

December 15, 2022

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:30 p.m. on December 15, 2022. Persons present were:

Jason B. Buckland
Melissa R. Guynn
Stephen M. Steele

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II, Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, School Board Clerk
Lisa M. Mustain, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved an amended Superintendent's December 15th, 2022 School Board Meeting Agenda to include the educational feature and presentations prior to public comments.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Mr. White, Verena Riley and several students attended the meeting on behalf of the GTC Educational Feature to discuss the new Early Childhood Education program. She thanked board members and Dr. Arbogast for making this program a reality. She also thanked several individuals in the community for working together with her on this program. The students presented a PowerPoint to board members about this new program, the certifications that they have received and what they have learned.

Mrs. Shelly Boggess, Mrs. Katie Wright and several students on behalf of the GHS Educational Feature attended the meeting to discuss the new NRCC Math 154 class (Quantitative Reasoning). She stated that this is the first year that they have taught this course. She also discussed other dual enrollment classes that GHS offers. The students presented to the board a fun project that they have been working on.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Clyde Turner spoke regarding consolidation. He stated that there seems to be an issue with board members regarding older students being with younger students. This is already happening in classes already, especially in the Alternative Education Program. Other schools in the state have students K-12 in the same building. He asked the board to consider Eastern as a middle school and Macy an elementary school. He stated that there would be long bus rides from the Montgomery County line to Macy and from the Pulaski County line to Eastern. If consolidation happens, the sporting events would be much farther away and the kids would also be on the bus longer and get home later.

Mrs. Cora Taylor spoke to the board regarding her desire to create one centralized high school for the district. She read an excerpt quoted by the Department of Education after their school study that was published in 2017. Part of the excerpt included "By creating a central high school with a larger student body, the Giles County school division will be able to expand its course offerings and provide all its high school students the same opportunity to enroll in a wider variety of classes if they so choose." She stated that "Considering that we look to the Department of Education to set our standards and guidelines, given this recommendation from 5 years ago I am requesting that we continue our conversations and efforts towards consolidation of Giles and Narrows High School." She also stated that "Currently there are 9 (soon to be 10) dual enrollment courses offered via in person instruction at one high school that is not offered at the other high school, with that number alone you have already provided 10 additional course offerings for your students regarding advancement opportunities. We put our middle school aged students at a disadvantage to surrounding localities because we don't offer instruction for Algebra I at the 7th grade level without scoring at an advanced level on a placement test, because we do not have instruction opportunities in the 7th grade classrooms, however having a middle school would create that opportunity."

Ms. Emily Clehm attended the meeting to discuss consolidations. She wants to address a couple questions with the board. She asked the board if they have decided on a new name if they consolidate? She also asked the board what the colors would be? She stated in all fairness to both schools, they should not consider any of the colors they currently have. She also stated that they would need new uniforms. Also, they would have the cost of repainting the high school. She would like her questions in writing back to her. She addressed Mr. Steele saying that he has always said that there should be no "name calling and mud slinging." She stated that he called out Narrows back at the November meeting. She wants to know why it's okay for him to do it and no one else. Mr. Steele stated that it was not his intention to make it sound like Narrows individuals were the only ones that said anything. He apologized to her and the western district and said it wasn't his intention to call out Narrows.

Mrs. Bendy Shrader attended the meeting to share her support for a new track at Narrows High School. She stated her concerns with the condition of the current track. She said that they were turned away from using the track at GHS after being told they could use it. She spoke regarding her past experience with having a child with a learning disability and how she fought to get help for her child. She expressed her concern about having larger class sizes and not being able to exceed.

Student Eli Fisher attended the meeting to speak on a student's point of view. He said that the idea of consolidation has caused stress for teachers, parents and students. He stated that these problems can be fixed by just leaving things alone. He would like a decision to be made soon to put everyone's mind at ease. He recommended keeping smaller class sizes at the schools. Having smaller class sizes is more beneficial. Why can't we find a way to spend our money more wisely rather than a school name change, colors, uniforms, etc?

Mrs. Nicole Price also attended the meeting to address the board. She stated that she has children in or going in to school and this conversation that the board is having will affect her for now and the next 18 years. She stated that there should be much thought into what we say or write. Respectfully, the board has previously fallen short of leading with clear and open communication to the public and unfortunately has led to a war of words filled with assumptions across the county. This county practically needs a PR firm to do damage control at this point. The board is not responsible for the rumors flying around about intentions and plans, but are responsible for owning the communication of your plans and where you are in the process. She is hopeful that in the future we are going to see a unified front the board as they unpack the complex issues they are faced with. Also, she stated that to address the idea that no one in the central and eastern district have nothing to lose or simply didn't care as much. She stated that they do have less to lose because we didn't face a building setting empty (that was a catastrophic deal breaker in her opinion), but the idea that they care less is so wrong. She is proud of our eastern and central schools, the faculty and staff. GHS was very good to her. She stated that sometimes it seems the kids get along better than the adults sometimes. Can we please start to focus on how to get the most quality educational experiences for our kids and make that the north star of all conversations moving forward?

PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Giles County School Board, the following individuals were recognized:

- A. Christmas Card Contest Winners
 - 1. Xochitl Aldaz - EEMS
 - 2. Liberty Brackenrich – NEMS
 - 3. Sadie Stoudenmire – MMS

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following consent items:

- A. **Meeting Minutes**
 - 1. Regular – November 3rd, 2022
- B. **Financial Data**
 - 1. Payrolls to include November 30th and December 15th, 2022
 - 2. Payment of Bills
 - 3. Revenue and Expenditure Reports – November 2022
 - 4. Appropriation Request for January 2023
 - TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
 - FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
 - RE: January 2023 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of January 2023. This is for the seventh month of the fiscal year 2022-2023. 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:	\$ 2,675,000.00
(Operating + Flow-thru)	
ESSR III - NEMS HVAC	<u>\$ 106,633.70</u>
Total:	\$ 2,781,633.70

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.

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. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations**: Lana Faw – MMS Teacher Assistant (12/20/22)
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment**: Clyde Turner – NHS Teacher Assistant (12/1/22), James Woodard – MMS PE Teacher (1/3/23), Megan Miller – MMS Elementary Teacher (1/3/23)
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the following **Athletic Contracts**: Abby Taylor – NHS Varsity Basketball Cheer Coach, Brittany Hudson – GHS JV Girls Head Basketball, Jim Mahaney – GHS Swim Head Coach, Austin Cooper – GHS Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach
 4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the updated **Substitute List to Date**.
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland with second by Mrs. Guynn, approved the recent policy revisions to date. After discussion with board members and Dr. Arbogast, Mr. Buckland amended the motion to change the wording of the policy (keep what VSBA recommended). Mrs. Guynn seconded the motion with unanimous voting.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS

Dr. Arbogast discussed a literary fund loan resolution for the MMS HVAC and roof project. The resolution needs to be approved prior to putting out any bids for this project. Mr. Buckland made a motion to approve the resolution, with second by Mrs. Guynn. After further board member discussion, Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, made a motion to revise wording for the resolution. It now reads:

WHEREAS, Giles County Public Schools is a political subdivision organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, At a meeting of the Giles County School Board, on Thursday, December 15th, 2022, the School Board voted unanimously to apply for a loan from the Literary Fund for \$7,850,000 for the purpose of financing HVAC equipment replacement/renovations, roof replacement/improvements and/or construction and equipping of expansions, renovations and improvements to Macy McClagherty, located at 1001 Henson Avenue, Pearisburg, VA 24134, and

WHEREAS, Adequate and satisfactory supervision of construction will be provided by the School Board, and

WHEREAS, Each expenditure will be of a type properly chargeable to capital account under general federal income tax principals (determined in each case as of the date of the expenditure) and complies with all applicable Literary Fund regulations.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Dr. Arbogast stated that our enrollment as of today is 2,200. We also have 1,201 Stride nonresidential students.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated students from Giles High School who auditioned for and earned a seat in the all district bands. They are as follows: Junior Concert Band – Emily Thompson, Ellie Campbell, Junior Symphonic Band – Joanna Jackson, Evan McDonald,

Senior Concert Band – Whitney Hite, Ben Campbell, Marin Hypes, Samuel Vaden and Senior Symphonic Band – TJ Stafford, Hollie Fletcher, Eli Wiscarson and Bobby Galitz.

Dr. Arbogast also congratulated NHS students Xyander Trent, Camden Newby and Memphis Wagner for being selected All District Band.

Dr. Arbogast congratulated our teachers of the year! They are as follows: Luke Craig, Emily Moye, Teresa Lowe, Seth Davis and Kelcie Lowe. He invited everyone to the reception on January 5th where the county teacher of the year will be announced.

Dr. Arbogast also recognized a couple student athletes for the Class 1 Girls All-State Volleyball Team. They are as follows: Sophie Taylor – GHS, Jordan Lucas – GHS and Kaitlin Steele – GHS.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the Governor's School. He stated that he visited Radford University to see where they are thinking about housing the program. They are still very interested. They are going to work on a date for the governor's school board members to visit the RU site. New River Community College is still very interested as well. We meet with Wytheville Community College representatives tomorrow.

Dr. Arbogast asked the board for consideration of a new program called BoardDocs. This would be used by the board clerk and board members. The cost of this program is \$3k per year. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved this new program.

Dr. Arbogast discussed a new program called Mastery Connect. This program would replace Performance Matters. Mastery Connect is a platform that allows teachers to provide assessments to students to evaluate their student's level of understanding. The data that is provided on this platform will allow teachers to tailor their instruction and provide remediation to those students who need it. The majority of the school divisions that participate in the CIP in Region VII currently use Mastery Connect and this changeover will allow us to provide training prior to the start of the next school year. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved Mastery Connect.

Dr. Arbogast also discussed a new personnel/records program. This would be in addition to the Recruit and Hire program that we already use for applications/hiring. The yearly cost of this is \$10k. This program will also help to send contracts out. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved this program.

Dr. Arbogast thanked GHS and GTC for their educational features this evening.

Mrs. Guynn commended the educational features for the evening! She really enjoyed both presentations!

Mrs. Guynn also commended both theatre teams at the high schools. It is amazing what these teams do and the work they put in.

Mrs. Guynn stated that in reference to Nicole (Mrs. Price), she wanted to apologize for not always acting like they should and stated that they don't intentionally mean that. She feels like the discussion was brought up very quickly. She thanked Terry and Lisa for all the work they have done regarding the consolidation discussion. She also thanked individuals for attending the meeting to speak.

Mr. Buckland also thanked Terry and Lisa for all of their hard work on school projects.

Mr. Buckland thanked Mrs. Guynn and the folks of the Narrows Athletic Fund. It was a great tournament.

Mr. Buckland also commended Mrs. Mustain's husband, John, on his football season at James Monroe.

Mr. Buckland also commended the bus drivers and all staff for their hard work.

Mr. Steele thanked everyone in the community for continuing to be patient and for their support.

Mr. Steele thanked all of our teachers, bus drivers and other staff for all they have done the last several years during the pandemic.

IN OTHER ACTION

1. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the following **Athletic Contracts**: Todd Kellison – GHS Boys Basketball Assistant, Steven Malik – GHS Boys JV Basketball Head Coach.
2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Field Trip**: GTC/Heidi Sizemore – March 9-12, 2023 – HOSA State Leadership Conference (Williamsburg, VA – 17 students).
3. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the following **Employment**: Aleah Goodson – MMS Elementary Teacher (1/3/23).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m

The Chairman, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Clerk