

April 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:30 p.m. on April 16, 2020 in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

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

Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved Mr. Ballard to participate electronically due to health concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The board chairman read public comments that were emailed to Mrs. Tickle. They are as follows:

Katie Wright – GEA President: The Giles Education Association would like to extend our utmost appreciation for the support of the students, faculty, and staff in this community during these unprecedented times. Throughout the past few weeks, I have witnessed the number of methods that have been used to stay in contact with students, whether it has been posting of videos of lessons, videos of faculty and staff reading to students, phone calls, Zoom meetings, e-mailing, mailing packets, and the list goes on. Please be assured that your faculty and staff are doing a phenomenal job during this time. We know that it is not ideal, and the urge to be interacting with students in their schools is their passion, but we know we are taking all of the precautions necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19. Students all over the county are excited to meet the school buses. Those smiling faces are appreciative of this county's admirable efforts to continue to provide for our students through meals and resources. We want to express our gratitude for the staff and volunteers helping in this endeavor. The GEA is proud to share these efforts to surrounding counties. We are absolutely in uncharted territory and we know that things will change day-to-day. Please know that the GEA is here for you every step of this journey and continues to offer collaboration on any issues and concerns that arise as we navigate this difficult time. We appreciate you all and what you continue to do in this county.

Mandy Havens GTC ITRT - Thank you, School Board members, Dr. Arbogast, Mr. Franklin, and Mrs. Tickle, for being so flexible during this time, and allowing for technology to facilitate public participation. It's an amazing era we live in to be able to hold meetings like this virtually, especially during these historic times!

I wanted to express today the vast amount of amazing work that our GCPS staff is doing that I've been witness to during the school shutdown. I have seen the work and heard from so many of our staff who are creatively innovating the way we educate our kids! As an ITRT, I am in a unique position that allows me to go into all kinds of different classrooms and see the amazing teaching that goes on in Giles County. We truly have amazing people here working with, and more importantly, caring for these kids. When this situation began, and ever since, I have witnessed an incredible drive from the staff to creatively reach their kids. They are making remarkable efforts to not only meet the educational content needs, but also students' physical and emotional needs. Teachers have been thinking outside of the box in creating their content to reach the different needs of their kids. Just to name a small portion of their efforts, teachers are creating some professional-grade Google Sites to make content available to their kids, teachers are holding virtual-video meetings with their classes so that they can see the kids' faces and hear their voices, teachers are calling home, delivering packets themselves, and also using Google Classroom to interact with their students. Schools are hosting spirit weeks to foster a sense of community, teachers are riding buses to deliver meals, and even making videos showing how much we love and miss our kids. Giles County has some of the best, caring, hard working, creative, and innovative teachers around. We so appreciate this Board and Administration's support of them!

The second thing I wanted to talk about today is related to my other role in GCPS, which is coaching. I wanted to explain a little about how VHSL's out-of-season practice policy has affected coaching, especially in the state's smaller 1A and 2A divisions. When I first started coaching, out-of-season practice wasn't allowed. You could hold open gyms at that time, but that was it; you opened the gym and then couldn't so much as speak to the kids during the session. You couldn't provide correction, instruction, or plan the session at all. When VHSL opted to allow teams to have practices out-of-season, the proverbial game changed. After this, coaches knew that if you weren't holding practices and working hard in the off-season, the other teams in your district, region, and division were, and you would likely be at a huge disadvantage if you choose not to conduct out-of-season practices and workouts. As a coach who loves the game of volleyball, the thought of essentially year-round participation in volleyball warmed my heart, and still does. However, this did present some issues for small schools, like Giles and Narrows. Coaches are more likely to specialize and coach only one sport since they need to be practicing year round, which creates more coaching vacancies. Athletes also specialize, which is problematic for small schools with a limited pool of athletes to choose from. So, although this did provide some problems for small schools, coaches still conduct out-of-season practices, weightlifting, and camps, and coaches are some of the hardest working individuals I know. What we do as coaches is not limited to the confines of the season. During the off season, we still are working very hard, planning and conducting practices, camps, and clinics, participating

in coaching clinics and continuing educational opportunities for our sport, planning fundraisers and events for our season, taking care of our equipment and facilities, communicating with coaches at the college level to try to help our kids get recruited, and at times, searching for volunteers to fill our coaching staff vacancies. Nearly every day during the fall, which is in-season for me, I see spring sport coaches conducting practices and workouts for their kids. The work that goes on during the off-season is tremendous. During this unprecedented time of quarantine and shut-down, coaches haven't been idle. We have created Google Classroom platforms for our sports so that we can post virtual workouts, videos, teamwork activities, and emotional well-being check-ins on our athletes. We are communicating with our athletes to make sure they are doing okay. We are still planning for future seasons, contacting college coaches, and we are participating in online professional development opportunities to better ourselves as coaches. Spring Sport coaches have also had to continue taking care of their fields and facilities, they've continued processing and handing out fundraising products, they're providing virtual workout opportunities to keep their athletes in shape, and have had the unique task of helping their athletes mentally and emotionally overcome the fact that they had a precious season robbed from them by the virus. We don't stop or press pause on being a coach just because the last game has been played for that season. We work very hard year round. If you divide the money that we are given in our coaching supplements, by the hours put in year-round, it would likely be pennies on the hour. I respectfully ask that you consider this when deciding what to do about spring sport coaches' supplements. These coaches put in far more work than the short time they were allowed to practice in-season this year, and deserve full compensation.

Thank you again for all you do! We appreciate you all, and the support you show us very much!

Sabrina Gautier - I have questions about the school board meeting today. Could you ask the board why they are having this meeting when people can't attend and also not everyone has Facebook (I don't have it). With school being called off for the rest of the year I'm not sure why the need for a meeting that no one can attend. Also I hope nothing will be decided about the consolidation issue as a tax payer and a citizen of the county I would like to be present when all these decisions are made about this matter as would most of the citizens. Please have them reconsider this meeting today and ask them to put it off until everyone can attend. Also please ask them if they will consider that some students that turn 16 while out of school and they are not allowed to take behind the wheel should be able to go ahead and get their drivers license without taking behind the wheel.

Michelle Walkup - I have a couple of questions for the school board meeting:

1. When/how will the Governor's School and Tech Center students (upcoming 11th graders) find out if they will be participating in these programs next year?
2. Several in the community are wanting to support the students who missed out on Prom and other activities, once restrictions are released will there be some way to provide activities for these students?

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Regular – February 20th, 2020
2. Special – January 14th, 2020
3. Special – March 9th, 2020

B. Financial Data

1. Payment of Bills
2. Payroll – February 28, March 15, 31 and April 15 and 30
3. February and March 2020 Revenue and Expenditure Reports
4. Confirmation of Surplus Items
5. Appropriation Request for April and May 2020

TO: Christopher McKlarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County
FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II
Division Superintendent
RE: May 2020 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of April and May 2020. This is for the tenth and eleventh 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: (Operating + Flow-thru)	2,388,792.67
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.

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, approved the 2020-21 CTE Plan and budget for the federal Perkins grant.
 2. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Volunteer Agreements:** Volunteer Agreements: Florence Stephens – GHS Band, Lisa Jones – NHS Volunteer Girls Tennis Coach, Chris Wiscarson – GHS Band, Charles Buracker – NHS Volunteer Baseball, Linda Gentle – GHS Band Volunteer
 3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following **Retirements:** Millie Lawrence – NHS Teacher Assistant (end 19-20), Ricky Lee – NHS AEP Teacher (end 19-20), Rebecca Herman – Special Education Teacher (end 19-20), Gayle Kirby – Business Teacher (end 19-20)
 4. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Resignations:** Jake Munsey – GHS History Teacher (end 19-20)
 5. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Employment:** Brittani Quigley – MMS Preschool Teacher (3/9/20)
 6. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:** Bradley McGlothlin – NHS Asst Varsity Baseball, Brock Lusk – NHS Varsity Asst Soccer Coach, James Helton – NHS Head Varsity Track Coach, Melinda Allen – NHS Varsity Asst. Softball Coach, Jeff Allen – NHS Varsity Head Softball Coach, Karyn Spade – NHS Head Middle School Track Coach, Michael Hazelwood – NHS JV Softball Coach, Ben Miller – GHS JV Soccer
 7. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and 4-1 voting (AYES: Guynn, Pennington, Steele, Ballard NAYS: Wilburn), approved the bid IFB 3-2020 (Driver's Ed Car) from Duncan Ford Lincoln Mazda. Mr. Wilburn questioned whether we needed to actually purchase a new driver's education car every year and stated that we should look at the mileage.
- B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved a resolution to name WNRV Radio to the 2020 VSBA Business Honor Roll.
- C. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following new courses at the Giles Tech Center:
6302 - Cybersecurity Fundamentals - Fall Semester - Junior Year (New River Dual Enrollment - ITN 260 Network Security Basics)
8628 - Cybersecurity Systems Technology - Spring Semester - Junior Year (New River Dual Enrollment - ITN 106 (A+ 220-901))
8629 - Cybersecurity Systems Technology Advanced - Senior Year (New River Dual Enrollment - ITN 107 (A+ 220-902))
- D. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the policy revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration.
- E. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the Kirby B. Robertson Endowment Scholarship and the Rich Creek Lions Club Scholarship.
- F. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved a resolution that suspends school board policies when the law or regulation on which the policy is based has been waived or amended during the current crisis. It also directs the superintendent to inform the school board of any regulations that the superintendent suspends based on the same considerations.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency. That Executive Order stated that the anticipated effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster and directed local governments, which include school boards, to render appropriate assistance to prepare for the event, to alleviate any conditions resulting from the situation, and to implement recovery and mitigation operations and activities so as to return impacted areas to pre-event conditions as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One authorized executive branch agencies, including the Virginia Department of Education, to waive any state regulation as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam ordered all K-12 schools to close for a minimum of two weeks;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction encouraged local school divisions to consider options and ideas to engage students in reading, thinking and learning while schools are closed; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, HR 6201 was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by the President. HR 6201, now PL 116-127, contains the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act both of which will be in effect until December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-Three, which closed all public schools throughout the Commonwealth for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the United States Department of Education gave permission to Virginia to cancel federally mandated Standards of Learning tests during the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction stated, in Superintendents Memo 082-20a, Attachment A (which was later converted into a website and is being updated frequently), that he will provide as much flexibility as is prudent and allowable by the Code of Virginia for students currently enrolled and graduating with the 2019-2020 cohort; and

WHEREAS, PL 116-127 also contains the COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act which gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to grant waivers related to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. § 1760(l)), which authority expires on September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction has announced that numerous regulatory requirements will be waived, as authorized by Executive Order Fifty One; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, the Virginia Board of Education indicated its approval for waiving certain regulatory requirements regarding awarding standard units of credit and locally awarded verified credits; and

WHEREAS, additional waivers of existing state and federal regulations and changes to state and federal laws may be announced during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many Giles County School Board policies reflect requirements of state and federal laws and regulations that have already been waived or may be waived because of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Giles County School Board's usual practice is to make changes to policies only after the proposed policy change is considered at two school board meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County School Board needs to be able to adapt school division operations to rapid changes in law and regulation; and

WHEREAS, enforcing the requirements of existing policies could result in outcomes inconsistent with current laws and regulations as they exist after waivers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Giles County School Board suspends such policies or provisions within policies which reflect legal and/or regulatory requirements that have been waived by the governmental authority which enacted those requirements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the suspension of policies of the Giles County School Board is in effect for the duration of time that the waiver of laws and/or regulations reflected in the policies are waived; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent is directed to inform the School Board of any regulations that are suspended by the superintendent and the duration of such suspensions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Giles County School Board will comply with temporary laws and regulations without enacting policies to implement those laws and regulations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Giles County School Board's approval of this action.

Adopted and approved this 16th day of April, 2020.

G. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the Educational Technology Resolution.

CONFIRMATION OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE GILES COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF GILES COUNTY, VIRGINIA DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FROM THE PROCEEDS OF ONE OR MORE GRANTS MADE BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES MADE AND/OR TO BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, GILES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, (the "Division") is a political subdivision organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Division has paid, beginning no earlier than April 16, 2020 and will pay, on and after the date hereof, certain expenditures (the "Expenditures") in connection with the capital project (the "Project"), as more fully described in Appendix A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County School Board of the Division (the "Board") has determined that the money {previously advanced no more than 60 days prior to the date hereof and} to be advanced on and after the date hereof to pay the Expenditures are available only for a temporary period and it is necessary to reimburse the Division for the Expenditures from the proceeds of one or more grants to be made by the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Grants") from the proceeds of its tax exempt equipment notes (the "Notes").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby declares the Division's intent to reimburse the Division with the proceeds of the Grants for the Expenditures with respect to the Project made on and after April 16, 2020, which date is no more than 60 days prior to the date hereof. The Division reasonably expects on the date hereof that it will reimburse the Expenditures with the proceeds of the grants.

Section 2. Each Expenditure {was and} will be of a type properly chargeable to capital account under general federal income tax principles (determined in each case as of the date of the Expenditure).

Section 3. The maximum cost of the Project is expected to be \$180,000.

Section 4. The Division will make a reimbursement allocation, which is a written allocation by the Division that evidences the Division's use of proceeds of the Grants to reimburse an Expenditure, no later than 18 months after the later of the date on which the Expenditure is paid or the Project is placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three years after the date on which the Expenditure is paid. The Division recognizes that exceptions are available for certain "preliminary expenditures," costs of issuance, certain de minimis amounts, expenditures by "small issuers" (based on the year of issuance and not the year of expenditure" and expenditures for construction projects of at least 5 years.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of April, 2020.

H. The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Pennington and 4-1 voting (AYES: Guynn, Pennington, Steele, Ballard NAYS: Wilburn) approved 20 slots to the governor's school for a two year commitment. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks that 15 would be appropriate, as opposed to 20 and the savings would be over \$20K. He would like to wait and talk about this more before approving.

COMMENTS

Mr. Wilburn thanked Mrs. Lawson, the cafeteria workers, bus drivers and all the volunteers for the meal program.

Mr. Wilburn also thanked the teachers for the job that they are currently doing with school being closed. He stated that the board will continue to fight for the teachers and staff.

Mr. Ballard also thanked all the staff, including the cafeteria workers, bus drivers, volunteers and teachers for their work during this time.

Mrs. Guynn also thanked all the staff, including the cafeteria workers, bus drivers, volunteers and teachers for their work during this time.

Mrs. Guynn also thanked parents for doing their part at home and working with the kids.

Mr. Pennington thanked Mrs. Lawson, the cafeteria workers, bus drivers, teachers and volunteers for doing a wonderful job!

Mr. Steele commended all the teachers for checking on their kids and putting in lots of hours to help take care of the kids.

Mr. Steele reminded the public about their contact information being on the web page if they have any concerns or comments.

Mr. Steele stated that we continue to get questions about prom and graduation, but right now we are under the orders of Governor Northam.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the March ADM number is 2,281.09. He used 2,343 for last year's number, which is 62 lower.

Dr. Arbogast stated the county contacted Kayla Evans, Drafting Instructor, to see if she could use the 3D printer to make a part that the hospital needed and she was able to make it!

Dr. Arbogast reminded everyone about the Virginia TV Classroom. Blue Ridge PBS, VPM, WETA and WHRO Public Media worked closely with the Virginia Department of Education to create "VA TV Classroom" to provide instruction to students in grades K-10 who are unable to access other distance learning options due to a lack of high-speed internet.

Dr. Arbogast also commended all the staff that are helping with the meals/food program. It has been outstanding! There has been so much community support. After 5 weeks, we have delivered/served 56,206 meals.

Dr. Arbogast thanked all the staff for the work they have done the past 5 weeks with the school closure. They have worked to provide lessons and activities to our students. Also, thanks to the parents for being patient with us.

IN OTHER ACTION...

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the Special Education Annual Plan.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Coaching Contracts: Lindsay Meredith – GHS Varsity Softball, Derek Snider – GHS JV Softball.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m.

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

Chairman

Clerk