

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 6, 2009**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Public Comment
2. Good News Report
3. Resolution of Recognition, Thanks, Commendation and Congratulations
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
6. Policy:
 - A. IK-R "Student Accountability for Academic Achievement"
7. FY10 Budget
8. Central Office Summer Schedule
9. Important Dates
10. Other Items
11. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on April 6, 2009 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Mike Rogers, Chairman; Chris Whitmire, Vice Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Sonna Lyda, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; and approximately 15 staff members, guests, and media. Chairman Rogers gave the invocation and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Rogers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. Good News Report

- Chairman Rogers reported that Dr. Sonna J. Lyda was honored as the 2009 North Carolina Excellence in Education Awards winner at the national AdvancED conference in Chicago on March 29. The award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated unparalleled leadership in promoting and advancing excellence in education. Nominees must have a vision and mission for excellence among students and faculty; a record of distinguished contributions to the education profession that provides a lasting, positive impact on student learning; and serve as role models for both students and educators. Congratulations, Dr. Lyda!
- Dr. Lyda introduced DRS/BHS student representative, Jonathan Galloway, to the Board.
- The Board recognized student artwork from PFES that was on display in the boardroom.
- Dr. Lyda reported that the Technology Showcase held earlier in the evening had been a big success.

- Board members received blue ribbons to wear in support of Bully-Free Week. Each school received 50 ribbons to distribute to students who are demonstrating bully-free behavior.
- Billie Wilson's Apparel II class at RHS is selling handmade baby blankets on eBay. The blankets are the first in a series of entrepreneurship projects designed to raise money for additional classroom projects. Anyone interested in viewing or purchasing a blanket should go to www.ebay.com and enter item number 230331894742.
- Rosman High School teacher, Stacie Dotson, received the 2009 Linda Rader Professional Development Award for outstanding pursuit of professional development. The award, which includes a \$3,000 prize, was announced on March 26 at the North Carolina Association of Educators' annual convention.
- Rosman Elementary School contributed nearly 2,000 food items to Sharing House as part of this year's Feinstein Challenge. The Feinstein Foundation matches the donations to Sharing House with donations to Meals on Wheels. This is a win-win for two local programs.
- Elaine Goar, RES second grade teacher, has been named the National Citizenship Education Teacher for WNC by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. Goar was nominated for the Transylvania award by fellow teacher, Lystra Keverer. She received the local award at the VFW Post 4309 banquet in December. On March 18, former State Commander Bill Dohl came to RES to inform Goar that she had been named the WNC National Citizenship Education Teacher. The award is given in recognition for promoting citizenship education in the classroom and school. Goar emphasizes character education in all her classroom activities and throughout the school.
- The T.I.M.E. Bd Fungus research group won first place in the state science fair competition. In addition to \$150 in prize money, the group gets a free trip to the International Science Fair in Reno, Nevada this May. Students involved in the project are Brooke Burrows, John Burrows, and Matthew Travers. Their sponsor is Andy Bullwinkle. The focus of the project was to detect the presence of Bd Fungus in salamanders in Transylvania County. The project was conducted through a partnership with the NC Cooperative Extension Service and the NC State University Science House Outreach Program. Mary Arnaudin of the Cooperative Extension Service and Jennifer Williams, science teacher at BHS, worked together to develop the teams that participate in the T.I.M.E. research.

3. **Resolution of Recognition**

ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Education that commendations, thanks, congratulations and appreciation be expressed to the person(s) named:

The following Brevard High School students for being selected to attend the 2009 session of the North Carolina Governor's School:

John H. Burrows - Natural Science
Rachel A. Lawing - English
Glenn A. Palmer - Mathematics

4. **Former Students in the Military**

The Board recognized former TCS students who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Military. One new name, Seth Summey, has been added to the list. Chairman Rogers expressed the Board's appreciation to all of the individuals and their families for their dedication and sacrifice.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the following consent items were approved.

1. Minutes from March 10, 2009
2. Minutes from March 16, 2009
3. Personnel report (attached)

6. **Policy IK-R "Student Accountability for Academic Achievement"**

Dr. Bo Williams presented revised Policy IK-R (Student Accountability for Academic Achievement) for first read. He recognized the policy committee and ad hoc members for their work in revising the policy. Dr. Williams reported that there were initial concerns that the policy might be "watered down" with lower academic standards. In actuality, he noted, the revisions have resulted in a better policy that is just as strong academically while being more student-friendly and providing improved instruction. He reported that once the revised policy has been approved, the EOC portion of the policy would be retroactive for the first semester.

Board members reviewed each of the changes to the policy page by page. Dr. Scott Elliott and Dr. Williams addressed questions from the Board. Members suggested some additional changes to the policy in order to improve clarity. Mr. Whitmire reported that he was very pleased with the revised policy. Chairman Rogers expressed thanks for the many hours spent on the revisions. A new draft showing the changes that were recommended at this meeting will be presented for approval at the next regular meeting.

Chairman Rogers invited student representative, Jonathan Galloway, to share his comments. Mr. Galloway thanked the Board members for all that they do, observing that they seem to have students' best interests at heart when making decisions. Mr. Galloway also commended the revised Policy IK-R. Dr. Lyda asked Mr. Galloway for his views on the school calendar. Mr. Galloway would like to see first semester exams completed before Christmas. He thinks that scores would improve and students would enjoy the Christmas break more. Mr. Rogers asked whether he knew many students who work in summer camps. Mr. Galloway stated that he did not know any students who are camp workers.

7. **FY10 Budget**

Dr. Lyda shared the latest information and documents for the 2009-2010 budget. She reviewed the changes to current expense that were made to reflect the most recent information regarding health insurance and retirement.

Mr. Whitmire asked whether Item 1 on the local current expense list should be rewritten to include SROs. Dr. Lyda reported that would not be necessary—the commissioners had this covered.

Dr. Lyda stated that items 1-10 on the capital outlay list would almost certainly be the cutoff for next year's funding. However, it is important that the Board prioritize items 11-57 in the event the school system receives more capital funding than expected. Board members discussed the following projects:

- Mrs. Norman would like to see Item 11 (BES 1st and 4th grade bathroom stalls) funded as a priority. Dr. Lyda reported that to do so would require current expense funding for teacher jobs to be reduced by \$13,500. Board members were not in favor of that, but agreed that they would do their best to see that this project gets done next year, regardless.
- Mrs. Norman requested an update on campus security lighting. Mr. Barger has scheduled a meeting with Duke Energy to look into options. He gave a rough estimate for high-pressure sodium lights (wired overhead) as \$18 per light per month and \$22 per month for underground. Brighter lights were estimated at \$16-56 overhead or \$20-66 underground. He will have a better idea of costs after his meeting with Duke Energy. Dr. Lyda pointed out that the current expense budget would have to be adjusted if the Board chooses to lease rather than purchase new lights. The Board directed Mr. Barger to investigate leasing options for the BHS, BES, DRS and RES campuses for possible cost savings.
- Mr. Whitmire asked about the status of the BMS locker rooms and expressed concerns about the poor conditions. Mr. Barger reported that this item is still funded at \$89,000 for FY09 with the exception of \$53,000 that is being lost from lottery funds this year. That would leave a balance of approximately \$36,000. He reported that the 14 showers could be fixed for around \$32,000. The other money would be used to replace tile, fixtures, toilet partitions, and possibly reconfigure lockers. Mr. Whitmire withdrew his concern.
- Mr. Whitmire suggested that Item 44 (PFES outdoor storage) be moved higher on the priority list or possibly switched with Item 37 (PFES exterior brick repair). He asked whether masonry students could do the brick repair. Mr. Barger explained that the project is more complicated than it appears. The project would be structural in nature since it would involve a roof and enclosing the area behind the canopy for secure storage. Mr. Rogers suggested combining the two projects into one category, or placing them adjacent to each other on the list. Mr. Whitmire suggested the brick veneer be done after the roof/storage is in place. It was recommended that Mr. Barger see what the inspections department would require. Mr. Barger emphasized that the storage area would be only a portion of the brick wall behind the canopy.
- Mr. Whitmire questioned the priority of Item 27 (BHS additional parking). He sees other projects as of great or greater need. He distributed a handout describing the inadequacy of the current parking situation for RHS and RMS daily operations and special events. He strongly believes that Item 20 (RHS additional parking) is a significant need, and does not see the Hogsed property as a complete solution to the parking problem at Rosman. Mr. Rogers asked

how many parking spaces the Hogsed property and gym renovations at RMS would provide when completed. Mr. Barger estimated 54-60 spaces at the Hogsed property and approximately 25 spaces at the RMS gym. Mr. Whitmire stressed that parking at Rosman is critical and is affecting the day-to-day operation of the school as well as extra-curricular events. Mr. Rogers reviewed Mr. Whitmire's handout and noted that some of the special events listed, such as Youth Football, are community events that occur when school is not in session. Mr. Whitmire stated that the school is a part of the community. He expressed doubts that the Ihme property would work for parking and thinks that the Ashe property would make more sense. Mr. Rogers agreed that RHS/RMS parking is an important need, and suggested the Board make a decision regarding the priority once they see how much additional parking is created with the Hogsed property. Mr. Barger anticipates work beginning on the Hogsed property as soon as the ground dries out from the recent rains.

- There was considerable discussion regarding Item 32 (TCH front entry video security system) and Item 33 (TCH wiring for new sign). Mr. Whitmire stated that TCH had received very little in the way of capital funding and that lighting the new sign would be a good return on investment. The Board agreed. Members also agreed with the need for a front entry security system, but were concerned about the possibly unwelcoming aspect of visitors having to be buzzed in. Mr. Barger reported that the master plan would address this issue by moving the TCH reception area (albeit at a higher cost). Mrs. McCoy stressed the importance of communicating to parents and the public the reason for the new security system. The Board agreed to move this project up in priority to position 17.
- Mr. Whitmire brought up an email that had been distributed to Board members regarding the BHS greenhouse and requested that the Board discuss the matter in open meeting. Mr. Rogers questioned why, if there were concerns, they were not communicated to Dr. Lyda or the Board as a whole. He added that he was not sure where the information in question had originated. Dr. Lyda stated that any action on the matter would have to go through the normal channels and approval process. Mr. Barger stated that the greenhouse would be included in the master plan. Dr. Lyda cautioned that the master plan would not be ready before the Board has to vote on the FY10 budget. She gave a reminder that plans and bids always come before the Board for final approval before the start of any big project.

Approval of the local current expense budget request and capital outlay budget request for 2009-2010 will be scheduled for the May 4 meeting.

8. Central Office Summer Schedule

Dr. Lyda presented the 2009 summer schedule for central office and other administrative offices:

- Seven 40-hour weeks consisting of four 10-hour days will begin the week of June 29, 2009 and end the week of August 10, 2009.
- Office hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.
- Offices will be closed on Fridays.
- The regular five-day schedule will resume on Monday, August 17, 2009.

9. Important Dates

Apr. 6-24	Transylvania County Student Art Show K-12	10 am - 4 pm	Transylvania Community Arts Center
Apr. 7	All-County Chorus Concert	7:00 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
Apr. 8	Transylvania County Student Art Show Reception	4-5 p.m.	Transylvania Community Arts Center
Apr. 10	Holiday (Good Friday)		
Apr. 13-17	Spring Break		
Apr. 21	SPECIAL MEETING Interviews	8:30 a.m.	Lake Toxaway
Apr. 23	SPECIAL MEETING Interviews	8:30 a.m.	Lake Toxaway
Apr. 25	SPECIAL MEETING Closed Session	8:30 a.m.	Rogers Masonry
Apr. 25	Lillian & Bud Cothran Scholarship Evening of Fun and Music	5:00 p.m.	RHS
Apr. 27	TCAEOP Administrator & Awards Banquet	5:30 p.m.	St. Philip's Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall
Apr. 28	Superintendent's Communication Council	3:45 p.m.	MEC
Apr. 29	Parent Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
May 1	Student Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
May 4	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
May 5	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet	6:00 p.m.	TBA
May 7	Visual Arts Opening Reception	6:00 p.m.	BHS Lobby
May 7-22	Visual Arts Exhibit		BHS Lobby
May 8, 9	"The Butler Did It, Singing" RHS Musical	TBA	RHS Auditorium
May 15, 16	"West Side Story" BHS Musical	7:30 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
May 18	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
May 19	RHS Senior Projects	2:00 p.m.	RHS

May 21	DRS Senior Projects	3:30 p.m.	DRS
May 22	BMS Spring Band & Chorus Concert	7:00 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
May 26	Scholars' Recognition Evening	5:30 p.m.	BHS
May 28	BHS Spring Band & Chorus Concert	7:00 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
June 1	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
June 8	National Tech Honor Society Inductions	5:30 p.m.	Transylvania Co. Library
June 10	Last pupil day		
June 10	DRS Graduation	1:00 p.m.	DRS
June 11-16	Teacher Workdays		
June 13	BHS Graduation	10:00 a.m.	Brevard Music Center
June 13	RHS Graduation	6:00 p.m.	RHS Gym
June 15	REGULAR MEETING Reception for Retirees	6:30 p.m.	Transylvania Co. Library
June 18-26	Summer School		

Make-up Days

1. December 1 will be made up on June 9.
2. January 21 was made up on February 16.
3. March 2 will be made up on June 10.

10. Other Items

Mr. Whitmire expressed appreciation to the *Transylvania Times* for its article on the walking track at Rosman Elementary School. He requested that the Board recognize all of the volunteers who donated time and money to the project.

11. Public Comment

None.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

April 6, 2009

8

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
April 6, 2009**

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

Licensed Personnel

Nancy Duncan, Teacher, BES, effective June 30, 2009

Classified Personnel

Allen Tilson, Custodian, BHS, effective April 3, 2009

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Terry Anders, Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 7, 2009

Jennifer Bettencourt, Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 7, 2009

Donna Cox, Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 7, 2009

Eric Smith, Custodian, BHS, effective April 7, 2009

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Carrie Elmore, Teacher, BHS, Family Leave under local BOE policy GCBDB effective May 27, 2009, through June 17, 2009

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Nicole Bumgarner

Thomas Collins

Carolyn Goldman

Janice Sorrells