

**October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 7:00 PM on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard  
Eric G. Gentry  
Drema K. McMahan  
Stephen M. Steele  
Mark W. Wilburn

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent  
Richard R. Franklin, Assistant Superintendent  
Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. On motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mrs. McMahan and unanimous voting, the agenda was approved.

The School Board discussed the schedule of the upcoming budget meetings. They stated that they would like to see some of the Board of Supervisors members attend to hear the concerns and budget needs from our schools/staff. The board set their next work session for November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 a.m. following the NEMS budget meeting.

There was a discussion on our bus needs for the county. Mr. Gentry is concerned that we are going to get into bad shape with our buses. We have lost one this week. Dr. Arbogast stated that EPA has put out a national clean diesel rebate program. It is a bus replacement or retrofit funding opportunity for us. We have to submit an application for up to 10 replacement or retrofit buses, or a combination of those. He discussed the regulations for this rebate program. If approved, this program would pay \$20K towards a new bus. The board would like Dr. Arbogast to apply for this program to see if we can get approved for any buses.

Mrs. Tickle reminded board members about the VSBA convention and discussed the student school board representative workshop. We have one student who is interested in attending. Mrs. Tickle is going to check surrounding counties to see if they have any students going and see how they are transporting them to the conference.

School Board members had a discussion on whether we have a policy regarding coaches that have kids that play. Dr. Arbogast and Mr. Franklin stated that we currently did not have a policy regarding this. All coaches that are interested can apply within the school and be interviewed/chosen by the Principal, Assistant Principal and/or Activities Coordinator.

There was a discussion on the dress code at the schools. Mr. Steele stated that both schools now rely on the VSBA policy regarding dress code. They used to have a policy in each high school handbook, but that was taken out. The board had a concern as to whether they needed to "revamp" the policy, but it was decided to leave the policy alone for now.

There was a discussion about the AEP building at the old hospital. Mr. Gentry had a discussion with Mr. Meredith with the Town of Pearisburg. Dr. Arbogast is going to speak to Mr. Meredith and Mr. McKlarney to see where we stood with this to see if it needed to go to the Town of Pearisburg planning commission regarding zoning.

Dr. Arbogast informed the board members that we will have a new website up and running in the next couple of weeks.

There was a discussion on the prebid at the track. Dr. Arbogast stated that it is at 10:00 a.m. this morning.

Mr. Steele stated that he would like to see an updated Capital Improvements list that is ranked in order of need. Dr. Arbogast stated that after we see the DOE report, we need to start looking at what building we need to work on next.

Mr. Steele stated that he plans to talk to someone at the Virginian Leader to get another article in the paper regarding tax increases and teacher salaries.

Mr. Ballard had a concern about political signs on school grounds. He didn't know if we had an official policy. He also had a concern with signs made from staff/students on the fields. There is not an actual policy for these. Mr. Franklin stated that he thinks the principals take care of these issues as they arise.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he is still receiving results of the samples of the lead testing in water from our schools. He shared the results of these. Faucets will be replaced in the affected areas and then retested.

Mr. Steele asked about the lighting schedule in the gyms. Dr. Arbogast stated he has not heard anything on this.

Mr. Steele stated that we need to do a better job with job descriptions.

Mr. Ballard asked if there was any way to recruit members at the high school for the local fire departments. It was discussed that we have a career day and they can always set up information at lunch at the high schools.

There was a discussion on bullying in the schools. Mr. Ballard asked if it was more prevalent and is there enough programs in place to help with it. Mr. Franklin discussed the current programs that are out there.

Dr. Arbogast shared that we will asking to surplus the old AED's from our schools, since all of our schools received new ones. The plan is to donate them to rescue squads or churches.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we were notified that we received a security grant from DOE in the amount of \$80K.

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Chairman

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Clerk