

**August 12, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on August 12, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. A work session was held at the Giles Tech Center after the regular meeting to discuss facilities improvement information. 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 Mustain, Assistant Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's August 12, 2021 School Board Meeting Agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Sarah Thwaites attended the meeting to address the School Board. She asked why the meetings are primarily held at 7:30 a.m. She stated that this is hard time for parents/guardians to be able to attend. Mr. Steele stated that the main reason we have 4:30 p.m. meetings is because we have educational features, which allow teachers and students to come and present. Mr. Buckland stated that we normally have a 7:30 a.m. meeting in June for the closeout meeting and in August for new teacher orientation. She discussed the current mask policy and asked if the board's mask policy would change after the governor's mandate last week. She stated she would like for parents and guardians to be able to do what's best for their child.

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#### **Mr. Steele read a public comment from Marie Crockett:**

My name is Marie Crockett and I have two grandchildren in Macy. Aiden had an overnight voice change and we have been two months trying to find what has caused it for it is not puberty. The Doctor he sees made a comment "don't get me started on the mask for kids" and stated he does not think the kids should be masked. And Lexie has facial problems that has just about cleared up.

The governor has not mandated masks and says to go with the CDC. CDC says if in a high transmission area than masks are recommended and they can't or won't give evidence of spreading among children. It doesn't seem like anyone is paying attention to the effects that these masks are having on our children. From what I can find online Giles County had a case county of about 1400 cases in all of last year.

Please read this at the board meeting tomorrow and I beg that the board will not mandate the masks. If spreading starts then masks can always be used. Have the adults wear the masks to protect themselves if they have not been vaccinated.

Thank you.

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#### **Mr. Steele read a public comment from Jim Mullins:**

Ms. Tickle and School Board members,

As a father of two Eastern Elementary School students, I am writing to strongly urge you to abandon any mask mandates under consideration for the coming school year. In the past, concerns for both faculty and the elderly (or otherwise at-risk members of the same household as students) were raised, at this point, anyone who wishes to be vaccinated has been. Statistically speaking, young students are not in grave danger from this virus, and face much greater peril from traveling to school in automobiles and accidental drowning. The mask requirement for small children appears to be nothing more than misguided security theater, and I believe they are doing my children more harm than good, especially in warmer weather and during non sedentary activities. Health decisions for minor children should be made by the Parents of those children, and those who wish to remain masked for the rest of their lives are certainly

welcome to do so. I think enhanced cleaning protocols and temperature checks are a much more sensible route for the schools to employ.

Sincerely,  
Jim Mullins  
Eggleston

### 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 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021
2. Special – June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### B. Financial Data

1. Payrolls to include July 15<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021
2. Payment of Bills
3. June and July 2021 Revenue & Expenditure Reports
4. Surplus
5. Appropriation Request for August and September 2021

August	1,900,000.00
September	2,395,142.00

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.

### 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 Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations**: Amy Walters – MMS SLP (8/13/21), Jonathan Spade – Bus Driver (6/30/21), Heather Albert – NEMS Teacher Assistant (7/12/21), Tabitha Young – GHS Business Teacher (8/20/21)
2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Retirement**: Todd Lusk – NHS Asst. Principal (8/1/21), Brenda Smith – NHS Secretary (10-1-21)
3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Employment**: Ethan Lowe – NEMS Special Education Teacher (21-22), Transfer of Heather Lucas from GHS Special Ed. To English Teacher (21-22), Renee Law – EEMS Teacher Assistant (21-22), Scottie Potter – Itinerant Assistant Principal (7/6/21), Jessica Averill – MMS Elementary Teacher (21-22), Amber Skidmore – EEMS Teacher Assistant (21-22), Christina Collins – EEMS Teacher Assistant (21-22), Laura Helvey – Itinerant Assistant Principal (7/19/21), Eric Widdoes – GHS Assistant Principal (7/26/21), Tristan Marshall – GHS Special Ed. Teacher (21-22), Barbara Vencill – MMS Teacher Assistant (21-22), Linda Vaught – MMS Teacher Assistant (21-22), Transfer of Kevin Akers from ARDT to Secondary Math GHS (21-22), Transfer of Melissa Lively from GHS Guidance to Elementary Itinerant Guidance Counselor (7/19/21), Rachel Graham – MMS Preschool Teacher (21-22), Transfer of Faith Martin to NEMS Teacher Assistant (from EEMS), Tina Cumbee – NEMS Bus Driver (21-22), Doris Suttle – NEMS Teacher Assistant (21-22), Kim Nichols – NEMS Special Education Teacher (21-22)
4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following **Volunteer Agreements**: Mandy Havens – GHS Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant, Kelsey Lucas – GHS Volleyball Assistant
5. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the

following **Athletic Coaching Contracts:**

**GHS:** Ashley Snider – GHS Middle School Volleyball Head Coach, Jeff Williams – GHS Varsity Head Football Coach, Steve Wilson – GHS Varsity Asst. Football, Austin Cooper – GHS JV Assistant Football, Mandy Havens – GHS Varsity Head Volleyball, Steve Wilson – GHS Varsity Head Baseball, Shane Dalton – GHS Assistant Track, Derek Snider – GHS Varsity Head Softball, Jimmy McCroskey – GHS JV Head Baseball

**NHS:** Kristen Williams – NHS Head Middle School Volleyball Coach

B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved policy revisions as recommended by VSBA and Administration.

### **CONCERNS/COMMENTS...**

Dr. Arbogast stated that he distributed audit reports for the last audit and findings for the schools. All findings have been shared at the schools and they were given a date to address. Overall, the findings were minor and the audit went well.

Dr. Arbogast discussed the Return to Learn Plan. Last Tuesday, we had a work session where we talked about what the plan would be. Following that discussion, the governor held a press conference that requires school divisions to offer in person instruction and adhere to the maximum extent possible the current mitigation measures provided by CDC. Also, on August 5<sup>th</sup>, CDC updated their guidance – recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Dr. Arbogast is recommending to open under phase 2 and require masking for all to meet the guidelines. Mr. Buckland made a motion to accept the plan with an amendment to phase 2 to allow for all students and vaccinated staff to have a medical/religious exemption to the masking policy that does not need to be supported by documentation. Mr. Wilburn seconded the motion. Mr. Buckland amended the motion Voting is as follows: ***NAY: Guynn, Pennington YAY: Buckland, Steele, Wilburn.*** Mrs. Guynn stated that at this time, she would like to support phase I with no masks. She doesn't think there is any evidence that masks protect children. She has had numerous individuals contact her regarding this. She thinks we should give parents a right to make this decision. Mr. Wilburn stated that he thinks the motion gives the parent the right to decide whether they want their child to wear a mask. He stated we are facing a storm, but the parent should have a right to make the decision. Mr. Buckland also thinks it is a parent's choice to decide on a mask for their child. Mr. Pennington stated that his opinion is the same as Mrs. Guynn. Dr. Arbogast reminded everyone that masking on a bus is required and there is no way around this.

Dr. Arbogast stated that the asphalt is completed on the track at GHS. It will need to cure until August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said that the maintenance crew did a great job putting in the drain down the home side. Following the first GHS Home football game, they will work on getting the rubberized surface on the track. As far as the tennis courts, they are waiting on the materials to come in.

Mr. Pennington thanked all the retirees and best of luck. Also, welcome to all of our new teachers and current teachers for all they done last year and during summer school.

Mrs. Guynn stated that she is looking forward to a great year. It's been a rough year, but thanks to everyone for all they have done.

Mr. Wilburn also thanked everyone for all they have done. He says the board is very dedicated. He wants to make sure the board continues to help our employees with pay and insurance.

Mr. Buckland welcomed the new teachers to Giles County and this community.

Mr. Buckland thanked the maintenance staff for their work on getting our schools ready to come back to school.

Mr. Buckland is hopeful for a good year. We will do our best for the students, staff and parents.

Mr. Steele stated that the compensation committee is something that we have fought for. We will be getting the committee going again shortly.

Dr. Arbogast thanked all the staff for their hard work in the summer program, all the individuals that helped with the summer feeding program and for everyone getting ready for the upcoming year.

Dr. Arbogast welcomed all of our new staff!

Board members took a recess to welcome new teachers and began a work session at the Giles Tech Center to discuss facilities and improvements. Josh from CRA and Drew from CMTA presented and reviewed information with the committee regarding the Life Cycle Cost Analysis/system comparison for Macy, Giles High and Narrows High. These comparisons shared information on different options regarding the replacement of the HVAC systems (e.g. - geothermal water source heat pump system, Boiler/Cooling tower water source heat pump system, or high efficiency four pipe fan coil system). The board requested that CMTA do a further data analysis regarding guaranteed energy savings contracting. Representatives from CMTA will schedule times to come visit the schools in order to put together information for this analysis. Once the analysis is completed, a draft will be provided to the committee.

#### **IN OTHER ACTION...**

The School Board, on motion of Mrs. Guynn, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the following Resignations: Resignations – Donna Brewster (NHS Teacher Assistant – effective 8/1/2021), Sarah Brackenrich (SLP – effective 7/30/2021), Kristie Dobbins (NEMS Special Ed. Teacher – effective 7/31/2021), Tammy McGuire (EEMS Teacher Assistant – effective 8/11/21), Manny Lopez (NHS Teacher Assistant - effective 8/11/2021).

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following Employment: Mary Miller – GHS ARDT.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following Volunteer Agreements: Tonya Vaden – GHS Volleyball, Jackie Evans – GHS Asst. Varsity Football.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved the following Athletic Contracts: Matt Burns – GHS JV Football Asst, Jason Breeding – GHS Varsity Football Assistant, Ricky Cook – GHS Varsity Football Asst, Matt Burns – Multiple Activities, Scott Moye – GHS Head Golf Coach, Darrell Lucas – JV Girls Head Basketball, Sam Wright – GHS JV Asst. Football, Sam Wright – GHS Varsity Track Head Coach, Tim Munsey – GHS Head JV Football, Todd Kellison – GHS Middle Girls Basketball, Kelly Lowe – NHS Head Varsity Football, Bradley Sutphin – NHS Off. Coord. Varsity Football, Ben Woodyard – NHS Asst. Varsity Football, Clyde Turner – NHS Asst. Varsity Football, Ethan Lowe – NHS Asst. JV Football, Dakota Shrader – NHS Asst. Varsity Football, Sherry Suttle – NHS Head Varsity Volleyball, Tori Bowman – NHS Asst. Varsity Volleyball, Camry McCroskey – NHS Head JV Volleyball.

#### **NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The next regular School Board meeting will be held Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

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

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Chairman

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Clerk