

October 21, 2021

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on October 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

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

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, School Board Clerk
Lisa M. Mustain, Assistant Superintendent

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's October 21st, 2021 School Board Meeting Agenda.

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. Work Session – September 30th, 2021

B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include September 30th and October 15th, 2021
2. Payment of Bills
3. September 2021 Revenue & Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for November 2021

TO: Christopher McKlamey
Interim Administrator for Giles County

RE: November 2021 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the months of November, 2021. This is for the fifth month of the fiscal year 2018-19. 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	November	\$ 1,900,000
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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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Sabrina Stables attended the meeting to address the board and ask questions about COVID and our testing policies and about individuals being vaccinated or unvaccinated. She expressed her concern with teachers asking students about whether they have been vaccinated or not. She stated that it seems people are following different procedures. She stated that it should be up to the parents and students as to whether they want to wear masks. She discussed funding that come to Giles County and asked why we couldn't buy air purifiers for all of our schools? She also asked if we would be following the critical race theory. Dr. Arbogast stated that we don't teach critical race theory; we follow the Standards of Learning through the Department of Education. Mr. Buckland stated that he has confidence in the board to fight things that come before them along the way.

PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Giles County School Board, the following individuals were recognized for their years of hard work and dedication to Giles County Public Schools: Todd Lusk and Brenda Smith from NHS.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mrs. Kayla Evans, Mr. Kevin White and several students attended the meeting to update the board members on projects going on in the Drafting program at the Technology Center.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. The Superintendent recommended action and Board approval of the following personnel/contractual items:
1. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting (Melissa Guynn abstained), confirmed the following **Athletic Contracts**: Brock Lusk – NHS Head Boys Middle School Basketball, Jimmy McCroskey – GHS CoHead Middle School Boys Basketball, Derek Snider – GHS Middle School CoHead Boys Basketball, Todd Guynn – NHS Head Girls Middle School Basketball, Patrick Bailey – NHS Head Boys Basketball, Derrick Reed – NHS Asst. Boys Basketball
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Anne Campbell – GHS Band, Teresa Fletcher – GHS Band, Florence Stephens – GHS
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Resignations**: Haley Williams – MMS Kindergarten Teacher (10/22/21)
 4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Employment**: Stephanie Evans – MMS Teacher Assistant (11/8/21), Peyton Carter – NHS Teacher Assistant (10/11/21), Karen Buzzo – NHS Teacher Assistant (10/11/21)
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved Policy Revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration.
- C. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the 2022-2024 Giles County Technology Plan.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS...

Dr. Arbogast stated that enrollment as of today is 2,192. We are down 19 from August 31st.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated the GHS Golf Team for placing 4th in the state. Also, Good luck to the GHS Volleyball team as they begin district tournament this evening.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the facilities assessment that was started prior to COVID. He has spoken with Josh and he will be visiting schools beginning next week. They have done the facilities condition index, but now they will observe the education programs. They will come up with an educational equity assessment. Mr. Buckland would like more clarity on an educational equity assessment and what is involved in this.

Dr. Arbogast shared that due to the weather turning too cold, the tennis courts at the high schools will not get done right now. It will probably be early May before the courts can be done.

Dr. Arbogast stated that there was a walk through done on the GHS track. It is done and looks very nice!

Dr. Arbogast discussed the VISSTA Program, which is a program that will provide us the ability to do routine COVID screenings. We are interested in participating because this would provide us the opportunity to allow us to do diagnostic testing for individuals with

symptoms or who were exposed. To receive this, we will need to also do pooled testing. A couple board members had some questions/concerns on how this random testing would work. Funding is available with this grant that would allow us to hire 2 positions (COVID 19 K-12 Division Coordinator and a Testing Nurse/Clinical Support). The new positions will be posted within the next couple of days.

Dr. Arbogast had a discussion with board members about a request he received from the GEA about having some early release days to help with planning. Many staff members are spending time covering other classes due to quarantines and staff being out for numerous reasons. The consensus of the board is to offer 3 early release days as of now, which will be on Friday, October 29th, Tuesday, November 23rd and Wednesday, December 8th. Mr. Buckland had a concern about the amount of time that would be missed in a class at NHS and also affecting child care for parents when having early releases.

Dr. Arbogast had a discussion about the NEMS HVAC problems. They opened two new bids yesterday. The winning bid was a savings of about \$450K less than the bid the last time. ESSER funds can be applied towards this purchase. There is also another grant that we can apply for to help with this as well. Carry over funds can also help with this as well. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved Southern Air to complete the NEMS HVAC project.

Dr. Arbogast stated that through October 12th, the school-based health center has seen 76 patients. Dental should have begun this past Monday.

Dr. Arbogast discussed upcoming dates with board members.

Dr. Arbogast thanked the individuals from the Giles Tech Center for the educational feature!

Mr. Pennington congratulated the sports teams on their accomplishments. He also thanked all the individuals in the school system for their hard work.

Board members also thanked the Giles Tech Center for the educational feature.

Mrs. Guynn also congratulated all the sports teams on their accomplishments.

Mrs. Guynn thanked all the schools that have hosted budget meetings so far.

Mrs. Guynn stated to please keep bearing with us during these tough times.

Mr. Wilburn thanked the Giles Tech Center for the educational feature.

Mr. Wilburn commended the GHS golf team on their accomplishments.

Mr. Wilburn also thanked everyone in the school system.

Mr. Wilburn stated that GHS Administration received a compliment on their football facility. Thanks to everyone for their work on this.

Mr. Wilburn stated that he hopes we can do more with salaries and health care for our staff.

Mr. Buckland also congratulated the GHS golf team. Also, good luck to Narrows as they open their district tournament.

Mr. Buckland commended the theatre program at Narrows.

Mr. Buckland stated that everyone is working hard to overcome the challenges we have had. He is hopeful we can keep the kids in school.

Mr. Steele stated that during the budget meetings, the principals are always thankful for what they have gotten and always ask for items for the kids. He stated that he met with the cafeteria this week and discussed some of the challenges that they are facing. He asked everyone to be patient as we continue to navigate through these times.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following Surplus:

Car 77 - 1994 Olds Cutlas Ciera - 4D Sedan
1G3AG55M1R6365113
Tag - 22856L
Mileage - 125,046

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following Resignation: Michelle Stables – NHS Assistant (11/5/21).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following Volunteer Agreement: Sharlyn Thacker – GHS Band.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Contract: Roger Shephard – NHS Head Boys JV Basketball.

NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Tuesday, November 23rd at 4:30 p.m.

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

Chairman

Clerk