July 11, 2019

The Giles County School Board held a work session at 2:00 p.m. on July 11th, 2019. A closed meeting was also held to discuss personnel and contractual items. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard, Chairman           Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent  
Melissa R. Guynn                      Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk  
Phillip A. Pennington                 Rick Franklin, Assistant Superintendent 
Stephen M. Steele                     
Mark A. Wilburn

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

The Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Pennington and unanimous voting, 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; Paragraph 3. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Following discussion, Mr. Wilburn moved to go to regular session. Mr. Steele seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. On motion of Mr. Wilburn, with a second by Mrs. Guynn and unanimous voting, the following Certification of the closed meeting was certified.

WHEREAS, the Giles School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Giles School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which certification applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE                     Ayes:  5  Nays:  0

There was no action from closed session.

Clerk of the Giles County School Board   Date

Board members had a discussion about the possibility of having carry over money. At this time, Dr. Arbogast is not sure if there will be any carry over money, but he is hopeful to have a minimum of $124K. He is still waiting for bills to be paid out to see what monies are left. Dr. Arbogast stated that he does plan to have the gym floors done (screened and resealed) at all of the schools. He stated that a new control board for the HVAC system at Giles High School was ordered and will cost approximately $27K. Mr. Steele stated that it would be a good idea to have a prioritized list of items to work on if we have carry over money. Dr. Arbogast stated that we also might need to replace the lift at Giles High School. He discussed pricing and stated it would be in the amount of $75-$80K. The board wanted to know if any special education funds can be used on the lift.
Mr. Wilburn discussed the vacant math teacher position at Giles High School. He stated that if we didn’t need to replace that position, could we hire a 10 month assistant principal position at Macy Mc Claugherty? Dr. Arbogast said that it could be a possibility, but it would eliminate some cushion that we have in the budget. Right now, after conversations with the administration at GHS, we don’t feel that we need to fill this math position at Giles High School.

Board members discussed the track at Giles High School and different options to repair it. One option to fix the track would be $113K, with the recommendation to reseal every 5 years, in the amount of $60K. Another option for a rubberized colored track is $180K, not counting the prep work, making it a total of $233K. Every 10 years, you would have to do a reapplication of the surface. Also discussed was the need for phone systems at Eastern Elem/Middle and Macy McClaugherty in the amount of $30K.

Board members discussed the new finance position and asked how training was going. Dr. Arbogast stated that training is going well and Mr. Thompson continues to have communication with RDA. He will continue working with RDA and the county.

Mr. Ballard gave an update on the recent joint meeting with the county. He stated that the county is wanting to combine some of our positions, such as having a teacher assistant and a bus driver. Dr. Arbogast stated that we checked with other divisions around us and none of the ones that responded have a combined job description. He stated that we could look at a combined job description, but would need to check with counsel to make sure it is legal. Dr. Arbogast stated that to be a bus driver, an individual has to go through our CDL bus class and complete all of the requirements to be a bus driver. After more discussion, Dr. Arbogast will draft up a job description to send to counsel to review.

Mr. Steele expressed his concerns about our maintenance department helping to hang stuff from the ceilings for Prom. He stated that they spent a couple weeks working on it. Dr. Arbogast will discuss this with administrators at the ADM retreat.

There was a discussion on Mrs. Lawson doing a presentation at the November VSBA Annual Convention. She has submitted a presentation for approval, so we will wait to hear back from VSBA.

Board members had a discussion on the Facilities Assessment. They looked more closely at pages 4 and 5, which involves the scope of work. They would like for a company to come in and look at our buildings to see what is needed. Mr. Steele thinks that we should really look at the structure and HVAC systems first in our facilities. Dr. Arbogast stated that if we are going to look at facilities, then we need to look at all facilities since we still own the garage and maintenance buildings. Also, he stated that we own the library in Narrows. Mr. Steele would like to know how many kids we can fit in each of our buildings and still teach correctly (building capacity). Board members would also like to have the overcrowding issue at Macy McClaugherty looked at. They would like to know what problems our buildings have and how to fix them.

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