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Field Trips
5. Appropriation Request for February 2022
  - TO: Christopher McKlarney  
Interim Administrator for Giles County
  - FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II  
Division Superintendent
  - RE: February 2022 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of February 2022. This is for the eighth 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.

<b>Original Monthly Appropriation Request:</b>	\$ 2,350,000
<b>(Operating + Flow-thru)</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	\$ 2,350,000

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. If you have questions, please feel free to let me know.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.  
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The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved Mr. Wilburn to participate electronically from this point forward.

#### **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. Buckland, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment**: Erica Johnson – EEMS Teacher Assistant (1/3/22)
2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Athletic Contracts**: Kameryn Fields – NHS JV Basketball Cheer Coach, Julia Scott – GHS Head Cheerleading Coach
3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Colin Munsey – NHS Track

B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the updated policy services agreement for one year, with an option to renew at the same price through January 31, 2024.

#### **CONCERNS/COMMENTS**

Dr. Arbogast shared current enrollment information. He stated that as of last Wednesday, enrollment was 2,149 in person students, 25 virtual in county and 1,338 Stride nonresidential virtual students.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated the NHS Theatre group for their runner up finish in the recent competition.

Dr. Arbogast stated that as of today, we have used 7 virtual days and 1 snow day. Tomorrow will be 8 virtual days. We are getting close to the 10 that are allowed to utilize. He will make a request to DOE to get a waiver if we need to go above the 10 for virtual learning.

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and 4-1 voting (NAY: Wilburn) amended the current mask policy to comport with executive order 2 allowing parental choice without production of any documentation or exemption, to maintain current masking requirements for staff consistent with DOLI requirements and maintain masks for transportation regulations. Mr. Wilburn stated that our numbers have increased and he's afraid they will continue to rise. He wants to make sure our people are taken care of. Mr. Steele stated that this board has tried really hard to follow executive orders and CDC guidelines. This motion is on track with following other executive orders. He stated that this board will be watching to make sure everyone is as safe as can be. We are between a rock and a hard place. Mr. Buckland stated that COVID has been a political football. It puts people in our position without guidance. He stated that he wishes it wouldn't have been rushed into because we don't have any guidance on our employees. We do have money to help with air quality and circulation and we are working on that, but it just takes time. Mrs. Guynn stated that she is hoping we can get some guidance soon on our employees and hopefully they can decide for themselves whether they want to wear a mask or not.

Mr. Pennington thanked everyone who works in the school system for all they do every day.

Mrs. Guynn thanked Dr. Arbogast, Mrs. Mustain, teachers, staff and many others for all of their hard work. She asked everyone to bear with them as they try to make the right decisions.

Mrs. Guynn congratulated the NHS Theatre team on their performances and awards.

Mr. Buckland also thanked all of GCPS staff for their hard work and dedication!

Mr. Buckland also commended and congratulated the NHS Theatre team and Ms. Ursano.

Mr. Buckland commended the Giles County maintenance department for their hard work in the snow removal.

Mr. Buckland thanked everyone for their patience as they work through this masking situation. Please bear with us – we are doing our best with the situation.

Mr. Wilburn discussed his concern for COVID and thanked everyone for all they have done and continue to do.

Mr. Steele stated that he forwarded information to board members about the virtual school board meeting he had.

Mr. Steele stated that the board would be meeting soon with administrators regarding budget information.

Mr. Steele stated that we will continue to work with the county and the compensation committee for salaries.

Mr. Steele thanked everyone for their patience with snow days and virtual.

**IN OTHER ACTION...**

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Employment**: Chrissy Tickle – Student Support Specialist – SBO (2/1/22), Katrina Cales – NHS Teacher Assistant (2/26/22), Dr. Mike Brown – Director of Operations (7/1/22).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Volunteer Agreement** – Jason Spicer – NHS Softball.

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following **Resignation**: Hillary Jackson – MMS Teacher (2/1/22).

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in conjunction with the School Board retreat.

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

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Chairman

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Clerk