

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
January 17, 2017**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
6. Instructional Update
7. Policy:
 - A. 6000 Series (Part B): Transportation Services
8. FY17 Capital Projects Update
9. School Facility Tours; Community Meetings
10. Topics for Work Session
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Important Dates
13. Public Comment
14. Other Items
15. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on January 17, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately five 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 Donnahoo

MEDIA:

John Lanier, *Transylvania Times*

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer
Brian Weaver, Senior Director, Human Resources
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum & Instruction
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Arleca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
April Gaydosh, Principal, BES
Joe Russo, TCAE President
Chad Owen, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting agenda for January 17, 2017 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.

3. **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 everyone, Dr. McDaris thanked Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. McGaha, and Mrs. Wellborn their service and dedication to Transylvania County schools and families.

BES CLUBS

This past fall, fifth grade students at Brevard Elementary School were given the opportunity to choose club activities on Friday afternoons. Offerings included Crafting, Cooking, Bee Fit, the Buzz Media Show, Book Making, Chess, Sports, Glee Club, Pottery, International Club, Drama, and the Behind the Scenes Art Club. Students in the latter two clubs worked on this year's production of "A Christmas Carol." One offering, Club Unify, works in collaboration with BES self-contained classrooms and first and second grade classrooms. Fifth graders are able to serve as peer tutors and mentors to younger students and interact with special needs students. Looking ahead to the spring, BES is excited to offer new opportunities by inviting TCS staffers and community members to host clubs on subjects in which they specialize.

DRS "ACTIVE AFTERNOON"

Davidson River School thanks Mrs. Webb's classes for sponsoring several community service activities. On January 5, students coordinated "Active Afternoon" to help everyone keep their New Year's resolutions and exercise more. Yoga instructor Katherine Taylor offered yoga to students while others played ping pong, volleyball, dodge ball or basketball. Healthy afternoon snacks were provided, including homemade hummus and vegetables prepared by the students. The activities were so popular that additional times will be scheduled for spring semester.

#SCIENCEISFEHNTASTIC!

Congratulations to DRS science teacher, Noelle Fehn, who recently received two grants to enhance her programs. She received over \$400 from Donors Choose for a class set of science magazines for students to use at home and school. Since many of her students do not have the Internet at home for virtual day work, the subscription has already come in handy. Ms. Fehn's second grant is a partnership with the North Carolina Arboretum called *Project EXPLORE: Experiences Promoting Learning Outdoors for Research and Education*. Project EXPLORE will engage her students in the DRS schoolyard using Arboretum educator-led science programs based on current science curriculum standards. Students will perform ongoing data collection and present their research at the NC Arboretum Mountain Science Expo. The project so far has involved attracting birds with a school feeding station to collect data.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

Students from Davidson River School Taiko and Brevard Middle School Chorus were among those performing at the 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration hosted by the Human Relations Council and Brevard College. Each group performed two musical numbers and were warmly received by hundreds of people gathered in the Porter Center, many of whom had marched from Bethel "A" Baptist Church. We honor these students for being part of a special evening called "Unity in the Community."

WESTERN REGION HONOR JAZZ BAND CLINIC

Madison Allen earned third place in the Regional Jazz Auditions in Charlotte on January 14. This is the first year Brevard has had a student audition for the Regional Jazz Band. She will represent Brevard High School as the First Chair Alto Sax in the second high school band at the Western Region Honors Jazz Band Clinic in Asheville this April. Madison’s placement makes her eligible to audition for the All-State Jazz Band on March 4 at Central Davidson Middle School.

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

4. 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.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the minutes of the December 19, 2016 meeting and the personnel report for January 17, 2017 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. Instructional Update

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs gave an update entitled, “Education Skills and Life” that outlined how schools prepare students for the critical thinking skills needed for complex world. He reported that beyond the 3Rs, the skills the world is looking for are leadership, digital literacy, communication, emotional intelligence, entrepreneurship, global citizenship, problem solving, and team working. Dr. Gibbs emphasized that true education is about far more than test scores. Mrs. McGaha encouraged the administration to publicize this issue in order to help parents better understand the skills their children will need for work and life.

7. Policy

Brian Weaver presented 11 new policies from the 6000 Series (Part B), Transportation Services, and three old policies for first reads. He addressed several questions from board members about local procedures. Other discussion centered on repair and replacement of aging school buses. Dr. McDaris reported that the state replaces yellow buses only after they reach 200,000 miles. Mrs. McGaha requested an update on transportation at a future meeting. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the policies listed below were unanimously accepted as first-read information. Action on the policies will be requested in February.

6000 Series (Part B): Support Services			
New Policies (first read; adoption in February)		Old Policies (first read; rescission in February)	
6300	Goals of Student Transportation Services	EEA	School Transportation Services
6305	Safety and Student Transportation Services		
6306	School Bus Idling	EEAA; EEAB-R	School Bus Idling; Energy Management - School Buses

6310	Organization of Student Transportation Services	EEA	School Transportation Services
6315	Drivers		
6320	Use of Student Transportation Services		
6321	Bus Routes		
6322	Student Assignment to Buses		
6325	Parking Areas for Students		
6330	Insurance for Student Transportation Services	EEA	School Transportation Services
6340	Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts		

8. FY17 Capital Projects Update

Norris Barger gave a status report on capital projects to date. He reported that all winter projects have been completed and work has begun on spring projects. Board members asked about roof leaks and activity buses. Mr. Barger reported that roof leaks are an ongoing problem, with repairs typically address through the maintenance budget, not capital outlay. Board members expressed concerned about the appearance of some old activity buses. Dr. McDaris explained that what appears to be rust on some bus chassis is actually primer paint coming through. Repainting the buses would help the problem, but that is expensive to do. Chairman McCoy expressed the board's thanks and appreciation to Mr. Barger and the Plant Operations staff for keeping our aging facilities in as good a shape as they can be, noting that is a big job for only seven people.

9. School Facility Tours; Community Meetings

The board reviewed several potential dates for the 2017 school facility tours. It was agreed to hold the tours on January 26 and 27. The board also discussed scheduling issues for upcoming community input sessions on school facilities. It was agreed that the input sessions should be scheduled on nights when all five board members could be present. Due to the difficulty of finding weeknights that do not have conflicts with other scheduled events, the board agreed to set aside the first hour of selected regularly scheduled business meetings for the community input sessions.

10. Topics for Work Session

Dr. McDaris reviewed the proposed topics for the board's upcoming work session/planning retreat. Topics include FY18 budget, master facilities plan, capital and technology, social media update, student growth by quartile, and high school scheduling. Two additional topics were suggested, strategic plan and sprit initiative. Dr. McDaris reported that any topics not covered at the work session would be forwarded to future business agendas. The work session will be held on February 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center.

11. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- High school graduation dates for 2017 have been set. Dr. McDaris remarked that scheduling this year was challenging due to the state's testing window and North Carolina calendar law. Davidson River School will hold its graduation ceremony on Friday, June 9, at 10:30 a.m. on the school lawn. Brevard High School's graduation will be Friday, June 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the Brevard Music Center. Rosman High School's graduation will be Saturday, June 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the Music Center.

- Dr. McDaris is part of a state superintendent's group working on the new framework for schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a piece of federal legislation that give schools funding and some flexibility in how their systems are run and held accountable. Under North Carolina's current accountability system, public schools are graded on an A-F scale, which does not match ESSA's requirements. The new accountability model and plan must be submitted by September 18, 2017.
- The state is looking at forming a task force to study changing the funding formula for education. Draft legislation to create the task force has been written, but not yet approved. Lawmakers may take up changes to the funding formula independent of the task force legislation.
- Dr. McDaris has been asked to share information on Transylvania County Schools' Virtual Day initiative with the Department of Public Instruction. DPI seems to be very interested in the Virtual Days concept and positive outcomes.
- The non-partisan group BEST NC reports that two-thirds of young children in NC living in households below 200% of the federal poverty level are not enrolled in any type of preschool program. That is an increase since 2009. We applaud local efforts to find ways to address this issue, as schools are being held increasingly accountable at the same time students are less prepared entering kindergarten.
- The school system has received a request from a school in Buncombe County that is interested in having the Davidson River School Taiko group perform.
- Several of our schools are looking at themes. T.C. Henderson has established itself as a Magnet School of Science and Technology. Brevard Elementary is an A+ School for the arts. Rosman Elementary, Pisgah Forest, and Brevard Middle are exploring the "Leader in Me" program, and Pisgah Forest is also looking at Mountain Roots, an experiential outdoor education program.

12. Important Dates

Dr. McDaris reported that the board will resume its twice-a-month meeting schedule in February. Regular 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. 23-24	NCSBA "School Board 101," Raleigh
Jan. 23	Teacher workday (no students)
Jan. 24	Second semester begins
Jan. 30-Feb. 2	TCS District Science Fair, Rogow Room
Feb. 6	PLANNING WORK SESSION, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 15	Early dismissal (students), 12:00 p.m.
Feb. 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 6	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar 15	Early dismissal (students), 12:00 p.m.
Mar. 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 24-27	Teacher workdays (no students)

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Other Items

Chairman McCoy asked Dr. McDaris to draft a resolution asking the General Assembly to return control of school calendars to local boards of education.

Mr. Kiviniemi reported that House Bill 13 was a big topic of discussion at the NCSBA board of directors meeting. Last year, legislators attempted to reduce K-3 class size ratios by placing stringent guidelines on funding allocations for school districts effective with the 2017-2018 year. What legislators did not realize was that the legislation would effectively eliminate school districts' funding flexibility, which could lead to cuts in art, music, and PE teaching positions, and possibly a funding hole that would have to be filled by local dollars. House Bill 13 has been introduced as a partial "fix" to the original legislation.

Mr. Kiviniemi reported that he plans to bring a motion at the February 20 meeting regarding school board member compensation. He distributed a chart showing a comparison of statutory responsibilities, numbers of employees, total budgets supervised, training required, number of meetings, and compensation levels for the board of education and the board of commissioners. The comparison shows monthly compensation for school board members ranges from \$250 (chair) to \$200 (member). Monthly compensation for commissioners ranges from \$917 (chair) to \$768 (member).

15. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board went into closed session at 8:08 p.m. to consult with the board attorney concerning *Bertie County Board of Education v. Janet Cowell, et al* (15 CVS 13881, Wake County) and *Shuler v. Hipps v. Castaldo* (15 CVS 153, Transylvania County), pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3). Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. McGaha, Mrs. Wellborn, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Donnahoo. The board discussed legal issues potentially affecting school boards locally and across the state. No action was taken in the closed session. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board reconvened in open session at 9:13 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
January 17, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Chrystal Allender, After School Worker, BES, effective January 17, 2017

Albert Evans, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective January 18, 2017

Jesse Smith, Custodian, RHS, effective January 11, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Kyla Anders, Custodian & Bus Driver, BHS, effective December 12, 2016

Nancy MacDonald, School Health Assistant, BMS, effective January 24, 2017

Bruce Riddle, Maintenance Technician, Plant Operations, effective February 1, 2017

Nancy Tuttle, After School Worker, BES, effective January 18, 2017

- 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

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Steve Chriss

Andrew Farmer

Alan Folk

Leah Wagner

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None