

January 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:00 p.m. on January 16, 2020 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Arbogast.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's January 16, 2020 School Board Meeting Agenda.

2020 ORGANIZATION

Mr. Wilburn nominated Mr. Steele for Chairman. Second was made by Mr. Pennington. Mrs. Guynn nominated Mr. Ballard for Chairman. There was no second. Voting for Mr. Steele is as follows: AYES: Wilburn, Pennington, Steele; NAYS: Guynn, Ballard

Mr. Pennington nominated Mr. Ballard for Vice-Chairman. Second was made by Mr. Wilburn. Voting for Mr. Ballard is unanimous. Mr. Ballard abstained.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the third Thursday at 4:30 PM as the monthly meeting date and time for the 2020 School Board meetings.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, appointed Amanda Tickle as School Board Clerk for 2020. The Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, approved Terry Arbogast as the Deputy Clerk for 2020. Voting was unanimous.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, nominated Mr. Franklin as the Superintendent's designee for 2020. Voting was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Katie Wright spoke on behalf of the GEA. She discussed the proposed resolution that the GEA has been working on regarding a Public Education State Funding Emergency in Giles County. This resolution will also be proposed to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The intent of this resolution is to draw attention to the inequities of the funding of rural schools in this state. They will also be attending Lobby Day in Richmond on January 27th to personally address Delegate Hurst and Senator Edwards. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the resolution that was presented by Katie Wright, on behalf of the GEA.

Resolution Declaring a Public Education State Funding Emergency in Giles County

Whereas, Article VIII section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia reads, "The General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained."

Whereas, while funding for Virginia's public elementary and secondary schools comes from a combination of federal, state, and local funding, ensuring high quality schools is dictated as a constitutional duty of the state.

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Education says, "The Composite Index determines a school division's ability to pay education costs fundamental to the commonwealth's Standards of Quality (SOQ). The Composite Index is calculated using three indicators of a locality's ability-to-pay:

- True value of real property (weighted 50 percent)
- Adjusted gross income (weighted 40 percent)
- Taxable retail sales (weighted 10 percent)

Each locality’s index is adjusted to maintain an overall statewide local share of 45 percent and an overall state share of 55 percent.”

Whereas, direct state aid per pupil in Virginia’s rural schools has actually dropped 9 percent in the last decade and Virginia public school students overall “are being shortchanged by \$800 million per year” (both figures according to The Commonwealth Institute),

Whereas, the Giles County Board of Supervisors, believing that rural students are just as entitled to a high quality public education as any other Virginia students, seeks to provide high quality public elementary and secondary schools,

Whereas, the Giles County Board of Supervisors must contribute much more than its state-required share to our public schools in order for them to maintain quality (in 2017-18, rural school divisions in Virginia invested 76.4% above what is required in the state's funding formula),

Whereas, the inequalities created and condoned by the General Assembly infringe upon the rights of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia living in rural school districts to receive a high quality education,

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Giles County Board of Supervisors declares Giles County in a Public Education State Funding Emergency, and

That the Board of Supervisors calls upon the General Assembly to enact and fund the Virginia Board of Education’s Standards of Quality funding requests.

The Board intends to uphold the rights of its citizens to receive a quality public elementary and secondary education provided by the state as mandated by the Constitution of Virginia.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mrs. Christina Martin and Mr. Henry Buchanan attended the School Board meeting to share the STEM educational feature with the board. Mr. Buchanan and his students demonstrated their Robotic Rovers. He explained how the students made these rovers that are controlled by their cell phones. Mrs. Martin brought along teams from each of the elementary schools to show robots that they built. She explained the process of how the robots are used in the robotics competition. The teams will be competing in a competition this Saturday.

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 & Special – December 11th, 17th & 19th, 2019 (with revisions)
- B. Financial Data**
 - 1. Payrolls to include January 15th
 - 2. Payment of Bills
 - 3. December 2019 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
 - 4. Confirmation of Field Trips
 - 5. Appropriation Request for February 2020
 - TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
 - FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
 - RE: February 2020 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of February 2020. This is for the eighth month of the fiscal year 2019-20. 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.

Original Monthly Appropriation Request:	\$ 2,388,792.67
(Operating + Flow-thru)	
Total:	\$ 2,388,792.67

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.
/at

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. The Superintendent recommended action and Board approval of the following personnel/contractual items:
1. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment**: Travis Bartley – GHS English Teacher (1/21/20)
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations**: McCreery Mann – NHS Girls Varsity Basketball (12/20/19)
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the updated policy services agreement for one year, with option to renew at the same price through January 31, 2024.
- C. School Board members had a discussion about the 20-21 school calendar. Dr. Arbogast shared information that was discussed at the recent calendar committee meeting. Mrs. Guynn shared some information as a parent about the positives of the early start date for Narrows High School. The early start date allows first semester to be finished by Christmas break. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mrs. Guynn and 2 – 3 voting (AYES: BALLARD, GUYNN; NAYS: STEELE, PENNINGTON, WILBURN), made a motion to start school for students on August 6th, 2020. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and 3 – 2 voting (AYES: STEELE, WILBURN, PENNINGTON; NAYS: BALLARD, GUYNN), made a motion to start school for students on August 24th, 2020.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Cohen Taylor spoke on behalf of Narrows High School. He stated that Friday morning, that the academic jackets are going to be awarded to the top 10 seniors.

Cohen stated that there would be an academic award ceremony on February 4th. This ceremony honors the students who made all A's and B's last year. The top 10 seniors will also be able to talk about their favorite teacher.

Cohen stated that the Scholastic Bowl Team captured the regular season Pioneer District Championship.

Cohen stated that NHS is hosting a snow court dance this Saturday.

Mr. Ballard thanked the board for allowing them to be their chairman for the last two years.

Mr. Ballard thanked all the administrators, teachers, support staff for making everything work for our school system with the limited funding.

Mr. Ballard congratulated all the athletes and coaches for their accomplishments of the Fall season.

Mr. Wilburn commended Mr. Ballard for the job he has done as Chairman, especially with everything he has been through.

Mrs. Guynn thanked Mrs. Wright and the GEA for everything they do for Giles County Public Schools.

Mrs. Guynn commended the archery team for their accomplishments.

Mrs. Guynn also commended Mr. Ballard for the great job he has done with Chairman.

Mr. Pennington also thanked Mr. Ballard for holding the role as Chairman over the last couple of years. Also thanks to Mr. Steele for his role as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Pennington commended the Robotics educational feature!

Mr. Pennington commended the bus drivers for their hard work, especially in the bad weather.

Mr. Steele stated that budget season is right around the corner for us.

Mr. Steele thanked the county for working with the School Board to get the track redone at GHS. They are hopeful they can do it in the next 6 months.

Mr. Steele stated that the kick off meeting for the Facilities Study will be held on the 22nd of this month.

Dr. Arbogast stated that enrollment as of today is 2,308.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the grant for meals after school was approved at Giles High School and will begin on February 3rd.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated 3 NHS students who captured regional titles in archery last week. They are as follows: Adelita Maddy, Anthony Wills and Chloe Sheally. Also, the Scholastic Bowl team at Narrows High School won their regular season district and have the district tournament at Narrows High School this Saturday and the Regional tournament is scheduled at Eastern Montgomery next Saturday. Good luck!

Dr. Arbogast stated that the Virgin Pulse app went live this past Monday, January 13th. Employees have the ability to register themselves and earn points.

Dr. Arbogast asked board members for their approval to use our buses for county clean-up day on March 28th. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved this request.

Dr. Arbogast thanked Christina Martin, Henry Buchanan and the students for the educational feature.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the 19-20 organizational chart.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Coaching Contracts: Byron Brown – NHS Asst. & Head Varsity Girls Basketball, Wayne Gautier – NHS Asst. Varsity Girls Basketball.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, accepted the proposal from Romar elevators to replace the lift at Giles High School. The total base price will be \$49,637 plus \$7,490 for the 7-year preventative maintenance contract for a total of \$57,127.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the VSBA Code of

Conduct for School Board Members.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, February 20th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the School Board retreat.

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

Chairman

Clerk