

December 11th, 2018

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 11:00 a.m. on December 11th, 2018 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

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

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

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Steele discussed the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors on December 5th. He stated that it was a good meeting, but he is still adamant that our budget be broken out better. They looked at some salary budget sheets that showed whether the school or county pays for the individuals. He would like a better picture of how the money flows. He would like for the School Board to pay what we owe to the Board of Supervisors instead of waiting until the end of the year. Dr. Arbogast has a spreadsheet that should help with tracking the budget better. Dr. Arbogast emphasized that our ADM number is decreasing and the VPI+ grant is running out and we will need to cover positions within the next budget.

Mr. Steele stated that he and Dr. Arbogast talked with Mr. Williams and Mr. Mills regarding maintenance and custodians. It appears that the work orders are decreasing some with the items that the schools can do. They are trying to communicate better with schools if they are unable to finish a job when they are there.

Mr. Steele discussed the Tech Center building trades project. They will have to put up a retaining wall. Also – there is a drainage problem that will need to be fixed. The Celanese check presentation will be on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. On top of the Celanese funds, the rest of the funds will be used from previous Tech Center projects.

Board members discussed an update on the track at GHS. The Board of Supervisors think that the best option right now is the \$60K option, which would repair the inside lane and reseal the track. The funds will be requested at the January Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mr. Steele stated that he would like to be able to do an RFP for term architectural/engineering services. His thought is if we do an RFP for those services, it would allow us to contact the company to be able to get quotes for projects that we need to have done. The board's consensus is to put the RFP out to see what we can get.

There was a discussion on the new finance position. Dr. Arbogast stated that the plan is to interview applicants tomorrow and the committee has been established. Dr. Arbogast asked whether anyone from the county should help with interviews. Mr. Franklin stated that they are not our employees and we don't sit in on their interviews. Mr. Steele stated that a concern for Mrs. Ballard was that she would not feel comfortable being a mentor to the new person. Dr. Arbogast stated that we anticipate to get help from other school divisions as well as Mrs. Ballard.

There was a discussion about the need for elevators. Dr. Arbogast talked with Mrs. Thompson and she is aware that one elevator could come out of her budget. The architectural service would not be able to come out of the budget. Mrs. Thompson came into the meeting to discuss the funding more. After the discussion, Mr. Steele thinks we need more information on whether or not we need the elevators or whether the current lifts are okay.

Mr. Franklin had a discussion regarding drug testing and use of tobacco. Right now, tobacco is not included in the panel for drug testing student athletes. We were approached by the testing company that we could add tobacco to the drug testing. Mr. Steele stated that he would like to see all student athletes tested instead of the random selection. The board may discuss the option of adding tobacco to the student athlete drug testing policy at a later date, but not right now.

Mr. Franklin stated that we needed to have a discussion on bus privileges being taken from children because their parents/guardians are not at home to pick them up. This causes bus drivers to have to take the children back to the school.

Board members had a discussion on the school calendar for the 19-20 school year. They were given information on 3 different start dates. Mr. Bowles attended to discuss how the start dates affect the students and testing at Narrows High School. Board members hope to vote on a start date at the January school board meeting.

Dr. Arbogast updated the School Board members on the governor's proposed budget regarding education. He then explained and distributed information that was shared at the recent Region VII meeting that was held with some of our legislators.

Dr. Arbogast shared information with the School Board about the unveiling of the ocean wall at EEMS. It will be next Tuesday, December 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Arbogast also shared information about the next VSBA Hot Topic Conference that will be held in March. He also discussed the upcoming VEA Lobby Day and stated that the GEA expressed interest on closing school on that day and bus teachers to Richmond so they could attend.

Dr. Arbogast reminded board members about the grant that we were awarded from the NRA School Shield grant request. We will get Stop the Bleed kits for each school. Mrs. Glover is working to set up training for these.

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

Chairman

Clerk