

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
October 16, 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. Request for Authorization of School Trip
7. Instructional Update
8. Policy:
  - A. 4000 Series Parts B & C (Students)
  - B. Policy 2670, Business Advisory Council
9. Calendar Waiver Request for 2018-2019
10. Bond Update
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Important Dates
13. Reports from Board Training Events
14. Public Comment
15. Other Items
16. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on October 16, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. Ron Kiviniemi 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 15 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

**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 Resource  
Leca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education  
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator  
Joe Russo, TCAE President  
Scott Thomas, School Resource Officer

**MEDIA:** John Lanier, Transylvania Times

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for October 16, 2017 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**  
None

### 3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

#### *25-YEAR RECOGNITIONS*

The following employees have achieved 25 years of service with the Transylvania County Schools. Dr. McDaris and the board members gave congratulations and 25-year pins to the individuals listed below:

Linda Daves, Bus Driver, Brevard High School  
Rene Gray, Cafeteria Manager, Brevard High School  
Rosa Lance, Bus Driver, Rosman Elementary School  
Cynthia Waters, School Nutrition Worker, Brevard Middle School  
Missy West, Teacher, Rosman Middle School

#### *PFES SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*

Over the summer, three students from the Brevard High School Art Guild created a beautiful wall mural for the students and staff at Pisgah Forest Elementary School. Julia Lusk, Josie Seymour, and Gelena Cortez donated nearly 300 hours of design work and painting to help brighten up the interior of the school. Principal Tonya Treadway and Assistant Principal Missy West presented certificates of appreciation and gift cards to the three artists for their outstanding work.

#### *AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK*

American Education Week is November 13-17, 2017. 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. 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 16. The Transylvania County Retired School Personnel will also hold their fall meeting on that day at Brevard Elementary School. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously adopted a proclamation declaring the week of November 13-17, 2017 as American Education Week in Transylvania County (see attached).

#### *NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK*

The week of October 9-13, 2017, was National School Lunch Week. Created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, the National School Lunch Program serves more than 30 million children every school day. During the annual celebration, School Nutrition departments and students across the nation celebrate with decorations, special menus, events, and more. A big thank you goes to the Transylvania County School Nutrition Staff for all they do to serve delicious and healthy meals to students and staff 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 2017 as National Principals Month. The North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals Association (NCPAPA) leads the way in recognizing principals for the essential role they play in leading schools across the 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. Please join us in saying “thank you” to our own outstanding school leaders:

April Gaydosh, Brevard Elementary School  
 Dr. Bryan Abernethy, Brevard High School  
 Jeff Bailey, Brevard Middle School  
 Donna Wilde, Davidson River School  
 Tonya Treadway, Pisgah Forest Elementary School  
 Scott Strickler, Rosman Elementary School  
 Jason Ormsby, Rosman High School  
 Greg Carter, Rosman Middle School  
 Audrey Reneau, T. C. Henderson School of Science & Technology

*ROSMAN HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED BY NCHSAA*

The North Carolina High School Association recently honored Rosman High School with a certificate of achievement for the school’s continuous display of exemplary sportsmanship, teamwork, and integrity in remaining ejection-free for five consecutive school years (2012-2013 through 2016-2017). Rosman High was the only school in Region 8 to achieve this honor.

*TCSEF MINI-GRANT APPLICATIONS*

The Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation has again made \$18,000 available for grants to TCS teachers, out of nearly \$23,000 given to classrooms and alumni. We appreciate very much their 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 2018-2019 mini-grants are due October 23, 2017 at 4 p.m., and the application is 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.

*WESTERN REGION SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR*

Congratulations to Beth Branagan for being named as the 2017 Western Regional School Worker of the Year by the North Carolina School Social Work Association in recognition of all that she does to support the students, families, and staff in Transylvania County Schools. As regional winner, Ms. Branagan will move on to compete for the Gary L. Shaffer School Social Worker of the Year award for the state.

**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. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the minutes of the September 18, 2017 meeting and the personnel report for October 16, 2017 (attached) were unanimously approved.

**6. Request for Authorization of School Trip**

Dr. McDaris reported that Brevard High School would like to send 12 students on a trip to Denmark during spring break 2018 as part of its ongoing and successful international student exchange program with a high school in Hobro. Dr. McDaris reported that he had met with BHS teacher Sara Plum to review trip details and recommended that the board approve the trip. Teachers from the BHS Demark Exchange Committee shared

the travel itinerary and Candice Burchill addressed questions from the board. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously approved the superintendent’s recommendation for the 2018 student exchange trip to Denmark.

**7. Instructional Update**

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs gave a presentation on student achievement data for the 2016-2017 year. He reviewed overall proficiency and growth, explained growth numbers, and discussed individual school performance metrics and strategies for improvement.

**8. Policy**

Brian Weaver presented for action the 16 new policies and 13 old policies that were reviewed as first-read information in September. He reported there had been no changes to the policies. There were no questions, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board unanimously adopted the 16 new policies from the 4000 Series and rescinded 13 old policies as indicated below.

| 4000 Series (Parts B and C):<br>Students |                                                                         |                                       |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ADOPTED                                  |                                                                         | RESCINDED                             |                                                                                        |
| 4307                                     | Disciplinary Action for Exceptional Children/Students with Disabilities |                                       |                                                                                        |
| 4310                                     | Integrity and Civility                                                  |                                       |                                                                                        |
| 4315                                     | Disruptive Behavior                                                     | JFC;<br>JFCK                          | Student Conduct/Discipline;<br>Student Public Displays of Affection                    |
| 4330                                     | Theft, Trespass, and Damage to Property                                 | JFC                                   | Student Conduct/Discipline                                                             |
| 4331                                     | Assaults, Threats, and Harassment                                       | JFC;<br>GBEAA;<br>GBEAA-R;<br>GBEAA-E | Student Conduct/Discipline;<br>Staff Protection; Staff Protection;<br>Staff Protection |
| 4333                                     | Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety   | JGDC                                  | Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety                  |
| 4335                                     | Criminal Behavior                                                       | JFCA                                  | Criminal Behavior                                                                      |
| 4340                                     | School-Level Investigations                                             |                                       |                                                                                        |
| 4341                                     | Parental Involvement in Student Behavior Issues                         | JFDB                                  | Parental Involvement in Student Behavior Issues                                        |
| 4345                                     | Student Discipline Records                                              | JP                                    | Student Discipline Records                                                             |
| 4351                                     | Short-Term Suspension                                                   | JGD                                   | Short-Term Suspension                                                                  |
| 4352                                     | Removal of Student During the Day                                       |                                       |                                                                                        |
| 4353                                     | Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion                     | JGDA                                  | Long-Term Suspension; 365-Day Suspension, and Expulsion                                |
| 4362                                     | Requests for Readmission of Students Suspended for 365 Days or Expelled | JGDD                                  | Requests for Readmission of Students Suspended for 365 Days or Expelled                |
| 4370                                     | Student Discipline Hearing Procedures                                   | JFA                                   | Student Hearing Discipline Procedures                                                  |
| 4600                                     | Student Fees                                                            |                                       |                                                                                        |

Mr. Weaver presented new policy 2670, Business Advisory Council, from the Fall 2017 PLS updates, as first-read information. He reported that the policy was developed to comply with a new statutory requirement for local boards to create a business advisory

council to assist in providing CTE programming. Boards must make the initial appointments of members to the council for terms beginning January 1, 2018. Dr. McDaris reported that the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board (MAWDB) is going to serve in this capacity for the Buncombe and Henderson County school boards, and recommended that the board consider utilizing the MAWDB as well. There was some discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board accepted policy 2670 as first-read information. Chairman McCoy recommended the board make sure it is meeting the specific requirements of the policy before adoption in November.

9. **Calendar Waiver Request 2018-2019**

Dr. McDaris reported that Transylvania County Schools is eligible to apply for an LEA-based calendar waiver for the 2018-2019 school year. If the waiver is approved, the opening date of school could be one week earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 as currently required by state calendar law. ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the calendar waiver request for the 2018-2019 school year was approved.

10. **Bond Update**

The board agreed to postpone a discussion on bond until the work session that is scheduled for 6:30 a.m. on October 17.

11. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris gave the following reports:

- Dr. McDaris and BMS assistant principal Jennifer Bost recently participated in a webinar for a research-based platform for formative assessment and skills development in middle school mathematics (ASSISTments). Students would complete homework on their devices (with or without internet) and receive immediate feedback, hints, and guided practice. Teachers would assign homework online using existing textbooks and receive diagnostic reports to facilitate review and adapt instruction accordingly. The groups leading the initiative are hoping to partner with a number of middle schools in NC who have 1:1 capability. Past results in another state where this was housed indicates schools using the ASSISTments saw almost twice the expected growth on results. The benefits were particularly strong for students with low prior math scores. The program is free.
- Former board member Cindy Petit's father-in-law, Charles Petit, has passed away. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Transylvania County Schools JROTC program.
- Discussions are underway with the NC School of Science and Math about some possible AP and computer science partnerships.
- The K-3 class size issue is still problematic, with many questions about how PE and other specials classes will be counted in terms of class size ratios and caps. Work on this matter continues.

12. **Important Dates**

|            |                                          |
|------------|------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 17    | WORK SESSION, 6:30 a.m., MEC             |
| Oct. 18    | Early dismissal for students, 12:00 p.m. |
| Oct. 26    | Makeup day for Sept. 12                  |
| Oct. 27    | Teacher workday                          |
| Nov. 10    | Veterans Day holiday                     |
| Nov. 13-15 | NCSBA Annual Conference, Greensboro      |

Nov. 16 Annual Thanksgiving dinner for TCS staff and retirees  
 Nov. 20 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  
 Nov. 22 Annual leave day  
 Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving holidays  
 Dec. 18 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  
 Dec. 20 Early dismissal for students, 12:00 p.m.  
 Dec. 21-Jan. 2 Christmas break

**13. Reports from Board Training Events**

On September 28, the board and superintendent attended the NCSBA District 8 Meeting in Asheville. On October 11-13, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. McGaha, and Mrs. Wellborn attended the NCSBA Fall Law Conference in Asheville. Mrs. Scruggs reported that the law conference covered a range of topics, one of which was the opioid epidemic. She reported that between 2012 and 2016, there has been a 40% increase in the number of children placed into foster care due to parental opioid abuse. It is important for schools to know the signs and how to report suspected use and neglect. Mr. Griffin and Mr. Kiviniemi gave updates on topics from the district meeting including rural school designations, regional school bond construction, and school safety.

**14. Public Comment**

None

**15. Other Items**

Mr. Griffin commended students from Brevard High School and Rosman High School for their support at the funeral for TCS teacher Leesa Anderson.

**16. Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board went into closed session at 8:32 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-319 and 143-318.11(a)(1). Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. McGaha, Mrs. Wellborn, Mr. Donnahoo, Dr. McDaris and Mr. Weaver. Following discussion, ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board voted unanimously to uphold the recommendation of the superintendent. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board reconvened in open session at 8:48 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

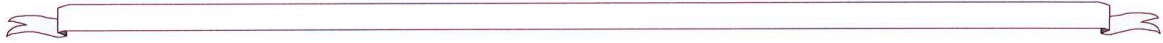
Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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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

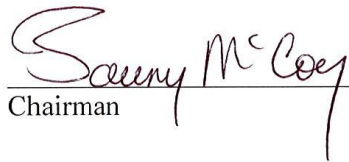
**WHEREAS**, education employees in every role work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

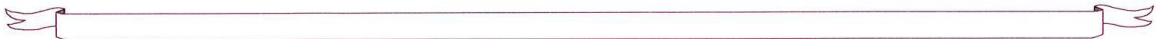
**WHEREAS**, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

I, Tawny McCoy, serving as Chairman of the Transylvania County Board of Education, do hereby proclaim November 13-17, 2017 as **AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK** in Transylvania County.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.

  
Chairman



**PERSONNEL REPORT  
October 16, 2017**

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

Licensed Personnel

Jessica Gorman, Teacher, PFES, effective October 26, 2017  
Laurie Klein, Interim Teacher, TCHES, effective October 13, 2017  
Jessica Williams, Teacher, RHS, effective October 27, 2017

Classified Personnel

Julie Nicole Bayne, Part-Time After School Program Worker, PFES, effective September 27, 2017  
April Chandler, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective October 20, 2017  
Phyllis Norman, Custodian, PFES, effective December 31, 2017  
Bill Sack, Bus Driver, TCS, effective October 5, 2017  
Kaylyn Whitmire, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective October 13, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Brittney, Becker, Teacher, PFES, effective November 16, 2017  
Christy Bryson, Teacher, RMS, effective October 23, 2017  
Margaret Buchanan, Interim Teacher, BMS, effective October 18, 2017  
Loretta Childress, Teacher, TCHES, effective October 23, 2017  
Rebecca Kiel, Teacher, RHS, effective October 27, 2017

Classified Personnel

Amanda Jones, School Health Assistant, BES, effective October 2, 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

Bethany Green

Sara Green

Donna McCulloch

Candace Petit

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None