

February 4, 2020

The Giles County School Board held a work session at 1:00 p.m. on February 4th, 2020. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard, Chairman
Melissa R. Guynn
Phillip A. Pennington
Stephen M. Steele
Mark A. Wilburn

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk
Rick Franklin, Assistant Superintendent
David Thompson, Finance Supervisor

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

Mr. Steele discussed the “VSBA Call in for Questions”, which is being held today and tomorrow. A couple of our board members will take part in it and ask any questions that they may have. They want to ask “what code section/number discusses the policy related to county board approval of funding for school boards?”, “can funding be taken back by a county board after it has been adopted by both the county and school boards?” and “is it typical to transfer budget funds monthly or as spent throughout the fiscal year?”

Board members discussed the idea again of having an off-site AEP location. They discussed the building that is currently not in use beside the county administration office. Mr. Wilburn still likes the idea of having the location at the old hospital. There was discussion on possibly going to the Pearisburg town council meeting. Board members will talk with the county individuals during their joint meeting tomorrow.

Board members discussed the extended work session/SB retreat. All administrators will present their information to Amanda and she will compile it to present to board members. There will not be a retreat on the 13th, but the board will meet at 1 p.m. (lunch at noon) on the 20th to discuss budget and other information.

There was a discussion with Mr. Thompson on how things were going and what he could do to better help board members with the budget. He will continue working with them to help them better understand the budget.

There was a discussion on doing some open forums at the schools like they have done in the past. Board members would like to get back on track doing this. Dr. Arbogast is going to check with principals to see when a good time for board members to come and visit and be available for any questions or concerns.

Dr. Arbogast shared information about his budget proposal. He stated that he has a proposed increase for teacher assistants of 3.48% and moved everyone back to the salary scale. The average proposed increase for bus drivers is 3.5%, secretaries and bookkeepers have a proposed increase of 3.9%, nurses have a proposed increase of 3.5%, teachers have a proposed increase of 3.69% and administrators a 3.5%. He has included 11 new teacher assistant positions, 3 reading specialists (one per elementary school), 3 new guidance counselors (one per elementary school) based on legislation that is currently being considered in the general assembly, a social worker/educational diagnostician, 3 assistant principals for the elementary schools (10 ½ month employees) and another floating nurse. Also, included for the facilities are water softeners at 4 of the sites and \$16K for a maintenance agreement for cafeteria equipment at 5 sites. He stated that the grant with Carilion for Athletic trainers will be phasing out over the next couple years, so he has included money in the budget to continue this. Dr. Arbogast stated that we need to increase funds for dual enrollment class fees at New River Community College. Under facilities, there is \$60K for gym floors and we should probably go out to bid soon for pricing. Also, he included an increase for MACC/Yearbook/Department Head sponsorships and coaching allotments, as well as funding included to account for increases to be paid to athletic trip drivers. The schools have trouble getting drivers. Also budgeted is \$40K for the front end upgrade on the HVAC at Macy McClagherty and Mitsubishi AC units for the server room at Macy and NEMS. He also increased summer technology work and the duty free lunch allocation. Dr. Arbogast stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Thompson on preschool tuition. He stated that he decreased the amount allocated because we aren't receiving as much tuition as what was budgeted. He distributed a handout to board members that provided an update on the usage of the carry over money. This had estimate costs of items that board members plan to use the carry over money, such as the front end control panel (HVAC) at GHS, the lift at GHS, the track at GHS, phone system upgrades at Macy and Eastern, facilities study, replacement of Alerton Controls Trunk 3 at GHS, parking lots that need to be sealed and new asphalt at some lots.

The next discussion was the drug testing policy. Dr. Arbogast discussed the proposed changes from counsel. Mr. Ballard stated that he didn't feel like the appeal process was much of a process. Dr. Arbogast stated that counsel is not in favor of removing the appeal process. Dr. Arbogast stated the testing agency will notify the parents within 24 hours if the drug test is not negative. Dr. Arbogast met with Greenbrier and he says the process is as efficient as possible right now. Mr. Ballard asked if we were able to do a swab test and get immediate results. Mr. Franklin said that the swab test is not what they (Greenbrier) prefer to use. Mr. Pennington stated that if they have

gotten caught twice, the student shouldn't get an appeal. Dr. Arbogast stated that he asked about the chain of custody form with the testing agency. The form cannot be changed; however, as additional testing is occurring now, they are adding the time and site of where the kids are being tested.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we are still working with the Virgin Pulse app to get the information out to employees.

Dr. Arbogast stated that he and Mr. Steele attended the governor's school meeting last week and it was mentioned that we needed to consider the next two year cycle for governor's school. It was discussed that the amount per seat may need to increase because of facility needs.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk