

**December 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:30 p.m. on December 15, 2021. Persons present were:

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

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.

A work session was held at 12:30 p.m. Josh Bower from CRA attended to update the School Board on the progress of the facilities study. He highly commended the maintenance department/custodians for the way our buildings have been maintained. They found that in the study, the elementary schools definitely have capacity issues. He presented the board with 4 possible options that they could pursue if desired. He also commended the Giles Tech Center for being one of the nicest Technology centers that he has seen. After Mr. Bower presented the options, the board also asked for a few more options to be included. Mr. Bower is going to prepare more options and get them to Dr. Arbogast and the board members.

The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Pennington, went into a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Code and Paragraph 1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. The purpose of this meeting was to interview finalists for the Director of Operations position at the School Board Office. Following discussion, Mr. Buckland moved to go to regular session. Mr. Wilburn seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. The School Board, unanimously, certified that the meeting was in regards to personnel and conducted under section 2.2-3711.

VOTE                      Ayes: 4                      Nays: 0

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Clerk of the Giles County School Board

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Date

There was no action from closed session.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 School Board Meeting Agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Haleigh Meredith, MMS Student, attended the meeting to discuss the importance of school safety, especially after several recent school shooting tragedies and a recent threat at Giles High School. She stated that she would like to see increased student safety and programs involving officers and counselors being offered for school safety and bullying to try to help prevent tragedies in our schools.

Mrs. Anne Campbell, GHS Band Booster president, attended the meeting to discuss the need for help in buying new marching band uniforms for GHS. The current uniforms were purchased during the 2004-2005 school year. She discussed the many awards and honors that have been received by marching band students and also all the things that they are involved in. She stated that they are also in need of a storage shed for larger band pieces, as well as giving stipends to the band instructors. Eli Altizer, GHS Student/Drum Major, attended to show off the uniforms that they would like to purchase and also discussed his love for band and his experiences with the band. He also encouraged board members to help with funding for these uniforms.

Board members thanked Mrs. Campbell, Ms. Meredith and Mr. Wiscarson for their attendance and comments.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

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

- A. Christmas Card Contest Winners
  - 1. Raegan Johnson - EEMS
  - 2. Kori Clark – NEMS
  - 3. Hallea Warner – MMS
- B. Professional Advisory
  - 1. Sam Wright – GHS
  - 2. Tristan Marshall – GHS

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. **Meeting Minutes**
  - 1. Regular – November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- B. **Financial Data**
  - 1. Payrolls to include November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - 2. Payment of Bills
  - 3. Revenue and Expenditure Reports – November 2021
  - 4. Appropriation Request for January 2022
    - TO: Christopher McKlarney  
Interim Administrator for Giles County
    - FR: Dr. Terry E. Arbogast, II  
Division Superintendent
    - RE: January 2021 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the month of January 2022. This is for the seventh month of the fiscal year 2021-2022. 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.

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|--|--------------|
| <b>Original Monthly Appropriation Request:</b> | \$ 2,150,000 |
| <b>(Operating + Flow-thru)</b>                 |              |
| <b>FY20 Carryover</b>                          |              |
| <b>Paving</b>                                  | \$ 52,900    |
| <b>Total:</b>                                  | \$ 2,202,900 |

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.

#### EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mr. Jason Mills, Mrs. Lori Evans and Mrs. Sarah Woods attended the meeting to discuss the new literacy initiative program. Mr. Mills thanked board members, Dr. Arbogast and Mrs. Mustain for their help and support in initiating this program. Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Woods shared a presentation outlining this program. The presentation outlined the science of reading, how the brain reads a word, what it means for instruction, etc. Mrs. Evans shared information about their structured literacy groups, including pictures and demonstrations that go on within the classroom. They also discussed the new “Letrs” program in the county.

#### 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. Buckland and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Resignations**: Bethany Lephew – MMS Special Education Teacher (12/1/22), Amber Reed – NHS Teacher Assistant (11/29/21), Donna Sanderson – EEMS Cafeteria (12/3/21)
  - 2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, confirmed the following **Employment**: Jennifer Claytor – MMS Teacher Assistant (12/7/21), Harley Sanders – GHS Teacher Assistant (12/13/21), Teresa Guynn – MMS Teacher Assistant (1/3/22), Denise Jennifer – MMS Teacher Assistant

(1/3/22)

3. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Supplemental Agreements**: Andrew Frazier – GHS Senior Class, Pam Malabad – GHS MACC All Around/MACC Math, Melanie Atkins – GHS MACC English/Dept. Head English, Babette Martin – GHS Dept. Head Math/Senior Class
4. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following **Athletic Contracts**: Kelsey Lucas – GHS Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach, Heather Ursano – NHS Theatre Coach, Kameryn Fields – NHS JV Basketball Cheer Coach

B. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, approved

#### **CONCERNS/COMMENTS**

Dr. Arbogast stated that our current enrollment is 2,155 for in person students, 26 virtual students, 1,274 nonresidential STRIDE students, making it a total of 3,455.

Dr. Arbogast gave an update on the new clinic at GHS and discussed appointments to date. He also discussed the oral health program.

Dr. Arbogast thanked the school nutrition staff for all of their hard work. Participation this year has increased dramatically. He gave an update on meals served at the schools.

Dr. Arbogast commended the many members of the GHS Spartan Symphonic Band who auditioned and won a seat at VBODA 7 All District Band!

Dr. Arbogast had a discussion with the board on the Emergency COVID Leave. He asked for them to extend this through the end of the school year. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved this request.

Board members thanked all the GCPS staff for all of their hard work, especially during these times.

Board members wished everyone a wonderful, safe Merry Christmas!

Mr. Buckland commended the band/choir concert at Narrows High School. It was nice to see this in person and attend.

Mr. Wilburn and Mr. Buckland expressed their sympathy for several families who have lost young children recently.

Mr. Buckland wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hopes everyone gets recharged for the New Year.

Mr. Steele stated that we are getting geared up to look at the requests from schools and work on the upcoming budget. Please bear with us as we work and do the best we can with requests.

#### **IN OTHER ACTION**

1. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Buckland, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, approved the following **Employment**: Paul McIntyre – MMS Teacher Assistant (1/3/22).

2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Pennington, with second by Mr. Buckland and unanimous voting, approved the following **Retirement** – Trisha Young (7/1/22).

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next School Board Meeting will be held Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m

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

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Chairman

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Clerk