

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
November 6, 2023**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

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
 - C. Non-Faculty Coaches
6. Policy: S.L. 2023-106 Special Updates
7. Facilities
8. Update on Capital Reserve Study
9. Important Dates
10. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on November 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Chris Wiener led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She reported that Mr. O'Neill was absent due to illness. In addition to approximately 50 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Kimsey Jackson, Vice Chair
Tanya Dalton
Chris Wiener

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Kris Caudle, Campbell Shatley

STAFF:

Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent/HR
Missy Ellenberger, Director, 9-12 Education
Kerry Putnam, Director, CTE & Facilities
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Jayson Rogers, School Resource Officer

MEDIA:

Nick Haseloff, Transylvania Times
Dan DeWitt, Brevard NewsBeat

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting agenda for November 6, 2023 was unanimously approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Board policy stipulates that the public comment session will not exceed 30 minutes except by majority vote of the board. Due to the number of speakers who had signed up, CHAIRMAN MCCOY MADE A MOTION to change the allotted time from 3 minutes to 2 minutes per speaker. MR. JACKSON SECONDED, and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman McCoy reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Jane Mallwitz – I would like to thank each of you for your hard work on behalf of children of Transylvania County. The children are our future and as adults, it is our duty to stand up for

them, protect their innocence, and let them be children. It is not new that children have been targets to promote a political agenda. In Nazi Germany, education came under heavy control by the state and Hitler believed the youth could be indoctrinated to support the Reich. In Mao's cultural revolution, Mao mobilized the country's youth. Socialist discourses of the Cold War era often embraced the vision of children as revolution warriors and encouraged playing an active part in the fight for social justice. And now there is an active front to sexualize children. There is a push to indoctrinate children through sexualization and identity confusion. There is a move to groom children. The definition of grooming is to desensitize children to sexual topics, expose children and normalize sexual behavior, and break down a child's natural boundaries so they are more vulnerable to sexual abuse. I urge anyone that does not think this is an issue to speak to a child that has been a victim of sexualization. There is a reason parents are called guardians. We are the ones that watch over and protect them. As a parent, we have a responsibility and duty to protect and stand for our most vulnerable, our children. The sexualization of children has no place in our schools. I applaud you tonight as you move to approve the seven bill of rights policies.

Robin Huckeba – The legislation of the Parents' Bill of Rights represents a significant step forward in empowering parents and safeguarding the fundamental rights of families. It reaffirms the principle that parents are the primary decision-makers when it comes to their children's education, health care, and overall well-being. While teachers and school staff play a crucial role, they come and go from year to year, whereas parents have a long-term responsibility to nurture, protect and direct the education of their children. This legislation accomplishes things. It ensures that parents have the right to be fully informed and engaged in their children's education. It upholds the privacy and security of families, reinforcing parents' authority over their children's medical decisions. It respects the diversity of opinions within our community while protecting the rights of all parents, regardless of backgrounds or beliefs. One suggestion for improvement in this bill would be to extend the prohibition on instruction regarding gender identity, sexual activity, and sexuality to the end of elementary school which is fifth grade not fourth. In addition, beyond that grade level, parents should have the right to opt their child out of that instruction if after reviewing the curriculum, they find it incompatible with their values. Also, If gender identity is discussed in the classroom, there should be a balanced discussion of the risks and lifelong health implications associated with medical gender transitioning. Give the current lawsuits being filed by de-transitioners, this would be an additional protection against future lawsuits against the district, which are now happening in other parts of our country. Thank you for your hard work and careful deliberation in implementing this legislation. By doing this you are championing the core principles of democracy—freedom, choice and individual rights. And you are ensuring that all Transylvania County families enjoy the freedom to raise their children in an environment that respects their values and beliefs.

Steve Keate - Under United States criminal law, we have accepted the standard of innocent until proven guilty. For the longest time we have formally applied that same standard to our public and governmental institutions, the belief being that while not perfect, they could be trusted to operate in the best interest of the citizens. Unfortunately example after example have proven the public trust to be misplaced. The media, the CDC, FBI, IRS, and DOJ are just a few examples of previously esteemed institutions where public trust levels have fallen to all time lows. Americans are no longer willing to sit back and assume their institutions are acting in their best interests. They are no longer presumed innocent. To regain the public trust, they will now have to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. Public schools in this country, including Transylvania County, are no different. With the help of the botched response to COVID, we saw firsthand how, unbeknownst to parents, special interest groups and members of the education establishment were using our schools to push their progressive agenda. Thankfully the public spoke up and demanded changes. The 2022 elections and resulting legislation are evidence of this. The North Carolina Parents' Bill of Rights is aimed at rebuilding parents' and voters' trust in our public schools. Now is the time to implement. Failure to do so will undermine the support of public education and continue to fuel the growth of school choice, including home school. I applaud the work of Superintendent Fletcher and Assistant Superintendent Weaver for their diligent effort in getting us to this point. I respectfully request that you implement the will of the people, the Parents' Bill of Rights.

Kim Christopher – It was brought to my attention some weeks ago that this was in the pipeline, and I have spoken to a lot of parents and students. This is something that they feel is very important. They need to have a voice in their children's education. The need to have an opportunity to speak to the teachers and have answers, not over weeks but over days, so that they can be part of the strengthening of their children's education. That is what we're here for, to strengthen the opportunities for our young people so that our community and country can go forward. Without this Parents' Bill of Rights parents are cut off from the opportunities to speak to the issues that are important in their family, in their community, and for the strength of their children for their education and their long life. So I implore you to please vote for this and empower the families to help the teachers and help the students to do what we all want, which is to succeed. That is what is most important. The children say please hear our voice.

Sarah Kane – I love and support the teachers. I have two children that graduated from Brevard High School. One graduated from NC State summa cum laude and the other one graduated from Western Carolina in engineering. I find no problem with any of the teachers. My main reason for being here is to address the more immediate needs of the disrepair in the schools. I spoke with Dr. Fletcher today and Mrs. Dalton and I was given some assurances that this would be looked into. The immediate need is the safety in the school environment. When you have mold and water leaks and the schools are in disrepair, this to me is very important. I was not aware of all the issues until I read Ryan Merrill and her comments. I commend her for coming forth and speaking on behalf of the students. Students are very intelligent. They don't need all that protection that we are trying to bestow upon them. With the internet, TikTok and everything else, I'm sure they know what's going on and they don't need us to oversee everything they do. I thank Ryan and I hope that other students are encouraged to come and speak and represent themselves and voice their feelings on what the schools should be, whether on bullying, the environment, or whatever. Students have power. They are the stakeholders.

Alicia Reiner – I ask you to please protect our Constitution and first amendment rights and avoid banning books in our school libraries. The lists that we generate for book bans are going to be based on a few people's opinions and biases, not on the broader American picture and diversity. The district will inevitably spend time and money on this, and like we just heard, the money needs to be spent on facilities, not on censorship. The American Library Association's stance is to promote intellectual freedom and combat censorship. It defines intellectual freedom as the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. To explore all sides of a question--that is what makes us American. That is what gives rise to democracy and true discourse. I will read from a thesis I found on the subject, "Teens will want books that reflect reality without sugarcoating it. Books that can help them find out what experiences, good and bad, are waiting for them and for their friends. They want a chance to experience reality vicariously before meeting it head on and to know the safety of having those experiences through books. Today's reality is far more intense than the reality of previous generations. Teens are connected by cell phones, TikTok, instant messaging, websites, and email. They have access to more information more quickly than any other generation before. With access to the internet you can read, watch, and search for anything you want, so why are books still being banned?"

Jeff Brewer – COVID revealed plenty about public education including lockdowns and mandates. Trust was lost. Thousands and thousands of parents nationwide got engaged. Mama bears were poked and they're not going away. The response in North Carolina was the majority of school boards politically flipped. Now with 60% of the state legislature conservative we thankfully have a Parents' Bill of Rights. It enumerates the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, health care, and mental health as well as moral and religious training of their minor children. This document will clarify, consolidate, and simplify the actionable flowchart for parents. The bill clearly states, "Instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality shall not be included in the curriculum provided for grades K-4, regardless of whether the information is provided by school personnel or third parties." Unfortunately, we need this safeguard. As Chris Ruffo explained at a Family Foundation lectures series, a hospital outreach program in the Chicago public schools encourages communication of a non-binary understanding of gender and a more

gender-creative world. School districts are asked to designate gender support coordinators to help facilitate children's sexual and gender transitions, which under the recommended confidentiality policy, can be kept secret from parents and families. This radical effort aimed at kids in Chicago and other parts of the country is why schools are creating a defensive framework to protect children with the Parents' Bill of Rights. Teachers and administrators who provide a wholesome learning environment, teach their lesson plans in a conscientious and balanced fashion, and respect parents' rights have nothing to worry about. Of course, we are talking about the overwhelming majority of educators in our district. The good teachers know who the bad teachers are. It's an open secret. The ones who look to exert undue influence must be held accountable.

Peter Offen – I am here to speak against any change in policy. The Parents' Bill of Rights is a duplicative law that burdens teachers and has more than a sprinkling of bigotry. The bill is comprised by what our North Carolina House does best--political theater. I implore the school board members to not buy into ignorance, fear and bigotry. We shouldn't be targeting vulnerable children while they are already living through a complicated and difficult time. Why would our elected officials engage in targeting vulnerable children? Is it your job to kick them down when they are struggling? No. That is the behavior of a bully. We already have a problem in this county of children hurting themselves. We have signs in our yards and down the street encouraging them and trying to support them. And if you bully our students from that bench, you are going to exacerbate the problem. That's not who we are. Transylvanians are not bullies. We love our students, we love our children, and we respect them. Our children learn best when parents work with our teachers to provide an all-around education. This bill and this policy drive a wedge between parents and educators. It will harm our children's education, and I will not stand for it. Our teachers are talented, loving, caring individuals, and they need the support of parents, this school board, and everyone in the community to do their best. Teachers are the experts. They are dedicated to the well-being of our students and you should be too. I am a lawyer by trade. You wouldn't come to me for a loaf of bread. You would go to the professional and you allow them to do their job. You empower them. And that is what our teachers need. Above all of this, the compassion and love that we have for our children, this law and the policies you propose to implement appear to be in violation of federal law. By implementing them, you risk the federal funding under Title IX. I ask that you not adopt these policies.

David Borman – I look at the whole process of changing policies and I've seen, what, nine words changed in two months? We've had how many comments from the public about what's right for our children, about what can be implemented to help teachers in the district, and yet we are worried about "should" or "shall"? I'm not okay with that. Some of you don't even seem to understand there are actual policy changes happening. We are talking about the parent's right to inspect any content of educational material, and we talking about a 10-day timeline between a parent asking for inspection and something being done? That's unreasonable. What is shows me is that we don't have any concept of what teachers are actually doing day to day. And if you do, you are not in favor of passing these policies. This past week, my third grade daughter had a fantastic week. They carved a pumpkin. They scooped out the seeds and counted them by tens. It was what every good educational lesson does. It taught the kids what to do and how to think. When you are asking teachers to take 10 days out of their lesson planning to deal with any frivolous problem, and make no mistake, they will come, the teachers are going to stop planning their lessons.

James Carli – I want to make a few points about the practical impacts of what this policy will do. One of my friends who is a public school guidance counselor told me that, as many of you know who grew up in the South, many parents will not accept or love their child if they come out as LGBTQ. That is an unsafe household for an LGBTQ child. This bill will have the practical impact of forcing guidance counselors to have private discussions about what that child feels inside, and if that child indicates that they are not binary, to violate their professional ethics to protect the interests of the child by exposing what the child told them to the parents even if their household is an unsafe situation. Also, a second grade teacher here in Brevard told me that the school system provides free vision testing for kids. Every year they would send home an opt-out form to parents and basically no parents opted out of the free vision tests. This policy changes it to an opt-in

form, so now if a parent wants their kid to get their vision checked for free, they have to return the opt-in form. This teacher told me that only 2 out of 15 families in her classroom returned the opt-in form. So now kids' health care is going to be neglected because of the impacts of this policy. There are ways to get active--with the PTA or become a teacher yourself. This bill is superfluous, exposes kids from at-risk homes to harm from families that do not accept non-binary identities; puts new burdens on schools, administrators, and teachers; endangers kids; deprives health care opportunities; and empowers bad actors seeking to limit the scope of discussion in classrooms. This will all have a harmful effect decades into the future when our kids face the complexities of the real world. Do not pass this ridiculous bill.

Cassie Broshears –The requirements of the Parents' Bill of Rights is pretty clear; however, the implementation is entirely up to this body and our school system. A learning environment focused on anything but instruction is not healthy. An environment that does not allow kids to ask questions or safely express themselves is not healthy. An environment that does not allow children to confide in trusted teachers is not healthy. An environment where teachers are afraid of the implications of answering a child's question honestly is not healthy. An environment where teachers are forced to put kids in unsafe situations by reporting innocent questions or acts is the very opposite of the school system's responsibility and most teachers' oaths. There is a correlation between forced reporting and suicide. I really encourage you to look at those statistics before you make hard decisions. I don't know what the supporters of this legislation hoped it would protect their children from, but the environment it creates is potentially far more harmful, both physically and mentally, for students and families. So I am here to ask you to really consider this. How do you want children and educators in our school system to feel? Safe and supported? Or isolated and reported?

Stuart Dodson – I'm going to focus on the fear. Because it seems like that is what is driving this, a fear of change. If we go back 50 years there were big groups of moms in Louisiana, there was a cheerleader in New Orleans, that pushed to fight against desegregation. It's a fear of change. You have extremist groups and vocal minorities pushing political agendas. If you look at what's in polls, yeah, you can find people. But the vast majority of people don't want to restrict education, and don't want to put forth efforts to remove things from teachers' control. I don't want to tell anyone of a conservative mindset how their children should be taught. I don't want them telling me. It should reside in hands of the teachers. I want them with their gifts and their professional expertise and their ability to understand their community and the children to prepare them best with what is needed for learning. Fear is what is driving all this. If you go back and look at what's really driving it and what started it, it is a political agenda and a vocal minority that's pushing for all this. My kids love the schools they go to, they love their teachers, the curriculum, and they love their opportunities. One is at Brevard High School and one is about to finish Brevard Elementary. They have had fantastic experiences at these schools. Why is there suddenly all this need for change? With all the books that people talk about--we have read them. I doubt if anyone here has been impacted on their gender by reading what they read as classics.

Steve Christopher - Teachers have a lot to do trying to teach curriculum. My dad taught in public education in Florida for 17 years. If he heard this discussion tonight he would faint. That we are even talking about something like this. Is every teacher a psychiatrist, a doctor? Are they really trained to talk to young children about their sexual preferences? No, they're not. They didn't get that training. They are just shooting from the hip. So when you say it is a political agenda, again we go back to the rights of parents to know what's being said and being taught in the schools. And when did sexual education become the litmus? I'm 70 years old. In my elementary school, there was no way we would have talked about something like this. We didn't need to. This is something that was talked about in the family. My younger brother was gay. And it didn't sit well with the family. And we were in the South, yes. But, we worked our way through it and we got through it and we all began to understand. And I am much more sensitive today than I was 50-60 years ago. And I understand those changes, and I think America is has grown in that. But I think this has gone beyond that scope when you talk about having teachers give this type of instruction with no knowledge to parents. I ask you to look at this and vote no, or I mean, to pass the resolution for this amendment.

Jami Reese – Thank you for the time and energy each of you have contributed to the development and revision of policies to ensure compliance with Senate Bill 49. It is obvious to me that a lot of effort was put into this work, particularly policy 1310/4002. While I would like to see a better process for selection and approval of curriculum in general, that is a conversation for another time. By and large these policies are thorough, well written, and cover the content appropriately by a parental rights advocate standpoint. There was one area of concern that I would like to draw your attention to on page 12 of policy 1310/4002, item no. 5. I realize this is taken verbatim from General Statute 115C-76.55, but I would like to hear some discussion as to why it was left as is. I am thankful for the protection of younger students, as I believe conversations concerning gender identity, sexual activity and sexuality should only be had with parents or with their supervision and approval. Our teachers have enough on their plates. Their focus should be on academics. Never do I want a teacher talking to my children about these topics, no matter what age. There is an epidemic of confusion. Satan is the author of that. Please consider taking an extra step to protect the students of Transylvania County. Listen, I get it. I bet I could even guess the well-intentioned rationale behind using this verbiage. But if you want to quote the bill verbatim, let's look at 114A-10, namely items 1 and 2, "A parent has the right to the following: to direct the education and care of his or her child, and to direct the upbringing and moral or religious training of his or her child." Teachers don't want to parent our children.

Fred Morse – I commend and encourage the members of this board in their efforts to strengthen the relationship between parents and kids in our schools and the folks who have chosen to support those educate these kids. Many of us who are parents believe we have joined our creator in the miraculous process that brings new life into people. And having made the decision to engage in that process, to bear the burden and responsibility to care for and train our kids. Much of that responsibility for training these kids has been delegated to persons who have a special heart for young people. The love of learning and the sharing of knowledge and skills. To an unfortunate degree, through parents' inertia and neglect, we have burdened teachers with the responsibility to care for our children that goes beyond the academic. Conversely, some of the persons involved in the education process have assumed responsibility for training young people in areas that are the proper domain of parents. We commend the members of this board for taking on the local details of a difficult and complicated task. That task is to reestablish the appropriate boundaries that must exist between parents and teachers. Your efforts will work to ensure that our kids will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to that they need to become responsible citizens in a republic.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. Lisa Fletcher recognized the student artwork from T. C. Henderson School of Science & Technology that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Jayson Rogers for securing the meeting. She shared the following good news:

American Education Week & Annual Thanksgiving Meal

American Education Week is November 13-17, 2023. It is a time to honor the people who work in our nation's public schools--everyone from bus drivers and classroom teachers to cafeteria workers and administrative staff. Each year the board adopts a proclamation designating American Education Week in Transylvania County. In addition, all current and retired school system employees are invited to enjoy free Thanksgiving meals in the school cafeterias as guests of the board. This year's Thanksgiving meal will be Wednesday, November 15. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the proclamation designating the week of November 13-17, 2023 as American Education Week in Transylvania County was unanimously approved (see attached).

TCSEF Creative Classroom Grant Applications Available

A reminder that applications for the 2024-2025 Creative Classroom Grants are now open. The Transylvania County Schools Education Foundation (TCSEF) offers the

Creative Classroom Grants as a supplement to the resources available to Transylvania County Schools for the purpose of preserving, advancing and enriching public education in Transylvania County. Visit tcsef.org/creative-classroom-grants/ to apply.

- Applications are due by December 8, 2023.
- Grants will be awarded in early 2024.
- All teachers and staff employed with Transylvania County Schools are eligible to apply for grants.
- Winners will have 18 months to use awarded funds.

JMCROTC Cadets Journey at Parris Island

The TCS Junior Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Corps (JMCROTC) cadets recently took a field trip the Marine Corps training facility at Parris Island where they had the opportunity to see firsthand the rigorous training that shapes the finest Marines. During their visit, the cadets were immersed in Marine Corps “boot camp,” experiencing the same physical and mental challenges that recruits face on their journey to becoming United States Marines. The cadets toured the training facilities, received instruction from USMC Drill Instructor escorts, participated in field training exercises, visited the Command Museum, and attended the weekly Company Graduation ceremony that marks the culmination of the 13-week USMC recruit training program. Forty-five cadets (37 from Brevard High and 8 from Rosman High) participated in the trip. The group was accompanied by chaperones and mentors Gabi Juba, TCS Chief Finance Officer; Vince Warren, CTE teacher at Brevard High School; and Senior Marine Instructor Colonel, USMC, Ret. Scott Blankenship.

Brevard Middle School Honor Chorus Participants

Congratulations to the following Brevard Middle School students who earned coveted spots in the esteemed North Carolina Middle School Honor Chorus. Seventh grader Rileigh Collier and eighth graders Kylie Campbell, Parker Dickens, Katie Futrelle, and Myla Tucker each received perfect marks on the music reading component of their audition. Furthermore, Myla scored a perfect 100 out of 100 on her audition, the only Soprano 2 in the state to achieve this feat. (There were only 8 perfect scores in total across all sections). The students are now committed to a month of preparation for the NC Middle School Honor Chorus concert performance that will be held in Winston Salem at the North Carolina Music Educators Conference.

CTE Students Shine at Junior Beef Cattle Show

Congratulations to the Brevard High School FFA students who competed with their beef heifers in the Junior Beef Cattle Show. The BHS team did very well in a field of over 200 entries. Two students qualified for the Senior Showmanship Championship Round after winning their individual heats. All of the BHS heifers were in the top 5 of their individual classes, with one heifer winning and advancing to the Championship round. Two heifers were on standby for the Reserve Championship after placing 2nd in their heats.

Athletics

Congratulations to the following student athletes and coaches for their outstanding achievements:

Conference Champs:

- BHS JV Football
- BHS JV Volleyball

- BHS Volleyball. On November 4, the Lady Devils beat Camden in Raleigh to bring home the State 2A Championship!
- RHS Volleyball
- BHS Men's & Women's Cross-Country Conference Champions. Both teams competed in the State Championship meet on Nov. 4 in Kernersville. The BHS Men's Team are the new State 2A Cross-Country Champions!

Coaches of the Year:

- Ben Morgan, Men's Cross-Country Coach of the Year
- Jackie Witherspoon, Women's Cross-Country Coach of the Year

Regional Qualifiers:

- Tia Shanor & Marley Stewart, Tennis Doubles

Student Awards:

- Leo Murray, Men's Cross-Country Runner of the Year
- Emma Moretz was awarded the Scholar-Athlete of the Month Award

National School Psychology Week Nov. 6-10

During November 6-10, 2023, schools will celebrate National School Psychology Week to highlight the important work of school psychologists and others in supporting student well-being and learning. This year's theme is "Let's Grow Together," inspired by the importance of personal and shared strengths as individuals and as school communities. We appreciate our school psychologists for all they do to help students thrive--Anna Galloway, Stephanie Myers, and Psychological Services Coordinator, Kristin Burton.

DRS Safe Spaces Community Cookout – Nov. 5

Students at Davidson River School hosted a Safe Spaces Community Cookout on Sunday, November 5 from 12:30-3:00 p.m. at the Railroad Depot in Brevard. This free event was designed to raise awareness and encourage empowerment regarding mental health and well-being. The project was sponsored by a generous donor who believes that when young folks are connected to purpose, they can thrive.

Veterans' Day Celebrations

The Transylvania County Schools MCJROTC will conduct Veterans' Day Ceremonies at RHS and BHS on Thursday, November 9. The Rosman High/Rosman Middle School ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the RHS gymnasium. The Brevard High School ceremony will take place at 1:45 p.m. in the BHS Auditorium.

Classroom Happenings in November

11/3 - RMS Celebration of Readers for students who completed BINGO reading cards for first quarter

11/6-11/10 - Report cards sent home

11/6 - BRCC Apprenticeship presentation for RHS juniors and seniors, 10:50am

11/7 - BHS OCS class will host a Veteran guest speaker

11/8 - BHS Choir performs at Biltmore Estate, 5:30–10:00pm

11/9 - Veterans Day Rock Dedication around PFES flagpole by Mrs. Ammon's 3rd grade class, 10:00am,

11/9 - RES 2nd graders will walk to Rosman Town Hall to lay rocks painted with American Flags in honor of Veterans, 12:15-1:30pm

11/17 and 11/18 - *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 7:00pm, BHS Auditorium. Directed by student Gabe Rood

11/20 - BRCC Apprenticeship Presentation for BHS juniors and seniors, 9:35am
11/21 - PFES 2nd grade Greek Day celebration. Wax Museum presentations 11:00-11:30am and "dinner" 1:50-2:30pm

Nov: Military Family Appreciation Month
 Nov: American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month
 Nov: National Homeless Youth Awareness Month
 Nov. 5: Daylight Savings Time Ends
 Nov. 6-10: National School Psychology Week
 Nov 8: National STEM Day
 Nov. 9: National Community Education Day
 Nov. 11: Veterans Day
 Nov. 13: World Kindness Day
 Nov. 13-17: American Education Week
 Nov. 13-19: National Apprenticeship Week
 Nov. 17: Substitute Educators Day
 Nov. 17: International Students Day
 Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day

4. Former Students in the Military

In recognition of Veterans' Day on November 11, 2023, the board read aloud 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. Mr. Wiener reported a new name to be added to the list, David Baker.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the September 12, 2023 closed session, the October 2, 2023 meeting, and the October 16, 2023 work session; the personnel report for November 6, 2023 (see attached); and the non-faculty coaches for winter sports 2023-2024 listed below were unanimously approved.

RMS

Jason Hickock, Basketball
 Jerry Hufziger, Basketball
 Callie Chappell, Basketball
 Preston Garren, Wrestling

RHS

Tyler Stamey, Basketball
 Chaz West, Basketball
 Brian Bullock, Basketball
 Kim Green, Basketball
 Cambry Lyday, Basketball
 Amber Shook, Basketball
 Brandon Ropp, Wrestling
 Jacob Montgomery, Wrestling
 Joanna Allen, Indoor Track

BMS

Wayne Rundell, Wrestling
 Octavian Griffin, Wrestling

BHS

Paul Whitt, Basketball
 Andrew Freeman, Basketball
 Caleb Hill, Basketball
 Stephen Ownings, Basketball
 Kayla McEwen, Basketball
 Judith Victory, Basketball
 Diane Ayers, Basketball
 Maddie O'Hearn, Cheerleading
 Joe Ellenberger, Wrestling
 Nathan Turner, Wrestling
 Jimmy Jones, Wrestling
 Patricia Poche, Swimming

6. Policy: S.L. 2023-106 Special Updates

Dr. Brian Weaver presented the seven Parents' Bill of Rights policies for final review and approval. He noted that minor revisions had been made to three of the policies as recommended by the board.

- **1310/4002, Parental Involvement.** Substantially revises the policy to address the new requirements of the Parents' Bill of Rights.
- **3210, Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials.** The school system must have a written process for parents to inspect and review all textbooks and supplementary instructional materials that will be used in their child's classrooms.
- **3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program.** Adds a provision prohibiting instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality in grades K through 4.
- **4335, Criminal Behavior.** Changes the requirement for reporting to parents when their child is suspected to be the victim of a crime.
- **4720, Surveys of Students.** Changes parental notification and consent requirements based on new state law requirements. Adds a new section about well-being questionnaires and health screening forms.
- **6120, Student Health Services.** The new G.S. 90-211.10B contains language that prohibits health care practitioners, which includes school employees authorized under state law to perform health care services as part of their job, from providing, soliciting, or arranging medical procedures or treatments for a minor without first obtaining written or documented consent from the parent. This law goes into effect on December 1, 2023.
- **7300, Staff Responsibilities.** Adds an employee responsibility to support parental involvement and never encourage a student to withhold information from their parents.

Mr. Wiener read a statement expressing his concerns about what he sees as government overreach in education and its intrusive role in parenting. He believes that this involvement can cross the line at times and that the growth of public education, vaccines, health care, psychology and other factors all play a role. This has led to concerns among parents that their role is being usurped. He believes that the role of parent should only be subsumed by the state when parents do not do their jobs. He feels that the current set of policies and laws do not go far enough and stated that he will be looking at ways to go further in the months to come.

Mr. Jackson shared an anecdote about how education has changed since he was a student. He supports the parents' rights legislation in many respects, but has concerns about some aspects, noting that it is harder to get parents to return opt-in forms rather than opt-out forms, which can result in children being excluded from activities. He is also concerned about the extra work for teachers and administrators. He stated that our schools have always provided myriad opportunities for parent involvement and our policies adhere to state and federal law. He hopes that parents will take advantage of the rights they have always had.

Chairman McCoy noted that Dr. Fletcher had presented a comprehensive summary of the parents' rights legislation at the last work session and that while our schools already do many of the things that are included in the parents' rights legislation, they will be implementing new procedures as needed. She stated that the board is supportive of its teachers and does not want to overburden them. Speaking to parents, she stated that a child is a gift from God, and parents should be involved in every aspect of their child's life. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the seven policies listed above were unanimously approved as presented by roll call vote.

7. Facilities

Director Kerry Putnam presented a contract with GeoSurfaces Southeast, Inc., for replacement turf for the Brevard High School football field. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the agreement with GeoSurfaces Southeast, Inc, in the amount of \$515,211.10 for the installation of new synthetic turf on the Brevard High School football field was unanimously approved.

Mr. Putnam presented six proposals for on-call professional services that were received from the following firms: McGill Associates, RN&M Engineers, MSS Solutions, Bunnell Lamons Engineering, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architects, and Form & Function Architecture. He recommended that the board use all six firms. MR. WIENER MOVED to approve all six firms for professional on-call services. Board Attorney Kris Caudle reported that no formal approval is needed if the estimated professional fee is less than \$50,000. Mr. Wiener recommended that a master service agreement be developed with terms and conditions inked in place. Mr. Putnam stated that he would work with the attorney on this. Mr. Wiener withdrew his motion.

Mr. Putnam gave updates on current capital outlay projects. He reported that the concrete slab for the RHS athletic building is finished and the building should be erected in the next few weeks. Mr. Wiener asked about air quality concerns in the schools. Mr. Putnam reported that he will meet with a provider on Monday to perform air quality testing at BHS and other schools. Mr. Putnam and Dr. Fletcher have talked with the county manager about funding for the air quality testing.

8. Update on Capital Reserve Study

Dr. Lisa Fletcher reported that the next meeting of the ad hoc committee for the capital reserve study would take place before Thanksgiving. She will have an update at the next board meeting. She noted that the county commissioners voted to do an air quality test at BHS.

9. Important Dates

Nov. 10	Veterans Day holiday		
Nov. 13-15	NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development	3 days	Greensboro
Nov. 20	WORK SESSION	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving break		
Dec. 4	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Dec. 14-15	NCSBA Core Training for New Board Members	2 days	Raleigh
Dec. 18	WORK SESSION	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Dec. 20	Students dismissed at noon		
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Christmas break		
Jan. 1	New Year's holiday; NO MEETING		
Jan. 2	Students and staff return from break		

10. Other Items

Mr. Wiener introduced a resolution in support of Israel and denouncing Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Iranian-backed Houthis and requested that the board adopt the

resolution at its next regular meeting on December 4. He also introduced a motion to audit third-party activities within the schools, also for approval at the next meeting. Chairman McCoy indicated that the board would take the documents under advisement.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary



American Education Week

Proclamation

Rectangular Snip

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

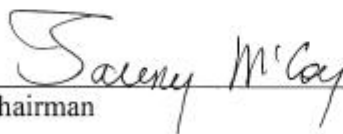
WHEREAS, education employees in every role work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

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, 2023 as **AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK in Transylvania County**.

Signed this 6th day of November 2023.


Chairman



**PERSONNEL REPORT
November 6, 2023**

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

Licensed Personnel

Heather Corn, Teacher, TCH, effective October 18, 2023
Jeanne DeJong, Teacher, BES, effective January 31, 2024
Claire Gasperson, Teacher, PFES, effective December 31, 2023
Sandra Hjelm, Teacher, BES, effective February 1, 2024
Beth Watson, Teacher, BHS-Based, effective December 6, 2023

Classified Personnel

Charles Clayton, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective October 18, 2023
Lisa Kimzey, Office Support, MEC, effective December 31, 2023
Margaux Lewis, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective October 18, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Brianna Cole, Teacher Assistant, TCHES, effective October 19, 2023
Margaux Lewis, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective November 7, 2023
Tabitha Travis, Custodian, BHS, effective November 13, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

Jennifer Corn, from Teacher Assistant, PFES, to Teacher, PFES, effective October 9, 2023

Classified Personnel

None

- IV. APPROVE THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

Alexandra Wall, Teacher, BES, Discretionary Leave of Absence Without Pay (BOE Policy 7510), effective December 1, 2023 through June 14, 2024

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers & Tutors

Rachael Austin
Madeline Coyle

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Savannah Meece