

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
November 15, 2010**

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. Updates on Race to the Top, NC QUEST and DSSF Grant
7. AIG Plan Development
8. Application for Local Board Training Credit
9. Important Dates
10. Other Items
11. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on November 15, 2010 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chairman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Wanda Lu Paxton, *WSQL*; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Cathy Childress, Director of Federal Programs; Larry Chapman, Commissioner-elect; and one guest. Mr. Whitmire gave the invocation and Mrs. McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He reported that Shelia Norman and Sue Fox were in Greensboro attending the NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Development.

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting agenda for November 15, 2010 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris introduced BHS student representative, Karina Dierolf, to the Board. The Board recognized the student artwork from BMS that was on display in the board room. Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

RES CELEBRATES "MR. JAMES" DAY

On October 26, Rosman Elementary honored retiring custodian, James Galloway, by celebrating "Mr. James is a Good Cookie" Day. Everyone participated in an assembly where students shared cards, poems, and stories dedicated to their beloved "Mr. James." Mrs. Raspa presented Mr. James with a U.S. flag encased in a cherry display case and a plaque that will have a place of honor at RES. The flag had been previously presented by Congressman Heath Shuler and had flown over the United States Capital. The day's festivities concluded with a potluck luncheon. Mr. James

plans to continue to volunteer as a tutor, helping to instill children with a love of reading and the value of a good education.

HEALTHY EATING

First grade students in Carol Weeks' class at Rosman Elementary School recently learned about healthful eating from Jessica Nolan of the NC Cooperative Extension Service. Students learned to identify the foods that come from plants and foods that come from animals. On October 19, selected teachers from each elementary school participated in an orientation for "The Farmer Grows a Rainbow" teaching kits. The program addresses nutrition and fitness education along with core curricula. "The Farmer Grows a Rainbow" program was developed by the NC Farm Bureau educational component, Ag in the Classroom, and was made possible by a grant from the USDA. Local Farm Bureau president, Jackie Whitmire, and classroom directors, Louise Lamm and Ellen Gould, presented the kits.

NC HONORS CHORUS

Four Brevard High School students were recently selected to the North Carolina Honors Chorus. They are Jennie Moser, Nicki Bayne, Katie Smathers, and Lydia Folckomer.

RHS HELPS CONNOR'S HEART

RHS Interact Club, along with RHS cheerleaders and the athletic department at Rosman High, raised money during the week of October 18 for Connor's HEART. Connor's HEART was formed in memory of Connor Galloway, son of Dale and Michelle Galloway, who died at age 12 as a result of the "choking game." Connor's HEART, which stands for Help Eliminate Adolescent Risk Taking, focuses on educating children and adults about the dangers of high-risk behaviors among young people. At the Rosman vs. Cherokee football game on October 22, the Galloway family accepted a donation of \$853 from the Interact club, cheerleaders and athletic department.

BHS BAND TAKES HONORS

On October 2, the Brevard High School Marching Band competed at the Land of the Sky Band Festival at Enka High School. The band placed second in class 4A, and won second place color guard, second place horn line, and third place percussion. The band placed third overall out of 20 bands. On October 16, the BHS band competed in the Chesnee Eagle Classic in Chesnee, SC. Drum Majors Elijah Crite and Kathleen Miller placed first, and the band placed second in class 3A. The color guard and horn line both placed second in their class. The band had its final competition in Atlanta on October 30.

RHS ARTWORK ONLINE

Rosman High School art teacher, Amy Schoenacher, has teamed up with Artsonia, the world's largest online kids' art museum, to display artwork by RHS students. All of Artsonia's featured works of art (nearly 10 million and counting) are viewable online, and any teacher or parent can create an online art gallery for their child or school. Artsonia provides several online features, such as fan clubs and personal guestbooks, as ways for families to encourage the creativity and imaginations of their young artists. In addition, family members can purchase keepsakes imprinted with the child's artwork, with Artsonia donating 15 percent of their annual product revenue back to school art programs. The RHS gallery may be viewed at www.artsonia.com/schools/rosman1.

PFES FOOD DRIVE

Pisgah Forest Elementary School hosted its annual Food Drive during Red Ribbon Week in October. They surpassed last year's donation of 1,700 pounds by gathering 1,851 pounds of food. School Resource Officer, Mary Smith, initiated the food drive idea as part of the Red Ribbon Week celebration in order to incorporate a day of giving to the community. PFES feels their food donations to the Sharing House come right in time for the upcoming holiday season.

RES CELEBRATES VETERAN'S DAY

Second graders at Rosman Elementary School celebrated Veteran's Day in a very special way. The students took a walking field trip to the Veteran's Memorial at the Rosman Town Hall. Prior to that, the students had painted rocks in the image of the American flag and learned the lyrics to the *Star-Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*. Upon arriving at Town Hall, teachers explained the significance of the three flags flying above the Veteran's Memorial. Then students placed their rocks along the walkway to the memorial. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of both songs. This was a great learning experience and expression of patriotism to our veterans. Dr. McDaris added that RES also held a pre-Thanksgiving luncheon for parents in conjunction with the Veteran's Day celebration. Four-hundred ninety-four lunches were served.

Photography Contest

Wanda Lu Paxton reported that Bianca Jenkins, BHS, won a national photography contest through the Boys & Girls Club. Her entry was a photo of a child whose parent was shipping out that day for military duty.

4. Former Students in the Military

In recognition of Veteran's Day, the Board of Education 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. Dr. McDaris reported that no new names had been added to the list. Additional names will be included as they are received.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the minutes from the October 18, 2010 meeting and the personnel report for November 15, 2010 were unanimously approved.

6. Updates on Race to the Top, NC QUEST and DSSF

Dr. Jeff McDaris reported on the status of *Race to the Top* monies, an NC QUEST grant, and Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding (DSSF). Of the \$400 million in *Race to the Top* money that North Carolina will receive, Transylvania's portion will be approximately \$85,000 per year for four years. The money will be targeted toward improving the school system's wireless infrastructure in order to be ready for the state's conversion to paperless EOG and EOC testing in two years. He noted that the largest percentage of *Race to the Top* money will be earmarked for low-performing school districts.

Dr. McDaris reported that Dr. Kim Elliott has applied for an NC QUEST grant in partnership with Western Carolina University. The grant has the potential to provide \$150,000 over an 18-month period. The purpose of the grant would be to employ a

professional development facilitator/Rtl specialist and also provide curriculum staff development activities for teachers K-12. Announcement will be made in March 2011.

Dr. McDaris reported that TCS has applied for and received each year a small amount of funding from DPI for disadvantaged students. This year, no information had been received regarding the DSSF application or due date. Upon repeated inquiries, DPI gave assurance that the application template would be sent soon. Two days before the application due date, TCS finally received notification. Dr. McDaris stated that our administrators were fortunately able to complete the DSSF application in time; however, this incident represents just one more example in a long line of miscommunications from the state that could have resulted in a negative impact on our funding.

Board members discussed concerns that more computers will be needed in order to support the online EOC and EOG testing. Dr. McDaris reported that the IT department is exploring several options to provide sufficient bandwidth. One idea being considered is to allow high school students to bring their own laptops. Mrs. Petit asked whether IEP students would be allowed to continue paper testing if needed. Dr. McDaris stated that special needs students would be able to test in the manner best suited to their IEP. Chairman Whitmire requested that an update on testing readiness from Technology Director, Donys Merrill, be provided at a future meeting.

7. AIG Plan Development

Cathy Childress, Director of Federal Programs, gave an update on upcoming revisions to the Transylvania County Schools AIG Plan for 2010-2013. The revised plan may be presented at the December meeting. Mrs. Childress reported that the AIG committee has been receiving good feedback from stakeholders, and the plan is being revised to incorporate some of the suggestions and ideas. The committee is also looking at tests that will better identify AIG students from different backgrounds and ethnicities. The Board thanked Mrs. Childress for her hard work and for stepping in to fill the Federal Programs director position.

8. Application for Local Board Training Credit

The North Carolina School Board Association provides an avenue for school board members to comply with N.C.G.S. 115C-50 which requires all members to receive a minimum of 12 clock hours of training annually. Local boards may also apply for credit for training activities that are not sponsored by the state organization. The applications require local board approval. ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the Board unanimously approved applications for four hours of local credit each for Chris Whitmire, Sue Fox and Shelia Norman for their participation in the "Racial Equity Training" workshop on October 11, 2010 at the Morris Education Center. Dr. McDaris commented that the Achievement Gap committee is making good progress towards its goal of helping all students achieve to their potential.

9. Important Dates

Nov. 18	Thanksgiving Meal for Students, Staff, and Retirees; School Cafeterias
Nov. 18	Superintendent's Communication Council, 3:45 p.m., MEC
Nov. 19	Student Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Nov. 22	Parent Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Nov. 24	Teacher Leave Day
Nov. 25-26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 14	BHS Senior Projects, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m., BHS
Dec. 16	RHS Senior Projects, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., RHS

Dec. 20 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Dec. 22 Student early dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 23 Teacher Leave Day
Dec. 24-31 Christmas Break
Jan. 17-18 Teacher Workdays
Jan. 24 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., TBD

Dr. McDaris proposed that the Board discuss changing the date of the December board meeting. The Board agreed to discuss this during "other items."

10. Other Items

Dr. McDaris commended several TCS sports teams for a successful fall season. He noted that the BHS cross country team finished third in the state. The BHS women's tennis team did well. A RHS cross country student went to state. The RHS women's volleyball team made it to the state playoffs for the second year in a row. Both high school football teams had re-building years and played hard. Dr. McDaris stated that TCS is building well-rounded leaders who excel in the classroom and on the field.

Chairman Whitmire encouraged everyone to show their appreciation to teachers in celebration of American Education Week, November 14-20, 2010. He also asked board members to begin thinking of possible topics for retreat.

The Board discussed moving the December meeting from December 20 to December 13 due to conflicts and the Christmas holidays. It was noted that the Board of Commissioners would be meeting on December 13. There were no objections to the proposed change, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board voted unanimously to change the December board meeting to December 13, 2010, and to consider an early start should circumstances warrant. Chairman Whitmire suggested that the date of the January meeting may also need to be changed. The Board may discuss this further at the next meeting.

Dr. McDaris expressed congratulations to Mr. Whitmire and Mrs. Fox for winning re-election in the 2010 school board race. He stated that their strong finishes reflect a clear appreciation for the jobs they are doing.

11. Public Comment

Commissioner-elect Larry Chapman encouraged board members to correspond with newly elected officials in Raleigh to try and change attitudes and directions regarding education funding and holding Raleigh accountable. He congratulated Mr. Whitmire and Mrs. Fox on their elections and stated that he is looking forward to working together with the Board of Education.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
November 15, 2010**

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

Licensed Personnel

Jonathan VanDonsel, Assistant Principal, RES, effective January 1, 2011

Classified Personnel

James McDougall, Bus Driver, BHS, effective October 24, 2010

Diane Shelton, Bus Driver, RES, effective December 17, 2010

Eric Smith, Custodian, BHS, effective November 1, 2010

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

Licensed Personnel

Katie Gray, Teacher, BMS, effective October 18, 2010

Classified Personnel

Jerry Ihme, Temporary Part-Time Driver's Education Instructor, effective November 16, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Pat Sales, Part-Time Office Support Professional, BMS, effective October 18, 2010

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Jenifer Christian, from Part-Time Office Support Professional, BMS, to Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective October 18, 2010

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

Licensed Personnel

Susan Farrar, Teacher, BHS, GCBDB Leave, effective November 19, 2010, to June 16, 2011

Classified Personnel

Jessica Buhrman, Teacher Assistant, DRS, GCBDB Leave, effective January 10, 2011, to April 29, 2011

Stefanie Tomlin, Teacher Assistant, PFES, GCBDB Leave, effective January 13, 2011, to April 7, 2011

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

Substitute Teachers

Laura Bamford
Hannah Camenzind
Jordan Daniels
Phillip Harris
Alison Hull
Lauren Kortas
Sohnie Luckhardt
Sandra Paa
Wendy Taylor

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Ernest Owen