July 20th, 2017

A special convened meeting of the Giles County School Board was held at 4:00 PM on July 20th, 2017 in the School Administration Office Building. Persons present were:

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. On motion of Mrs. McMahon, with second by Mr. Wilburn and unanimous voting, the agenda was approved. The board members met at the old hospital at 3:00 p.m., prior to the work session, to look at the proposed, new AEP classroom.

Board members first discussed the VSBA Code of Conduct and decided that they wanted to update it and approve it again at the August board meeting. Mrs. Tickle is going to put it on the August board agenda for approval.

There was a discussion on the track at Giles High School by Mr. Wilburn, and the need to have repairs done to it and sealed. Dr. Arbogast did receive one quote from Mr. John Mills to seal it. Board members asked Dr. Arbogast to talk to Mr. Mills again to see if he can get more quotes for sealing and repairing the track.

Board members discussed some land in Narrows (as discussed in the previous work sessions) that could possibly be for sale. This land adjoins Narrows High School. Mr. Gentry was going to contact someone to see the status as to whether this land is still going to be sold.

Mrs. McMahon asked about the current safety locks on our doors in our schools. Dr. Arbogast stated that we are currently using safety locks on our elementary school classroom doors. Mrs. McMahon asked if there was anything else that we could do and Mr. Wilburn stated that we are always looking for more ways to improve the safety in our buildings for our students and staff members. Dr. Arbogast shared that the safety and security grant has been submitted to DOE. We are hopeful that we will once again receive this grant.

Mr. Ballard discussed building access in our buildings – he had someone to contact him that was concerned about who had access. Mrs. McMahon wants to make sure that our administrators know exactly who has keys and/or fobs to our buildings and make sure they are comfortable with who has them. Dr. Arbogast is going to discuss this with our administrators at the August Administrators retreat.

There was a discussion on the coaching evaluations that our administrators are conducting. After discussion, there will be one slight change in wording, but otherwise no changes.

There was a discussion on our current ISS/OSS policy with regards to athletics and extra-curricular activities. It was the consensus to leave it the same as it is. The current policy states that when a student has ISS or OSS, they cannot participate in athletics or extra-curricular activities on the day they are serving their suspension.

Mr. Ballard discussed making sure our teachers received a duty free lunch. Mr. Franklin explained that to his knowledge, all were receiving a duty free lunch.

Board members discussed the Virginian Leader article that they have been working on and revising. It will be in the paper on July 26th and will include a survey for individuals to do on the School Board Office website. Surveys can also be made available at Parents Night Out in August.
There was a discussion on the facility study that they have been working on with DOE. Dr. Arbogast confirmed that DOE will be here September 10th – 14th to work on this study.

Board members discussed wanting to invite the board of supervisors members to their upcoming budget meetings in October/November. Dr. Arbogast and Mrs. Tickle will invite them after they get them scheduled.

Mr. Gentry discussed whether or not we had a work session policy in place. There was a discussion from his conference this week regarding a work session policy. Mrs. Tickle is going to contact the policy contact with VSBA.

There was a discussion from Mr. Gentry on whether we had an updated organizational chart. Dr. Arbogast stated that the latest one was from last year. He plans to work on an updated organizational chart for the board members.

There was a discussion about the central office salary scale. Dr. Arbogast is going to get other central office salary scales from surrounding counties to come up with ours.

Dr. Arbogast informed board members that Giles High School is wanting to offer a sign language course as part of the foreign language electives. Mr. Gentry questioned as to whether colleges would accept this credit. The course will be brought to the August board meeting for approval.

The final discussion was regarding enrollment in our Career and Technical education classes. The enrollment was discussed and compared.

Chairman

Clerk