

July 26th, 2018

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 3:00 p.m. on July 26th, 2018 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard
Melissa R. Guynn
Phillip A. Pennington
Mark A. Wilburn

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Richard R. Franklin, Assistant Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

Mr. Mike Wade and Nick Bilbro, who both work for New River Valley Community Services, attended the meeting to discuss the latest youth risk behavior survey that was conducted in our schools and share a summary of the results. This is a survey that was initiated by the Centers for Disease Control back in 1991 and has been done for several years here in Giles County. This provides New River Valley Community Services a chance to survey students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades and collect data that will show the frequencies of risk taking behaviors in the respondents.

The next discussion was regarding the shared services contract. Mr. Ballard stated that Mr. Steele still has concerns regarding taking the custodians back on the school side, as it relates to getting back all the money to fund them. They looked at budget figures of the current custodians. Mr. Ballard stated that he needs feedback with the math involved because the numbers/positions aren't the same as we discussed before. Dr. Arbogast stated that if we take them back, we will receive the dollar amount budgeted for the custodians and that based on the conversation, it is felt that we don't have enough individuals employed to provide appropriate services. If we get this dollar amount, we wouldn't be able to add personnel. When we turned the custodians over, we had 17 full time custodians. Mrs. Guynn stated that we messed up because we didn't complain. Dr. Arbogast stated that he and Mr. Franklin spoke to each principal and asked them their opinion about having the custodians back and those responses were shared. The consensus was that principals would be okay having the custodians back on our side. Mr. Franklin and Dr. Arbogast stated that they planned to talk to the principals next week at the ADM retreat to discuss this further and get additional feelings from the group. Mr. Wilburn feels like they would do anything in their power to make sure it doesn't work for us. Mr. Franklin stated that they use the rationale that it isn't right for your people to be supervised by our people to get out from transportation but yet the same thing is happening here and it seems like it's okay. He thinks we get it all back, piece by piece. Mr. Wilburn stated that we need finance back. Mr. Franklin stated that we replaced one person here with 6 people there, which is now 4 ½. Dr. Arbogast stated that if we get the custodians back, we are going to have to do with what we have because we won't get any additional funding.

There was a discussion on the VSBA Annual Conference. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be the delegate and alternate delegate for the convention.

There was a discussion on a policy regarding felony charges on our students. Dr. Arbogast stated that the practice has been to place these students on an Alternative Education Placement (i.e. – Homebased services) until the charges can be resolved. Mr. Wilburn stated that the judge really thinks we need a separate school off campus for these students. The board would like to see language added to a policy addressing those students with reportable and non-reportable offenses. The judges are wanting the kids to remain in school if it is a non-reportable offense. Mr. Wilburn stated that the courts are wanting to know who we designate as our person in charge of attendance. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks our SRO's are who need to get the petitions for truancy.

The next discussion was regarding work orders. Mr. Ballard asked if there is a way to see when they are completed.

Mr. Ballard reminded the board members about the last day of the summer food program. Christy would like help with serving ice cream.

Dr. Arbogast reminded them about Parents Night Out at Giles High School on Tuesday, August 14th from 5-7 at Giles High School.

Board members discussed our student board representatives. There are two from Giles High School (Will Cecil and Laura Gautier) and one from Narrows High School (Elena Maddy). The plan is to meet with them and go over a few things and ask the board to approve them at our August board meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the finance department. Dr. Arbogast stated that Mr. Franklin came to him and stated that several individuals requested a meeting to discuss concerns with the finance department. Dr. Arbogast presented a summary to the board regarding these concerns. The individuals listed in the summary stated that they would be willing to talk to board members. There was discussion about credit cards and bills not being paid on time. Mr. Pennington asked who worked in the finance department. Dr. Arbogast stated that there are about 4 ½ that work out there. Mr. Franklin stated that there was an incident last week where there was someone opening emails from people here that were meant for finance and someone else was opening them. The person that was opening them did not acknowledge it was someone else. It created a lot of anger from people here and a lot of inconsistency in numbers in regards to account balances and grant applications. Dr. Arbogast stated that we may want to do a closed session to talk further at the next work session. Mr. Ballard shared information about a PALS account balance requested in late March and they didn't get it until June. Mr. Franklin said that special education operating balance on May 10th was \$904K, balance on June 15th was \$51K and end of June was \$0. He stated that they questioned it and were ignored. Mr. Wilburn asked how hard it would be to get a finance person here. Mr. Ballard asked if the finance position was posted when the individual retired from the school system. Dr. Arbogast stated that he thinks the employee was already there working. Mr. Franklin stated that he had someone at this office interested and didn't get a chance to apply. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks this would cause a bee's nest, but he thinks we need to create the bees nest. Mr. Ballard asked how we envision getting someone back to this office for finance. Dr. Arbogast stated that we would have to have the funding available to post a position. Mr. Ballard asked if there was anyone here at this office that could/would do it. Mr. Franklin stated that there are people here that could do it if they were willing too. Mr. Ballard stated that if we show this to Chris, how do they deny that they don't have a problem? Mr. Ballard asked if we needed to have a preliminary conversation with Mr. McKlarney. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks that we need to go after the whole ball – finance and custodians.

Dr. Arbogast stated that looking at numbers, particularly NEMS, currently as of 2:30 today, they were at 73 Kindergarten kids, with a possibility of more. NEMS currently has 75 going in first grade. We need to share this information and begin a conversation with the county to try to get an additional teacher. With the K-3 Class-size money, we are not supposed to have any more than 24 per class.

Dr. Arbogast shared information with board members about a request from the swim team/Mrs. Robertson. She wrote a proposal on behalf of the Giles County swim club that she wanted to submit to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. Mrs. Robertson is asking for a letter of support from the Board for the swim team because they feel additional time for swim practices is desired. The board members feel comfortable with the letter being done.

On motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.