August 19, 2016

The regular meeting of the Giles County School Board was held on August 19, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. in the School Administration Office Building Conference Room. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard     Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Eric G. Gentry     Richard R. Franklin, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum
Drema K. McMahon, Chairman     Amanda J. Tickle, School Board Clerk
Stephen M. Steele
Mark A. Wilburn

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board, on motion of Mr. Gentry, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, approved the Superintendent's August 19, 2016 School Board Meeting Agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. John Ross attended the school board meeting to give an energy education program update. John stated that the program began in 2004. The base line was established on the use of 02-03 and 2004 began the savings period. The total program savings from 04 – April of this year is $1.5 million. This year savings from April 15-April 16 is $77K. Projects that were done this year are the gym lights at Eastern Elementary (LED lighting), which will save money and also help the environment. He is hoping to do at least one gym a year until they are all done. Another significant project is the boiler (heating) upgrade at NEMS. Also, a LED lighting upgrade was done at the bus garage. John mentioned the possibility of using central places for events during the summer to try to save on the energy usage in some schools. In addition, plans in the near future include talking to the new administrators. Another thing he discussed was the agreement with InterNech that we began about 3 years ago. During periods of high demand on the electric grid, they will pay us to “shed load.” Approximately $6K dollars have been saved in 3 years. The best thing is that we have real time monitoring in 5 of our 6 schools. Also discussed was a potential solar project at Eastern Elementary/Middle School. John discussed a control upgrade for this Fall at Narrows High School, which is currently in the works.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lori Robertson attended the School Board meeting to propose a swim club and team for Giles High School. She stated that as of right now, she knows of about 20 students that are interested. She would also like the NHS kids to be considered as well. She is asking for a small startup fee for lane rentals of approximately $800. Insurance coverage would need to be figured out. The School Board stated that the next step is to get approval from the Administration at Giles High School.

Ms. Sonya Meekins, new GEA President, attended the meeting to address the School Board. She is in the Special Education Department at Giles High School. She stated, “Giles County Public Schools works hard to provide a quality public education to every child. One way they do that is to hire and retain the very best education employees. The Giles Education Association is here to support you and strive to provide the very best possible education for students. Public Education is truly a team sport. It takes all of us working together to do a good job. We have an association representative in every building. Those representatives attend monthly meetings to discuss professional concerns and issues. I’ve provided you with contact information for them and please stop by and say hello when you’re in the buildings. It gives me great pleasure today to tell you that our Association gives you a professional voice. We have a powerful voice in Richmond and around the state. Giles EA/VEA/NEA truly advocates for its members and for public education. We provide free staff development opportunities and we represent our members at school board meetings. We give our members avenues leading to volunteering in our communities. Our members have access to workshops, publications and websites to help with instructional guidance. Our association networks with educators around the state. As a result of the lobby effort of the VEA, the number of Standards of Learning tests burdening both students and teachers were reduced; the state legislature committed to a plan for fully funding the Virginia Retirement system; we helped defeat legislation that would have permitted the state to impose charter schools anywhere in the state, at local expense, whether they were welcome or not; we helped introduce and pass a law protecting the rights of educators who are nursing mothers; we won planning time for elementary teachers and protected it for secondary teachers; we helped develop and pass legislation that will create a state wide health insurance pool for education employees which should roll out the spring of 2017-18. Thank you so much. I look forward to working with you this year.”

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Board, on motion of Mr. Steele, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following consent items:
A. Meeting Minutes
1. Regular – June 30th, 2016
2. Special – July 5th, 2016
5. Special – August 11th, 2016

B. Financial Data
1. Payrolls to include July 15th, 29th and August 15th, 2016
2. Payment of Bills to include June 28, 29, July 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 20, 21, 28, August 4 and 11, 2016
3. July 2016 Revenue & Expenditure Reports
4. Appropriation Request for August and September 2016

TO: Christopher McClarney
Interim Administrator for Giles County

RE: August & September 2016 Appropriation

The following is the appropriation request for the months of August and September, 2016. This is for the second and third months of the fiscal year 2016-17. 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
August 2,242,036.00
September 2,242,036.00

This request is one-twelveth 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.

5. Confirmation of Surplus Items
6. Confirmation of Field Trips

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. Gentry, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, confirmed the following Resignations: Greg Canaday – EEMS Principal (August 9th), Caleb Guard – NHS English (July 13th)

2. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Steele and unanimous voting, confirmed the following Retirement: Roger Crockett – Bus Driver (August 11th, 2016), Danny Johnson – NEMS Bus Driver (June 30th), Larry Greer – NHS History (June 30th)


5. The School Board, on motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mr. Ballard and unanimous voting, GCPS extended the current contract with Carilion for Physical Therapy services for 3 additional years.

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**CONCERNS/COMMENTS…**

Mr. Gentry welcomed Mr. Franklin to the School Board Office.

Dr. Arbogast stated that there still is a possibility for a nursing teacher. He said that interviews will be held on Monday for a couple individuals.

Dr. Arbogast reminded board members that we are venturing down the path where all 9th graders will get Chromebooks. Parent’s night for both schools is scheduled for next week.

Dr. Arbogast stated that based on preliminary information, all 5 schools will be fully accredited. Final results will be released on September 14th.

Dr. Arbogast stated that we had a good turnout for Parents Night Out. He thanked everyone for all of their help.

Dr. Arbogast stated that 7,898 meals served to kids this summer for the Summer Food Program. There were 2,144 meals served to adults.

Dr. Arbogast informed School Board members of an optional survey that would be done in cooperation with New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS). This will be done in our schools for 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade. This will provide data that can be used to develop programs through the NRVCS.

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**IN OTHER ACTION…**
The School Board, on motion of Mr. Ballard, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, approved the following 
**Employment**: Suzanne Woodward – Special Education Teacher (MMS), Ross Matney – Principal (GHS) - effective August 22nd, 2016.

Dr. Arbogast welcomed the new teachers for their new teacher orientation.

**NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**
The next regular School Board meeting will be held Wednesday, September 21st 4:00 p.m.

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

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Chairman                                    Clerk