

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
December 17, 2012

Oath of Office

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Election of Officers
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Special Recognitions
5. Good News Report
6. Former Students in the Military
7. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
8. Local Board Training Credit
9. DRS ABCs Local Option Goals for 2012-2013
10. School Improvement Plans 2012-2014
11. Results of Local Interest Inventory
12. Topics for Retreat
13. Important Dates
14. Public Comment
15. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on December 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Cindy Petit and Ron Kiviniemi were present. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris; Jenny Hunter; Dr. Scott Elliott; Dr. David Sutton; SRO Greg Stroup; SRO Nathan Whitmire; Kaitlin McCreery, BHS student representative; Transylvania County Clerk of Court, Rita Ashe; Jeremiah Reed, *Transylvania Times*; and approximately 30 guests.

Chairman Whitmire spoke about the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and the important role of School Resource Officers in keeping our schools safe.

Chairman Whitmire submitted his letter of resignation from the Transylvania County Board of Education, effective January 1, 2013. In January, Mr. Whitmire will be sworn in as a member of North Carolina House of Representatives. Mr. Whitmire called the meeting to order. Mrs. McCoy led in a moment of silence, and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Transylvania County Clerk of Superior Court, Rita Ashe, administered the Oaths of Office to new Board of Education member Ron Kiviniemi and re-elected Board members Tawny McCoy and Cindy Petit.

1. Election of Officers

ON A NOMINATION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, Tawny McCoy was unanimously approved as the Board of Education Chair for the 2013 year. ON A NOMINATION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, Cindy Petit was unanimously approved as the Board of Education Vice Chair for the 2013 year. Mr. Whitmire called for a five-minute recess. Following the recess, Mrs. McCoy chaired the remainder of the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED TO MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for December 17, 2012 was approved as presented.

3. Public Comment

Melissa Dilworth, parent, expressed concerns about safety at Brevard Elementary School. She stated that despite a 10-year plan to provide more secure access to the school, entrance doors remain unlocked. She urged the Board to use the time during Christmas break to improve safety at the school, or come January she would enroll her children elsewhere. *Chairman McCoy gave assurance that the Board is very concerned about the safety of all students. Dr. McDaris reported that over the weekend all principals were directed to revisit their school safety plans with staff. He stated that the Sandy Hook tragedy was a reminder to us all that there are sick and dangerous people in the world, and although we do our best to prepare and safeguard against such incidents, unfortunately nothing is 100% preventable.*

David Neil, parent, expressed concerns about safety at Brevard High School. He feels that the BHS campus is too open, and urged that greeters be posted at the school's front doors to better control access.

4. Special Recognitions

Dr. Scott Elliott presented the NCCTM Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher award to Philip Fisher, math teacher at Davidson River School. Mr. Fisher was unable to attend the NCCTM conference to receive his award.

Dr. Scott Elliott recognized members and sponsors of the Transylvania County Schools Cycling Team. He presented team jerseys to the following sponsors: Dr. David Joyce, Brevard College; Sam Saliman, The Hub; Wes Dickson, Sycamore Cycles; and Todd Branham and Heather Wright, Blue Ridge Adventures.

5. Good News Report

Dr. Jeff McDaris reported the following good news:

SWCD POSTER AND ESSAY CONTESTS

On November 15, the Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its 2012-2013 poster and essay contests. Congratulations go to the following winners:

3rd Grade Poster		
1 st Place	Kaitlyn Heath	BES
2 nd Place	Bradley Rising	PFES
3 rd Place (tie)	Yuma Eddins Andrew A.	PFES RES
Honorable Mention (tie)	Porter Schrader Jasmine Powell	BES PFES
4th Grade Poster		
1 st Place	Marli Cohen	BES
2 nd Place	Emma Reese	RES
3 rd Place	Kylie Worley	PFES
Honorable Mention	Caiti McCall	TCHES
5th Grade Poster		

1 st Place	Brooklyn Rising	PFES
2 nd Place	Julia Lusk	PFES
3 rd Place (tie)	Caleb Brooks Vlad Stavytyski	RES TCHES
Honorable Mention	Ashlyn Dodson	RES
6th Grade Poster		
1 st Place	Rachel Malmin	BMS
2 nd Place	Luci Eddins	BMS
3 rd Place (tie)	Maggie Morris Cray McCall	BMS RMS
Honorable Mention (tie)	Bain Brown Cory Reid	BMS RMS
6th Grade Essay		
1 st Place	Cray McCall	RMS
2 nd Place	James Thompson	BMS
3 rd Place	Bain Brown	BMS
Honorable Mention	Grace Owen	RMS

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN FOR 2013

Thanks to all who helped make this year's United Way of Transylvania County campaign a success. Overall the school system raised \$7,317 with an average participation rate of 56%. This is double the amount that was donated to United Way last year. Special congratulations go to TCH and RES for achieving 100% participation rates.

4-H DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST

Congratulations to Transylvania County for winning the Junior Division of the State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. Congratulations also to Lily Harris for placing first in the Junior Division.

BHS WINTER DAYS SPONSOR A FOSTER CHILD PROGRAM

Brevard High School students raised over \$1,000 to sponsor foster children this winter. The cost to sponsor one child is \$50. The school's goal is to raise \$2,400 and sponsor 48 children. Anyone interested in helping to sponsor a foster child may give their donation marked "BHS Foster Sponsor" to Jessica Merrill at the Education Center or Dolly McCall at Brevard High School.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Dr. McDaris shared photos from the recent Transylvania County Special Olympics. Dick and Pat Reem were the local organizers.

Dr. McDaris recognized student artwork from BMS that was on display in the board room. He also recognized Kaitlin McCreery, student representative from BHS.

6. Former Students in the Military

The Board reviewed the list of former students from Brevard High School, Rosman High School, and Davidson River School who are currently serving or have previously served in the U.S. Military. One new name, Robert Mitchell Brown (deceased), had been added to the list. County Commissioner Larry Chapman spoke about his former classmate, calling Mr. Brown a "true hero." Dr. McDaris shared news that Randy Buford, a graduate of Brevard High School, had died recently at Camp LeJeune.

7. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the minutes from the November 19, 2012 meeting and the personnel report for December 17, 2012 (attached) were unanimously approved.

8. **Local Board Training Credit**

N.C.G.S. § 115C-50 requires all local board members to receive a minimum of 12 clock hours of training annually. The North Carolina School Boards Association sponsors workshops and training activities as an avenue for board members to comply with this requirement. Members may also attend local and other non-sponsored training activities to earn CEU hours. Applications for local, non-sponsored credit require board approval. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the following applications for CEU credit were approved for the 2012-2013 year:

- Tawny McCoy, 4.0 contact hours for “School Law Basics for School Board Members” and “Ethics Over Lunch,” held on December 4, 2012 at WRESA
- Cindy Petit, 4.0 contact hours for “School Law Basics for School Board Members” and “Ethics Over Lunch,” held on December 4, 2012 at WRESA
- Ron Kiviniemi, 4.0 contact hours for “School Law Basics for School Board Members” and “Ethics Over Lunch,” held on December 4, 2012 at WRESA

9. **DRS ABCs Local Option Goals for 2012-2013**

The North Carolina ABCs model for alternative schools requires the development of annual incentive pay plans containing two achievement-based components and three local option goals. At least one of the local option goals must be an academic measure of student achievement. The goals must be approved by the local board. Dr. Scott Elliott presented the Davidson River School ABCs local option goals for 2012-2013. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the goals were unanimously approved.

10. **School Improvement Plans 2012-2014**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously approved the nine school improvement plans for 2012-2014.

11. **Results of Local Interest Inventory**

Dr. David Sutton reported that the school system has sought feedback from parents and instructional personnel regarding magnet school options and school calendar options (year-round and traditional) via two online interest surveys that were conducted in October and November. He described the interest inventories used to gather stakeholder feedback, presented the district- and school-level results from those inventories, and answered questions from the Board. He reported that over 700 individuals had participated in the surveys. Some of the observations drawn from the surveys included:

CALENDAR

- Calendar model 2 (traditional, 180 days) and calendar model 3 (modified, 180 days) were statistically indistinguishable as most appealing to participants.
- Calendar model 1 (traditional, 185 days) and calendar model 3 (modified, 180 days) were statistically indistinguishable as least appealing to participants.
- Opinions about calendar model 3 (modified, 180 days) were more polarized than opinions about calendar model 2 (traditional, 180 days).

- 52.4% of participants would keep their children enrolled at a school following a modified calendar; 25.4% were undecided.
- 68.6% of participants would keep their children enrolled at a school following a traditional calendar even if a modified calendar were available at another school; 20.6% were undecided.
- Calendar configuration is less influential toward school choice or site preference than other variables for most participants.

MAGNET SCHOOL

- 61.2% of parent survey participants were “very” or “somewhat” interested in a magnet school option; 20.7% of participants expressed a need for more information.
- Among magnet concentration areas, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) was most popular, followed by Visual and Performing Arts. Humanities were least popular.
- 49.9% of parent participants would take advantage of a magnet school option if it were available at their child’s school; 42.2% were undecided.

The Board discussed the survey results and calendar models. Miss McCreery asked whether some teachers would receive specialized training if a magnet school were to be established. Dr. McDaris agreed that extra training could be a possibility and would have budget implications. The Board agreed to discuss the interest inventory results and calendar options further at the upcoming planning retreat.

12. Topics for Retreat

The Board of Education will hold its annual planning retreat at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2013 at the Morris Education Center, with a light supper to be provided. Board members were asked to submit topics for discussion. Mr. Kiviniemi suggested school safety as a retreat topic. Mr. Whitmire suggested having representatives from EMS and/or law enforcement on hand for this discussion. Chairman McCoy requested a budget overview for new members and refresher for current members, with emphasis on those capital needs related to school safety. Mrs. Fox suggested an update on district data notebooks.

13. Important Dates

Dec. 20	Early Dismissal
Dec. 21	Teacher Workday
Dec 21-Jan 4	Christmas Break (students)
Jan. 3-4	Teacher Workdays
Jan. 7-8	NCSBA “School Board 101,” Raleigh
Jan. 16	NCSBA “Understanding the Role of the School Board Chair,” Raleigh
Jan. 21	Leave Day
Jan. 21	Miss Bengal Pageant, 6:00 p.m., RHS Auditorium
Jan. 21-22	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Jan. 22-25	TCS 25 th Annual Math/Science Fair, Rogow Room
Jan. 28	Math/Science Fair Awards Ceremony, 6:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
Feb. 4	PLANNING RETREAT, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 5	NCSBA Webinar: “Ethics for School Board Members,” 3-5 p.m.
Feb. 18	Leave Day
Feb. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 21-22	NCSBA “Special Issue Seminars,” Raleigh

Feb. 25 NTHS Induction Ceremony, 5:00 p.m., Rogow Room

Chairman McCoy recommended moving the Board of Education that is scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2013 to Tuesday, January 22, 2013 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday and teacher leave day on the 21st. There were no objections, and the next regular meeting was changed to Tuesday, January 22, 2013.

Mrs. Fox gave a reminder to begin looking at dates for school facility tours in February. Dr. McDaris suggested that the Board renew its practice of holding monthly lunchtime meetings at the schools in the spring. All were in agreement.

14. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

15. **Other Items**

On behalf of the Board, Chairman McCoy expressed appreciation to Chris Whitmire for his dedication and service as the school board chair, and wished him all the best in his new role as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. She reported that the Board would be hosting a farewell reception for Mr. Whitmire in January (date to be determined). Mr. Whitmire discussed some of the legislative committees to which he has been appointed, and pledged to remain a strong and outspoken advocate for public education.

Mrs. Fox spoke about the brave teachers and administrators at Sandy Hook Elementary School who gave their lives trying to protect children from a shooter. She requested prayer for the families of all those who lost loved ones in the tragedy.

The Board discussed procedures for appointing a replacement to fill Mr. Whitmire's seat on the Board. It was agreed to solicit letters of interest from the public, with an announcement to be advertised on the Transylvania County Schools website and in the *Transylvania Times*. All letters of interest will be public information, and will be collected at the superintendent's office until the specified cutoff period, at which time they will be provided to the Board members for review and consideration. Board members agreed that they would like to make an appointment at the next regular meeting on January 22, but may take more time to make a decision if needed. Thursday, January 10, 2013 was set as the deadline for letters of interest to be received in the superintendent's office.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
December 17, 2012**

- I. ACCEPT THE REPORT OF RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS ACCEPTED/INITIATED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FROM/FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Cissie Lewis, Teacher, BMS, effective December 21, 2012
Jennifer Voigt, Teacher, BMS, effective January 11, 2013

Classified Personnel

Rose McCleese, Part-time Receptionist, MEC, effective December 19, 2012

- II. APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Debbie Cope, Interim AG Coordinator, RMS and RHS, effective January 3, 2013
Maureen Hankala, Teacher, BMS, effective January 14, 2013

Classified Personnel

Alexis Jamerson, Part-time Student Employee, Building Futures, effective December 18, 2012
Pat Pyrwood, Bus Driver, TCS, effective December 21, 2012
Richard Ream, Bus Monitor and Driver, TCS, effective January 7, 2013

- III. ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT MADE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Teresa Michelle Galloway, from Child Nutrition Substitute Worker, to Child Nutrition Worker, effective January 7, 2013
Jenny Owenby, from Office Support, MEC, to Office Support, BMS, effective December 13, 2012

- IV. APPROVE THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

- V. APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES:

Substitute Teachers

Claire Anderson

Cheri Jones

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Pat Pyrwood