

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
October 15, 2018**

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. Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan
7. Flood Insurance Quote
8. Memorandum of Understanding with Brevard Band Association
9. Bond Update
10. Request to Name School Facility
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Important Dates
13. NCSBA Voting Delegates 2018
14. Public Comment
15. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on October 15, 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 10 guests, the following board members, staff, and others were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Marty Griffin
Betty Scruggs McGaha
Alice Wellborn

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Senior Director for Human Resources
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
Josh Tinsley, TCAE President
Diamond Wright, School Resource Officer

MEDIA:

John Lanier, *Transylvania Times*

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the agenda for October 15, 2018 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
None
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

25-YEAR RECOGNITIONS

Each year the board recognizes the school system employees who have achieved 25 years of service with the Transylvania County Schools. The board presented 25-year pins to the honorees listed below:

Fran Hughes, Teacher, T. C. Henderson School of Science & Technology
 Sarah Kevitt, Technology Specialist, Morris Education Center
 Lisa Kimzey, Employee Benefits Coordinator/Bookkeeper, Morris Education Center
 Annette Merrill, Teacher, Brevard Elementary School
 Sean Parrish, Teacher, Brevard High School
 Paul Raines, Bus Driver, Brevard Elementary School

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week is November 12-16, 2018. With the theme, "*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*," American Education Week is a time to celebrate public education and honor the individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. Each year the board recognizes the observance by adopting a proclamation designating American Education Week in Transylvania County. In addition, all current and retired school system employees are invited to a free Thanksgiving lunch as guests of the board on a designated day in November. This year's Thanksgiving lunch will be held on Thursday, November 15 in all school cafeterias. The Transylvania County Retired School Personnel will also hold their fall meeting on that day in the PFES media center. Chairman McCoy read the proclamation aloud, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the American Education Week proclamation for 2018 was unanimously approved (see attached).

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

The week of October 15-19, 2018 is National School Lunch Week. This year's theme, "*School Lunch: Lots 2 Love*," was designed to help students and school nutrition professionals share what each loves most about school lunch. Created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, the National School Lunch Program serves more than 30 million children every school day. We give a big thank you to the Transylvania County School Nutrition Staff for all they do to provide delicious and healthy meals every day.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

The National Association of Secondary Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) have declared October 2018 as National Principals Month. The North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals Association (NCPAPA) supports this effort and recognizes all NC principals for the essential role they play in leading schools in this state. Principals are among the hardest working, yet often least recognized individuals in education. They set the academic tone for their schools and provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success. The board joins everyone in saying "thank you" to our own outstanding principals:

Carrie Norris, Brevard Elementary School
 Dr. Bryan Abernethy, Brevard High School
 Jeff Bailey, Brevard Middle School
 Donna Wilde (on leave) & Barbara Grimm (interim), Davidson River School
 Tonya Treadway, Pisgah Forest Elementary School
 Bob Dinsdale, Rosman Elementary School
 Jason Ormsby, Rosman High School
 Scott Strickler, Rosman Middle School
 Audrey Reneau, T. C. Henderson School of Science & Technology

CTE TRUCK

Thanks to a generous donation by Frank and Donna Patton, along with local and state CTE funds, the Transylvania County Schools Career & Technical Education program was able to purchase a new 2019 Ford F250 truck. This purchase will allow CTE teachers and students to attend events, camps, workshops and animal shows without having to use their personal vehicles. Many thanks to the Pattons for helping to make this long-time goal a reality.

TCSEF CREATIVE CLASSROOM GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020

The Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation has again set aside \$18,000 for creative classroom grants to TCS teachers. The grants are part of over \$25,000 that the Foundation makes available to enrich classrooms, send students to *Close Up Washington*, provide scholarships for alumni, and support teacher leadership initiatives. We appreciate very much TCSEF's fundraising efforts with the annual *Taste of Transylvania* and the work of the Grants Committee, which evaluates upwards of 50 proposals each year. Proposals for the 2019-2020 grants are due Thursday, October 25, at 4 p.m. Directions and forms are available online at <http://www.tcsef.org/grants/grant-application/>. Grant recipients have up to 18 months from the date awarded to use the grant money.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Thirteen teacher leaders from Transylvania County Schools recently participated in a four-day Teacher Leadership Institute at the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. As a result of a partnership with NCCAT, Polk County Schools, and Transylvania County Schools, and with a generous grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, teachers from both high-performing school districts were able to immerse themselves in the study and discussion of leadership principles, personal leadership traits, teacher leadership in schools, group dynamics, and other critical aspects of leadership, including a focus on Professional Learning Communities. Participants developed action plans for utilizing their own leadership abilities. This leadership experience continues with the TCS Teacher Leadership Academy, a new program for Transylvania County Schools launched this year, which will include this group who attended the NCCAT experience as well as other teachers in the school system who wish to grow as leaders.

BHS JUNIOR WINS NATIONAL WATER CONSERVATION AWARD

On September 21 in Redding, California, Brevard High School student Zoë Mihalas received the Trout Unlimited National Award for Distinguished Service in Youth Education. The Trout Unlimited (TU) award recognizes the fundamental importance of creating a new generation of conservationists in a manner that sustains TU's conservation legacy. The award honors individuals who demonstrate exemplary leadership and a deep passion for inspiring young people to become thoughtful, responsible stewards of North America's cold water fisheries.

GRANT AWARDS

Technology Director Chris Whitlock reports that Transylvania County Schools has received \$17,245 in grant funds from DPI to install security cameras in all four elementary schools. Some local funds will be needed, but the grant will fund approximately two-thirds of the project. In addition, CTE Director Arleca Chapman reports that TCS has received a six-year, renewable grant for \$50,000 per year to fund an additional Career Development Coordinator (CDC) position. The new CDC will work with the middle school and help facilitate business partnerships.

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

Mr. Griffin reported that the NCSBA legislative committee had recently asked board members statewide to respond to a survey on legislative issues. Our board was one of the few whose members all completed the survey. Mr. Griffin thanked everyone for doing their part to help set the legislative agenda for next year.

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 MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the minutes of the September 10 and September 17, 2018 meetings and the personnel report for October 15, 2018 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan**

Dr. Brian Weaver reported that recent changes in State Board of Education policy TCED-016 require changes in the local Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) plan. The changes include program standards and more specific mentor selection requirements. Dr. Weaver presented the revised BTSP plan and answered questions from the board. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the revised Beginning Teacher Support Program plan for Transylvania County Schools was unanimously approved.

7. **Flood Insurance Quote**

Norris Barger reported that federal insurance raters have changed the designation for the maintenance shop and bus garage property, making it now uninsurable for floods. The buildings themselves are in the 500-year floodplain. Mr. Barger presented a quote for \$11,104 for flood insurance (which would be in addition to the \$62,655 for the regular insurance) and requested direction from the board regarding whether or not to purchase. He reported that the flood insurance would cover up to \$500,000 for the building and \$150,000 in contents, or about one-sixth of the building's \$3.3 million value. Board members discussed the matter and agreed that the flood insurance would be an unnecessary expense in an already constrained budget and would also give insufficient coverage considering the building's value. ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board voted unanimously not to purchase flood insurance for the maintenance shop and bus garage property at this time.

8. **Memorandum of Understanding with Brevard Band Association**

On June 4, the board approved a proposal for the Brevard Band Association to build a storage facility on the BHS band practice field and authorized the execution of a memorandum of understanding for the terms of the agreement. Mr. Donnahoo has prepared an MOU which was presented for approval. Mr. Barger reported that BHS teacher Thad Sanders will serve as the general contractor for the project and a request for a variance will be on the City's Planning Committee agenda in November. Jim Leatherwood reported that thanks to donations from the Pattons and others, all of the necessary funds for the project have been raised. He expressed thanks to Toby Hutchins for donating the stone for this and many other projects. Board members thanked Mr. Leatherwood for all of his work on the project. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Memorandum of Understanding between

the Transylvania County Board of Education and the Brevard Band Association for the construction of a band storage facility at BHS was unanimously approved as amended to reflect the new dollar amount of \$62,617.29.

9. **Bond Update**

Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that an initiative will be on the local ballot on November 6 for \$68 million in general obligation bonds to pay for capital improvements at Brevard High School, Rosman High School, and Rosman Middle School. On September 24 and October 1, the board held meetings at Brevard High School and Rosman High School to obtain community feedback on the conceptual plans for the projects. Everyone is encouraged to visit www.tcsnc.org/bond for more information about the bond and the proposed school construction/renovation projects.

In September, the board submitted applications for *Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund* grants for BHS and RHS-RMS. The NC General Assembly had provided these funds to assist qualifying counties with their critical public school building capital needs. The Brevard High School campus request was \$10,000,000 with a projected match of \$12,095,967. The Rosman High School-Rosman Middle School campus request was \$9,256,829 with the equivalent projected match. We recently received word that although our application was strong, other counties with more critical, immediate needs received the awards for 2018-2019. Nineteen counties submitted applications for projects in excess of \$245.7 million, illustrating the scope of needs statewide. We were encouraged to resubmit an application next year, when additional funding may be available.

10. **Request to Name School Facility**

Dr. McDaris reported that he had received a request from Rosman High School for the board to consider naming the RHS press box in honor of Bill Ragland. Policy 9300, Naming Facilities, states that facilities may be named for a person, or family, associated with the school, school system, or community provided that the individual or family has a prominent relationship with the school system with a positive image and demonstrated integrity. Dr. McDaris reported that Mr. Ragland had served as the football announcer at RHS from 1973-2016, served with distinction on a number of local and state boards, and achieved numerous professional and civic awards and recognitions. He strongly recommended that the board approve the request. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously approved the request to name the Rosman High School press box in honor of Mr. William "Bill" Ragland.

11. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- In a look at the expanding urban-rural divide, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that South Carolina's workforce development office ran into a problem earlier this year when big businesses wanted to hire workers at their facilities in a region outside Columbia, but residents looking for jobs couldn't find a way to get there. It took a coordinated action by state, county and regional transit officials along with several businesses to set up a new bus route that ran several times daily.
- Digital literacy and cybersecurity are increasingly important. In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, a water utility company in Onslow County was targeted by cyber criminals, leaving the utility with limited computer capabilities. Officials believe the hackers specifically targeted a local government that had recently been ransacked by a natural disaster. Our JROTC instructors are expanding their great work with

students in the field of cybersecurity through competitions including both cadet and non-cadet teams.

- A report from the *Washington Post* details research into what many of us have long known. Using a new, genome-based measure, economists found genetic endowments are distributed almost equally among children in low-income and high-income families. Success, however, is not. There are no substantial genetic differences between people who are born into wealthy households and those born into poverty, but kids who do not have the family resources, even the bright kids, are going to face uphill battles. Those with resources from wealthier parents graduate college at a much higher percentage in addition to being able to go to the college of their choice more often. They are not often smarter as some believe. As educators, we know this to be true and understand why public education is critical to a nation's success.

12. Important Dates

Oct. 17-19	NCSBA Fall Law Conference, Renaissance Asheville Hotel
Oct. 25-26	Teacher workdays
Nov. 6	Election Day
Nov. 9	Early dismissal students, 12:00 noon
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day holiday
Nov. 12-14	NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development, Greensboro
Nov. 25	Annual Thanksgiving lunch for TCS staff and retirees
Nov. 19	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Nov. 21	Annual leave day - no students
Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving holidays

13. NCSBA Voting Delegates

The North Carolina School Boards Association 49th Annual Conference for Board Member Development will be held on November 12-14 in Greensboro. Each local board must certify the members that will serve as voting delegates at the conference and send the names to NCSBA by October 19. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the board appointed Ron Kiviniemi and Marty Griffin to represent the board on all voting matters at the 2018 NCSBA Annual Conference.

14. Public Comment

None

15. Other Items

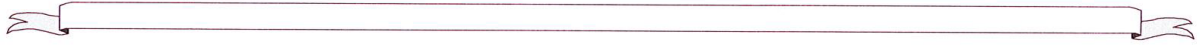
Chairman McCoy thanked her fellow board members for their work speaking and presenting to dozens of local groups and organizations about the bond.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary



American Education Week

Proclamation

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they will need to maintain our nation’s precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees in every role work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

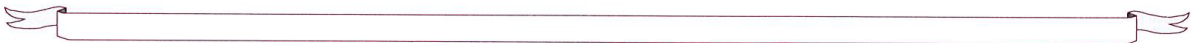
WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Tawny McCoy, serving as Chairman of the Transylvania County Board of Education, do hereby proclaim November 12-16, 2018 as **AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK** in Transylvania County.

Signed this 15th day of October 2018.


Chairman



**PERSONNEL REPORT
October 15, 2018**

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

Licensed Personnel

Jessica Rhodes, Teacher, BES, effective November 5, 2018

Classified Personnel

Tenesha Abernethy, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective September 25, 2018

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Patricia Smith, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective October 17, 2018

William "Mack" Stanley, Custodian & Bus Driver, BHS, effective October 8, 2018

- 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

Tenesha Abernethy

Julie Hardison

Curly Huggins

Sarah Hughes

James McNider

Hannah Sanders

Michael Terry

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Sherry Edington

Sara Ervin

Elizabeth Essenberg

Derrick Method

Kimberly Muniz

Kristen Sheffield