August 10th, 2017

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 5:00 PM on August 10th, 2017 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

Marion C. Ballard   Dr. Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent
Eric G. Gentry   Richard R. Franklin, Assistant Superintendent
Drema K. McMahon  Amanda J. Tickle, Clerk
Stephen M. Steele
Mark A. Wilburn

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman. On motion of Mr. Wilburn, with second by Mrs. McMahon and unanimous voting, the agenda was approved.

The School Board discussed the possibility of our school system establishing social media pages (e.g. – Facebook or Twitter). Dr. Arbogast is going to talk to Mr. Young to get his thoughts.

There was a discussion on notifying the Board of Supervisors weekly about the activities that were occurring within our schools and inviting them to attend any activity that they could. Mrs. Tickle is going to send emails to them with events.

There was a discussion about Carroll County health care adjustments and what they did to try and reduce their health insurance premiums. Mr. Gentry is going to speak with a board member from Carroll County to obtain information to share with the board.

There was a discussion on whether the school office staff had updated job descriptions. Dr. Arbogast is going to check with the administrators to make sure that they do.

The School Board discussed getting a price to run the tax article again on the front page of the Va. Leader or with a header. After more discussion, it was decided that Mrs. Tickle was going to check with the Virginian Leader to see if it could possibly be put in somehow without having to pay for it (e.g. – incorporated into another article).

The School Board discussed the Muddy ACCE Race. There will be a team from the central office participating, as well as several teams from our schools.

A board member asked what the status was on cyber security. Dr. Arbogast stated that we are still waiting on an update from the Department of Education.

Mr. Gentry stated that he, Dr. Arbogast, and Mr. Ballard met with the student school board representatives. They seem eager to get going and excited about this opportunity.

The School Board had a policy discussion on how the coaches start the season, with regards to expectations, forms, etc. They wanted to know if all of the coaches do the same. Mr. Franklin stated that to his knowledge all coaches do the same.

Dr. Arbogast updated School Board members on open/vacant positions in our school system.

Mrs. McMahon asked about the sign language course that GHS is asking the board to approve. She wants to make sure that it is going to count as college credit.
There was a discussion about the GHS track and the repairs that are needed. Mr. Steele has talked with an individual that specializes in refurbishing. Dr. Arbogast is going to talk with GHS Administration and John Mills and meet with the individual/company to take a look at it and see what may be required, as well as a potential cost.

Mrs. Tickle reminded board members about the last day of the summer lunch program and reminded them about serving the ice cream.

Mr. Wilburn discussed the athletic physicals that are being done at the schools. He stated that the doctors are not wanting to do the physicals the way they have been doing them. They would like to see something different. Individuals have shared with him that they don’t feel like they have enough time to do them. He is concerned that the doctors may not have enough time to pick up on medical issues in the short amount of time that they have while doing these athletic physicals.

The School Board had a discussion on doing a bus tour with the Board of Supervisors to show them the schools and some of the bus routes. They discussed doing this on October 17th or 18th.

There was a brief discussion on how many individuals have responded to the tax survey. As of today, there have been 134 responses.

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Chairman                          Clerk