

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
January 16, 2018**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Isaac's Home
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
7. Policy:
 - A. 4000 Series, Parts B & C (Section 3)
 - B. Fall 2017 PLS Updates (Set 1)
 - C. Fall 2017 PLS Updates (Set 2)
 - D. Special Updates: SBE Technical Changes
8. Bond Update
9. Topics for Work Session
10. School Facility Tours
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Important Dates
13. Public Comment
14. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on January 16, 2018 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Betty McGaha led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately nine guests, the following board members and staff were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Marty Griffin
Betty Scruggs McGaha
Alice Wellborn

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donahoo

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Brian Weaver, Senior Director, Human Resources
Arleca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
Andrew Shook, School Resource Officer

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

1. Approval of Agenda

Due to impending icy weather, ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting agenda for January 16, 2018 was revised as follows:

- Item 8, Bond Update, was moved to Item 4;
- Item 7, Policy, was tabled until the next regular meeting; and

New item, Architect Contract, was added as Item 5.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Tracie Lankford spoke about her adult son's suicide in 2016 and the impact of the tragedy on her family. She stated that the stigma surrounding suicide prohibits frank discussion, and asked the board to consider implementing a mandatory suicide awareness program for middle and high school students. Chairman McCoy thanked Mrs. Lankford for sharing her story and extended the board's condolences.

3. Isaac's Home

Mr. Mickey Robinson gave a presentation on the Isaac's Home Youth Shelter, Inc., a housing initiative for displaced and/or homeless teens. He reported that shelter helped over 130 kids this year, many of whom were living in cars, tents, or other unstable situations. He reported that 40% of the nation's homeless are teens, according to U.S. census data. In Transylvania County, there are 40 elementary, 21 middle school, and 61 high school students currently identified as homeless. In addition to providing emergency shelter, the Isaac's Home board of directors would like to expand the program by building 10-15 more houses and providing transition living programs, job placement, and life skills training. Mr. Robinson works with Coach David Siniard and others to find students at risk.

4. Bond Update (moved up from no. 8)

Chairman McCoy briefly summarized the board's work over the last two years to evaluate the condition and capacity of its schools and determine the renovations needed to meet the needs of current and future school populations. From an initial price tag of \$118 million as identified in the master facilities study, which was later whittled down to \$93 million, the board has identified BHS, RMS, and RHS as the schools most in need with an estimated cost of \$68 million for renovations and new construction. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that the board has not wavered in its commitment to keep all nine community schools. Mr. Griffin emphasized that there are safety issues on school campuses that must be addressed. Mrs. Wellborn stated that \$68 million would cover the health, safety, and academic priorities that she sees as most important. Mrs. McGaha stated that schools must be safe, inviting, and ready to meet instructional needs for decades ahead. The proposed improvements would not only address infrastructure and other needs, but also programs such as fine arts and athletics that are integral to students and the community. Chairman McCoy stated that the board has worked very hard to set priorities for a bond and is still looking at options for meeting the needs at all campuses. She added that in seeking a bond, the board is asking the citizens of Transylvania County for their help.

CHAIRMAN MCCOY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, to request the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners take all necessary steps by the issuances of general obligation bonds to provide funding up to \$68 million for renovations to Brevard High School, Rosman Middle School, and Rosman High School, and to place the bond initiative on the November 2018 general election ballot to be voted on by the citizens of Transylvania County. After further discussion, the chairman called the vote, and THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mrs. Wellborn stated that the proposed improvements are vital for our community and something that all board members believe in one-hundred percent. Dr. McDaris reported that during just the last few weeks, workers were on roofs patching leaks while students took first semester exams, and laboring to fix a backed up sewer system at DRS during freezing conditions. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that the bond is important to the economic

strength of our county, as quality schools help attract business and industry. Mrs. McGaha stated that Transylvania is fortunate to have communities that deeply value their schools, which is why we must make our schools attractive and inviting to all. Mr. Griffin stated that having worked at both high schools, he knows firsthand the community pride and ownership in our schools. Chairman McCoy thanked everyone for their efforts in this endeavor.

5. **Architect Contract** *(new item)*

Norris Barger presented an agreement between the board and Clark Nexsen for advance planning services for renovations and additions to BHS, RHS, and RMS. Attorney Donnahoo stated that the contract as written could be approved in form, but would require a funding source to be in place to be effective. It was noted that the second paragraph of the agreement had inadvertently omitted Rosman Middle School. After discussion, ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously approved the agreement with Clark Nexsen, Inc., in the amount of \$375,000 for advance planning services for renovations and additions to BHS, RHS, and RMS as outlined in the designer's proposal letter, with revisions to be made (1) correcting the omission of "Rosman Middle School" in the body of the second paragraph, and (2) making payment of the fee conditional on the appropriation of funds by the county commissioners. Mr. Donnahoo stated that he would send a corrected contract for signatures the next day.

Mr. Donnahoo departed at 7:35 p.m. due to worsening road conditions in Asheville.

6. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

During the month of January, school districts across the country celebrate National School Board Appreciation Month as a way to commemorate the important contribution that school board members make to their communities. On behalf of all, Dr. McDaris gave thanks to the members of the Transylvania County Board of Education for all that they do every day.

NBPTS CERTIFICATIONS

Four teachers have been awarded certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in 2017-2018. Congratulations to Amanda Lewis (RMS), Kristy Ontko (RMS), Courtney Hagenau (BES), and Adria Hardy (BHS) for their hard work and dedication to excellence.

SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to seven students from Brevard High School and Rosman High School for achievement in the 2018 Scholastic Art Competition. Their work will be on display at the Asheville Art Museum from January 27 through March 4. All of the regional winners will be honored on February 25 at the Diana Wortham Theater in Asheville. The artists are:

Madison Brinkley (RHS):

Gold Key for "Roman Street" (drawing)

Honorable Mention for "Red Pair of Pears" (painting)

Honorable Mention for "Rufus the Rooster" (painting)

Honorable Mention for "Looking Glass Falls" (painting)

Korinne Hawk (RHS):

Gold Key & American Vision Nomination for "Blue Heron" (painting)

Silver Key for "Ugly Duck" (Painting)

Abby Buchanan (RHS):

Honorable Mention for "Nature's Poetry" (Mixed Media)

Honorable Mention for "Arbor Vitae" (painting with encaustic wax finish)

Casey O'Shields (RHS):

Honorable Mention for "Ricken the Kicken' Chicken" (drawing)

Honorable Mention for "Spherical Illusion" (painting-spray paint weave)

Julia Lusk (BHS):

Honorable Mention for "Deep Search"(Illustration)

Hazel Freeman (BHS):

Honorable Mention for "Living Painting"(Photography)

Sarah "Sadie" Tynch (BHS):

Silver Key for "Paris Market" (Watercolor Painting)

GRANT AWARD TO STUDY MEDIEVAL SPAIN

Congratulations to Davidson River School teacher Joe Russo who was awarded a professional development grant from the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society to participate in a Medieval Spain experience this summer. Mr. Russo will take a guided tour of the lands of Al-Andalus exploring medieval Christian, Muslim, and Jewish cultures. Mr. Russo will share his experiences with his students and other social studies teachers in the state.

#BALDWINPIRATES

In October, Sarah Baldwin's third grade class at Brevard Elementary School began making "flat pirates" in art class to send out to people they know. As new sightings of the flat pirates occur all over the world (photos sent to Ms. Baldwin via email, or posted on Twitter), sponsors/donors give money to hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. Hats off to #BaldwinPirates for #improvinglives one pirate at a time.

NCSPRA 2017 BLUE RIBBON AWARDS

Congratulations to School-Community Relations Coordinator Kevin Smith for being named a 2017 Blue Ribbon Award winner by the North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPRA). Awards will be presented at the NCSPRA Blue Ribbon Awards Brunch on January 26 in Greensboro. The award-winning submissions were:

Digital Media Equipment: "*BHS Principal Rocks the Drums*" (Gold Award)

Electronic Media: "*Love the Bus 2017*" (Gold Award); "*Teacher of the Year*

Videos" (Bronze Award); "*How Do You Raise a Rosman Tiger*" (Bronze Award)

Photography: "*Rosman @ Brevard: County Schools Faceoff*" (Silver Award)

SUMMER FEEDING RANKS 6TH HIGHEST IN NC

School Nutrition Director Carolyn Barton recently learned that in terms of reaching the highest percentage of needy students during the summer of 2017, the Transylvania County Schools summer feeding program ranked 6th highest in the state. Swain, Northampton, Halifax, and Durham counties ranked 1-4. Orange, Transylvania, and

Edgecombe were 5-7. Mrs. Barton credits the addition of bus routes for pushing the program over the 20% mark in reaching students.

RHS MAKES ATTENDANCE GAINS

Based on research by student advocate Mary Ramey, at the end of December last year (2016-2017), Rosman High School had 241 students with over 5 absences. At the same point this year (2017-2018), RHS had 105 students with five or more absences. Principal Jason Ormsby said, "We feel that we raised our expectations for our students, and they accepted the challenge. I am proud of Mary Ramey and the staff for their hard work and dedication to the students of RHS."

Dr. McDaris recognized the artwork from Rosman Elementary School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Shook for being in attendance.

7. **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. There were no new names on the list.

8. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the minutes of the December 14 and December 18, 2017 meetings and the personnel report for January 16, 2018 (attached) were unanimously approved.

9. **Policy**

postponed until the next regular meeting

10. **Topics for Work Session**

The board will hold a planning/work session on February 5 at the Morris Education Center. Topics for discussion include master facilities plan, bond, capital funding, FY19 budget, class size legislation, and enhancement teachers. Mr. Kiviniemi suggested a review of funding sources and what may be funded out of each category. Dr. McDaris recognized NC Representative Cody Henson who was present and thanked him for his work in seeking a solution to the class size issue.

11. **School Facility Tours**

Each year, the board schedules two days in January or February to visit schools and evaluate facility needs as a part of its annual budget process. Chairman McCoy asked Ms. Hunter to poll board members regarding potential dates for this year's school tours. Commissioner Larry Chapman requested that the county commissioners be notified of the tour dates in case they would like to participate.

12. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- Tomorrow, January 17, is the first day of the second semester. A winter storm is on the way and school may be canceled. Because high school teachers have not yet met with their new classes, it was thought that a virtual day would not be possible. However, principals have reported that teachers are prepared to provide virtual instruction. Therefore, if school is canceled on January 17, it will be a virtual day.

- Rise and Shine will host a benefit on April 28. The “Motown Memories” event will include dinner, dancing and classic music from the Motown era.
- According to NASDAQ, 34% of the American workforce is a part of the “Gig Economy,” where self-employment and freelancing have replaced cubicles and commuting. This number is expected to grow to 43% by 2020 (Business Insider, 2017). Educators are told often that they are preparing students for jobs that do not actually exist yet, and this is true. This highlights the challenges of teaching the habits and mindsets that will prepare students for a dynamic and constantly evolving job market.
- Nationally-recognized economist Dr. Michael L. Walden has studied North Carolina’s evolution from a predominantly rural state, dependent on the industries of tobacco, textiles and furniture in the 1970s, to a majority urban state in 2017 that is centered on the fast-growing Research Triangle and Charlotte areas. He predicts that the coming years will bring a continued growth in the populations of Wake and Mecklenburg counties and a widening disparity between urban and rural areas statewide. Dr. Walden also thinks that “virtualization” could change that trend. By allowing people to stay in their physical place while projecting themselves virtually into another physical work space, people may choose to live in quaint rural areas and virtually send themselves into metropolises. Expanding digital learning in the schools is a move in the right direction to prepare for an increasingly digital-driven economy.
- Dr. McDaris has confirmed with Congressman Mark Meadows’ office that the underlying formulas which prevented Transylvania County Schools from continuing to receive the RLIS grant are due to the fact that Transylvania is now considered to be part of the Asheville Metro area. Transylvania had relied on the RLIS grant (for rural and low-income school systems) to fund a much-needed school social worker position.

13. Important Dates

The board will resume its twice-a-month meeting schedule in February 2018. Meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center, unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 17	Second semester begins
Jan. 23-25	TCS Annual Science Fair/Expo, Rogow Room
Feb. 5	PLANNING WORK SESSION, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 19	Teacher workday
Feb. 19	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 5	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 7	Early release - students, 12:00 p.m.
Mar. 19	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 23	Teacher workday
Mar. 30	Annual leave day
Apr. 2-6	Spring break

14. Public Comment

Ms. Tracie Lankford stated that as a former resident of Rosman whose children graduated from Rosman High School, she strongly supports small schools.

Describing himself as the board's "worst nightmare," Mr. Kimsey Jackson, local resident and former graduate of Transylvania County Schools, asked why he, as a retiree with no children or grandchildren in the school system, should support a bond. He stated that the board has done nothing to inform the public about the bond, saying that the only information he has received came from the county. He asked what the board means by "safety," and remarked that he thinks the board will have a hard time selling a \$68 million bond.

Representative Cody Henson expressed appreciation to Dr. McDaris for being a valuable resource during his first year in office. Henson stated that Dr. McDaris' insight and information on educational issues were a big help to him as a member of the House Education Committee. He reported that he and his colleagues are working on a proposal to fix the class size legislation, which they hope will receive bipartisan support.

15. Other Items

Chairman McCoy asked Dr. McDaris to give an update on inclement weather procedures. Dr. McDaris reviewed the process for checking roads, explained how the decision to close school gets made, and described how weather conditions across the county can vary widely due to elevation and other factors. He emphasized that the number one consideration in determining whether to close schools is student safety.

Mr. Kiviniemi and Mr. Griffin addressed Mr. Jackson's earlier comments. As to why retirees should support the bond, Mr. Kiviniemi stated that as a former student of Transylvania County Schools, Mr. Jackson's education was provided by local taxpayers. He added that societal covenants call for each generation to "pay it forward" for the next generation. As to informing the public, Mr. Griffin noted that the board has been talking about the need for a bond issue for well over a year in public meetings and community forums, all of which has been reported by local media.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary



**RESOLUTION OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGARDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM**

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Education (“Board”) has evaluated the condition and capacity of its school facilities and has determined that renovations to existing school facilities are needed to meet the needs of its current and future student population;

WHEREAS, as identified in its recent facilities study, the Board has determined that facility improvements are necessary at many existing schools to assure that those facilities remain safe and healthy for students and staff and will continue to support instructional programs that promote academic excellence for all students;

WHEREAS, the Board has evaluated all proposed school projects and established an order of priority intended to balance the needs of students and staff within the fiscal capacity of Transylvania County as determined by the Transylvania County Commissioners (“Commissioners”);

WHEREAS, the Board has identified Brevard High School, Rosman Middle School and Rosman High School as the highest priority capital needs at this time with an estimated cost of sixty-eight million dollars (\$68,000,000) for all necessary renovations and new construction;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 158-48(c)(4), the Commissioners are authorized to borrow money and issue bonds for school capital needs;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-501(f), the Commissioners are authorized, as provided by law, to call for elections to ascertain the will of the voters as to whether bonds for school purposes may be issued; and

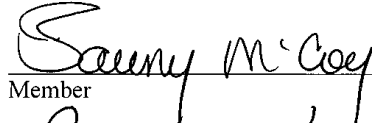
WHEREAS, the Board desires the Commissioners to, at the November 2018 general elections, seek voter approval for general obligations bonds which will provide the Commissioners a financing option to pay for the cost of addressing the Board’s highest priority capital building needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-503, hereby requests and petitions the Commissioners to take all necessary steps by the issuances of general obligations bonds to provide funding up to sixty-eight million dollars (\$68,000,000) for the following high priority capital projects:

1. Renovations to Brevard High School;
2. Renovations to Rosman Middle School; and
3. Renovations to Rosman High School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any bond initiative be placed on the ballot to be voted on by the citizens of Transylvania County at the November 2018 general elections.

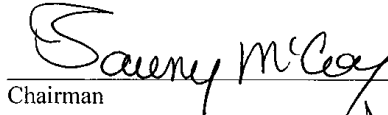
I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION:


Member

SECONDED BY:


Member

READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF JANUARY 2018.


Chairman


Superintendent, Ex-Officio Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
January 16, 2018**

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

Licensed Personnel

Thomas Melvin, Teacher, RHS, effective December 20, 2017

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

John McCarson, Teacher, RHS, effective January 17, 2018

Classified Personnel

Laura-Lawton Fraser, Teacher Assistant, TCS, effective January 26, 2018

Elizabeth Palmer, Bus Driver, TCS, effective January 17, 2018

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

Licensed Personnel

John Jake Raines, Teacher, BHS, to Teacher, RHS, effective date to be determined

Classified Personnel

None

- 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

Norman Bossert

Laura-Lawton Fraser

Amber McClure

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Elizabeth Gibson

Brook Owen