

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
November 2, 2020**

Call to Order/Welcome

Topics for Discussion:

1. MyFutureNC
  2. North Carolina High School Athletic Association
- Adjourn

The Transylvania County Board of Education held a work session at 6:30 p.m. on November 2, 2020 at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the work session was to receive an update on (1) MyFutureNC and (2) the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. In accordance with the remote meetings statute from the General Assembly and the Governor's guidelines, the meeting was conducted remotely and public access was not permitted. The meeting was livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/tcsnc>. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The following individuals were in attendance (\* indicates remote attendance). Social distancing was observed for in-person attendees.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Tawny McCoy, Chair  
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair  
Courtney Domokur  
Marty Griffin  
Alice Wellborn

**STAFF:**

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent\*  
Carrie Norris, Director, K-8 Curriculum/Instruction\*  
Missy Ellenberger, Director, 9-12 Curriculum/Instruction\*  
Alan Justice, Director, Transportation, Athletics, Safety\*  
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator\*  
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services  
Stephen Shields, Technology Specialist  
Scott Thomas, School Resource Officer

**MEDIA:**

John Lanier, Transylvania Times\*

**MYFUTURENC**

Dr. McDaris gave a review of the MyFutureNC initiative and discussed its impact on the district strategic plan for Transylvania County Schools. The goal of MyFutureNC is to close the educational attainment gap in North Carolina by ensuring that two-million North Carolinians have a high-quality credential or a postsecondary degree by the year 2030. Dr. McDaris reported that North Carolina currently has a "leaking pipeline":

- For every 100 students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in NC schools, 13% will not graduate from high school in 4 years.
- 15% will graduate from high schools, but have no intention of enrolling in a post-secondary institution.
- Of the remaining 72% who 'intend' to enroll in a postsecondary institution, 19% will not enroll immediately. 12% who do enroll will not return for year two.
- 11% of students who return for year two won't graduate with a 2- or 4-year degree within 6 years of their high school graduation.
- The remaining 30% will graduate from high school and complete a 2- or 4-year degree over the six years after high school graduation---*only 30 out of 100*.
- Some of the remaining 70 will eventually earn a high-quality degree or credential, but the majority will not.

Additionally:

- Less than half of North Carolinians ages 25-44 complete higher education.
- 25% of 4-year college students do not complete their degree.
- 67% of 2-year college students do not complete their degree.

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of jobs in NC are projected to require a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential in 2020. Currently 49% of North Carolinians ages 25-44 have completed that level of education. By 2030, a shortfall of 400,000 workers with the required education/credentials is projected. Dr. McDaris presented a 'dashboard' overview for Transylvania County Schools that identifies what is needed to meet state goals:

Pre-K to Grade 8:

- 18 more eligible 4-year olds enrolled in NC Pre-K
- 334 more 3-8 graders earning level 4/5 on Reading CCR scores
- 661 more 3-8 graders earning level 4/5 on Math CCR scores

College and Career Readiness:

- 31 more 9<sup>th</sup> graders to graduate within four years (goal is 95% vs. 85%)
- 51 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) (goal is 80% vs. 60%)
- 202 more students to attend school regularly (goal is 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 17%)

Transylvania County does better in postsecondary access and success as compared to peer counties. Transylvania County Schools graduates:

- Enroll in postsecondary institutions at a higher rate than peer counties;
- Persist into their second year at a higher rate than peer counties;
- Earn degrees/credentials within 6 years at a higher rate;
- Take at least one AP course at a higher rate than peer counties; and
- Earn more CTE concentrations per capita than Henderson County.

Compared to rural non-metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for growth in attainment outcomes:

- Increase CCP enrollment. Fewer TCS high school students (18%) participated in the Career & College Program, below the rural non-metro average of 22%.
- Increase employment of disconnected youth. 12% of Transylvania County youth ages 16-19 are not working and not in school, above the rural non-metro average of 9%.
- Increase number of school counselors. Transylvania has a student to school counselor ratio of 368:1, above the rural non-metro average of 338:1.

Carrie Norris and Missy Ellenberger reviewed the efforts underway to increase the level of 4/5 numbers for grades 6-8 in Reading and Math and to increase the four-year graduation rate. A focus on phonics was discussed for elementary learners. Mrs. Wellborn stated that while phonics is effective, an over-reliance on phonics can take away the joy and fun of reading for some students.

Dr. McDaris discussed some economic factors to keep in mind:

- Transylvania County's child poverty rate is higher than Henderson, Buncombe, and the state average.

- Transylvania has a lower household median income than Henderson, Buncombe, and NC.
- Transylvania has lower weekly wages than Henderson and Buncombe.

Mrs. Wellborn spoke about the need for another Pre-K classroom if space could be found. She also discussed the need for more school counselors. Some high school students have reported a lack of access to high school counselors for social-emotional health issues because the counselors are so busy doing things on the college/career side. Counselors are overwhelmed.

Dr. McDaris outlined other considerations for the future:

- Additional graduation requirements (i.e., computer science; community college courses on workplace skills / college readiness)
- Revisit some existing initiatives
- Increase social-emotional/healthy resources and initiatives
- Increase ESL resources and initiatives.

Mrs. Wellborn remarked that struggling learners often drop out because they do not read very well. Extra reading help is available at the elementary level. She would like to see reading help become available for middle and high school students as well. She also suggested a possible partnership with the county library to help parents with FAFSA and take some of the pressure off counselors.

### NCHSAA

Dr. McDaris gave an update on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA). Brevard High School is in the Mountain Six Conference (2A classification). Rosman High School is in the Smoky Mountain Conference (1A classification). Dr. McDaris gave a comparison of the distance each school has to travel to away games. Rosman's one-way travel ranges from 96.1 miles (to Murphy) to 66.5 miles (to Cherokee). Many RHS teams have to leave school at lunchtime to reach away games.

Realignment takes place every four years. This is a realignment year. A regular draft and an alternative draft have been developed by NCHSAA and are posted on the NCHSAA website. This gives the membership two drafts to study in preparation for the January realignment regional meetings. Dr. McDaris stated there is a potential to have a different process than what we have now.

Board members discussed how sports revenue is distributed to NCHSAAA. Dr. McDaris stated that the organization is figuring revenue distribution in a more open, equitable way. Gate receipts are critically important for survival of the programs. Mr. Griffin stated that regular season revenues mostly stay with the schools and about 75% of playoff revenues go to NCHSAA. These monies are reinvested into programs that are designed to help school systems (i.e., certified athletic trainers).

Mr. Griffin expressed confidence in Que Tucker, Executive Director of NCHSAA. He reported there is always conflict between piedmont, coastal, and mountain systems during realignment. He noted that individual systems typically do not have a great deal of input into the realignment decisions.

Alan Justice reported that this realignment draft will look at poverty rates, socioeconomic factors and other considerations that may have not been factored in before. There was some discussion about how the voting may go.

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There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. DOMOKUR, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the work session was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary