

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Giles County School Board held a work session at 1:00 p.m. on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. 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 G. Mustain, Assistant Superintendent

The chairman called the work session to order.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the ESCO (energy saving companies) process. He stated that they met with 5 representatives with CMTA to start the conversation about the Investment Grade Audit (IGA). The MOU was shared with the board and he made sure to include Narrows Elem/Middle within the project as well. CMTA is waiting on us to sign the MOU and return to them so they can get the process going. This program identifies energy savings and improvements in our buildings. This company identifies ways to save regarding our HVAC, lighting, windows, etc. Dr. Arbogast stated it was a great conversation with CMTA. They are also aware of the conversation that the board has been having as well. Our attorney will also review this document and if okay, we will move forward with the process.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the NEMS HVAC. We are continuing to move along. They are working on getting heat in the office area. It is anticipated that the project will be complete in February.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the governor's school situation. They continue to have conversations with Radford University and they are interested in partnering with the Governor's School. They will meet with them this week again. They will also be meeting soon with NRCC and Wytheville Community college regarding their interest in having the students at their campuses. A decision will need to be made by the Governor's School Board soon so preparations for next school year can begin. Mr. Wilburn stated that if the cost is going to be too high or it doesn't work out, do we have the capability to teach these classes ourselves? Dr. Arbogast stated that we would need to look to see who is certified to teach these classes, if any. Mrs. Guynn stated that she likes the Radford University campus. Mr. Buckland stated that he knows the county is very supportive of the governor's school program.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the upcoming MMS HVAC project. There has been communication between John Ross, our office and ZMM. They are hoping to get the bid out for the equipment next week.

Dr. Arbogast stated that DOE released information on the literary fund last Friday. They have the capability of applying for up to \$25 million for each project. The application period started last Friday and runs through February 10<sup>th</sup>. The goal will be to use some information from ZMM for Macy and work on the application. A resolution will need to be approved from our board and the county board to be able to apply for it.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the proposed GTC Ag Lab project (bathroom/office area). He gave quotes on this project that he received, which included prices for it being block and stick built and also quotes on the plumbing and sewer. There was also discussion on putting an outdoor classroom up there as well in the future. Board members stated that they may want to have the architects involved so if they do a classroom up there, it would already be approved. Mr. Buckland would like to have Jesse and Bobby from the county to also look at the sewer to get their thoughts.

Mrs. Guynn discussed information regarding the need for an athletic training at Narrows High. She mentioned the idea of maybe sharing the trainer from Giles? Dr. Arbogast will reach back out to Carilion to get the status

on a trainer for Narrows? Mr. Buckland stated that it may be worth reaching out to VT or Radford to see if they have anyone interested in helping out.

Dr. Arbogast discussed information on the lights at the GHS football stadium. Dr. Brown met a company out there last week to look to see what is there. The quote that we received for replacing the lights is \$325-\$350k. Mr. Buckland asked if we could incorporate in the ESCO process.

Dr. Arbogast discussed all the current options on the table for consolidation. He would like for the board to be able to narrow the options down to 2-3, instead of 6-7 different options. He went through all options with the board. Mr. Buckland asked that the CRA facilities study be placed on our website. The first option that was discussed is to operate the schools as they are and do upgrades to each school. This option is still an option. Mr. Wilburn asked Mrs. Boggess and Mr. Bowles whether there has been any leaking in the buildings lately with all the rain? Mr. Bowles isn't aware of any water leaking at NHS, but there is some leaking at MMS, EEMS and GHS. The second option discussed was to close Narrows High and combine with Giles High School. This option is no longer an option. Mr. Steele stated that we need to utilize all of our current buildings. The architect had recommended adding about 25-26 classrooms to GHS to keep the class sizes and programming the same. Mr. Buckland stated that he thinks the operational savings would be minimal. Mr. Steele doesn't think it makes sense to build on to GHS when it will need to be replaced down the road. Option 3 discussed shifting 7<sup>th</sup> grade from the elementary schools to the high schools. This was discussed to try to fix the capacity issues and NEMS and MMS. Mr. Buckland stated that he thinks this option is cost prohibited. Mr. Steele stated that the feedback he is getting is there is a problem with 8<sup>th</sup> graders being in the high school. Mr. Wilburn also agreed. Mr. Wilburn and Mr. Pennington are concerned about 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students being in the same school as 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The board decided to do away with this option. The 4<sup>th</sup> option discussed is creating a middle school at Narrows High School for the entire county. The elementary schools would then be PreK-5, a middle school at NHS for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and then GHS would be grades 9-12. This option will stay on the table. Option 5 is to consolidate the high schools into a brand new building. This option is no longer an option. Option 6 would be to move Narrows 7<sup>th</sup> graders to NHS and determine a middle school option for the eastern and central part of the county. Mr. Buckland stated that he would feel comfortable sending his young child to Narrows High School, but he doesn't think adding an hour to bus routes would be an option for middle school. He stated that the least supervised place is the school bus. He stated that the county is going to be looking for us to reduce capital costs wherever we can. He doesn't think we would need to do any capital improvements at NHS to accommodate 7<sup>th</sup> graders other than what needs to be done already. Mr. Bowles stated that they could absorb 7<sup>th</sup> graders and you could treat 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade like a true middle school. Mr. Wilburn stated that he is passionate about the middle school option because of the cases that he has been involved in while being an SRO. Mr. Buckland stated that we can do stuff as a board to protect our kids regardless of who is in the building and where they are. Dr. Arbogast stated that there needs to be more research done on options for a middle school at either Eastern or Macy. Mr. Steele would like to see the capital costs for building additions onto either making either Macy or Eastern a middle school. The board discussed different configurations for the eastern and central districts to help with overcrowding. Mr. Steele stated that as the board proceeds, he would prefer not to "backpedal" – he would like to keep moving forward each time we meet.

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

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Chairman

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Clerk