

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
November 16, 2020**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Special Recognition - Alice Wellborn
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
 - C. Non-Faculty Coaches
7. CTE Honors Internship
8. Bond Projects Update
9. DPI Facilities Needs Survey 2020-2021
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on November 16, 2020 at the Morris Education Center. 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 public was invited to view the meeting livestream at <https://youtube.com/tcsnc>. Persons wishing to make public comment were invited to email their comments by 1:00 p.m. in order to have them read aloud as appropriate within board guidelines. Marty Griffin led a moment of silence and Alice Wellborn led the Pledge of Allegiance. 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

BOARD MEMBER-ELECT:

Kimsey Jackson

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Kris Caudle

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent*
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services*
Missy Ellenberger, Director, 9-12 Curriculum/Instruction*
Carrie Norris, Director, K-8 Curriculum & Instruction*
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator*
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Chris Lambert, Technology Specialist
Brent Owen, School Resource Officer

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times*

Board members took a moment to share their memories of working with Rosman High School teacher Sara Cathey and other educators in the Cathey family. Sympathy and prayers were extended to the Catheys who have experienced much loss in recent months.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for November 16, 2020 was unanimously approved as presented.

2. **Special Recognition**

Dr. McDaris recognized Alice Wellborn, whose tenure on the board of education will end this month. Mrs. Wellborn retired as school psychologist and exceptional children's specialist in 2013. She was elected to the board in 2016. During her four years on the board, and throughout her career with the school system before that, she devoted countless hours to improving services and programs for the students and staff of Transylvania County Schools. The board presented an engraved plaque to Mrs. Wellborn in appreciation for her outstanding contributions and leadership. Board members and others offered personal tributes:

"It has been a joy to work with you all these years. You have always had the children of our county at heart. I will not say goodbye because the children whose lives you have touched will pass that along to their own children. Thank you." --Dr. Jeff McDaris

"I grew to love you when I was at T. C. Henderson. You have been a great teammate. I look forward to working with you in the future. Thanks for your help with my kids." -- Courtney Domokur

"Thank you for your hard work on the bond referendum and with the kids of our county. It has been a special time. Thank you for all that you have done." --Marty Griffin

"I got to know Alice in the 1970s while I was a principal at various elementary schools. She has always been the consummate professional and expert in the areas of child development. Her knowledge and experience will be sorely missed." --Ron Kiviniemi

"I knew of Alice's stellar reputation before I worked with her on the board. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with you. You have given me encouragement when I needed it. You have a kind heart and a heart for our kids and our schools. We will miss you in this role, but you will still be in our system. We thank you for your service and will miss you greatly." --Tawny McCoy

"I quote you often in meetings. You have had so many words of wisdom. Thank you for being an advocate for kids and educators." --Carrie Norris

Mrs. Wellborn thanked everyone and observed, "Of all the boards I have served, this group has always worked collaboratively, cooperatively, and respectfully. That is something special. This board will have to continue that spirit going forward in these divisive times. Always keep the kids in mind and do what is right. I know that you will."

3. **Public Comment**

None

4. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from T. C. Henderson that was on display in the board room and thanked Attorney Caudle and Officer Owen for attending the meeting. He reported the following items:

MAKING ENDS MEET

Transylvania County Schools Child Nutrition Director Carolyn Barton has requested almost \$18,000 in free food from the USDA and has signed up for an additional \$39,000 for a total of \$57,000 in USDA commodities. This will be a tremendous help in making ends meet this year.

TCSEF CREATIVE CLASSROOM GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022

Teachers, administrators, and even students have incredible ideas that deserve to be implemented in classrooms, but finding funding for these ideas can be challenging. Every year, the Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation (TCSEF) distributes Creative Classroom grants to educators across Transylvania County to support innovative and unique projects designed to enrich classrooms. Due to times and circumstances, the TCSEF has limited funds available; however, they look forward to seeing how they can support the creativity of TCS students, teachers, and staff this year. Applications for the 2021-2022 Creative Classroom grants are available now at <https://tcsef.org/creative-classroom-grants/>. Applications are due by midnight on Friday, December 4, 2020. Grants will be awarded in early 2021. All teachers and staff employed with Transylvania County Schools are eligible to apply. Winners will have 18 months to use the awarded funds.

NCSBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Leanne Winner has been named as the new Executive Director of the North Carolina School Boards Association, effective January 5, 2021. Ms. Winner will be organization's fourth Executive Director and the first woman to hold the position. She succeeds Dr. Ed Dunlap, who is retiring after 41 years of service to NCSBA, including 27 years as the executive director. Ms. Winner has worked for NCSBA as its Director of Governmental Relations since 1998. Throughout her tenure, she has advocated effectively on behalf of school boards at the General Assembly and with various state government agencies. Ms. Winner was selected from a pool of over 200 candidates nationwide. We congratulate Ms. Winner and look forward to working with her in her new role.

5. Former Students in the Military

In honor of Veterans Day on November 11, 2020, 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.

6. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the minutes of the October 19 and November 2, 2020 meetings; the personnel report for November 16, 2020, (attached); and the non-faculty coaches for winter and spring sports 2020-2021 (see below) were unanimously approved.

BREVARD HIGH

Andre Hemphill, Football
 Mark Ellenberger, Football
 Ben Shultz, Football
 Craig Long, Men's Varsity Soccer
 Nell McMurty, JV Volleyball
 Kenneth Barton, Golf
 Philip Latter, Men's Cross Country
 Jackie Witherspoon, Women's Cross Country
 Amanda Lambert, JV Cheerleading
 Paul Witt, Men's Varsity Basketball
 Troy Kessinger, Men's JV Basketball
 Kayala McEwen, Women's JV Basketball
 Harry Downam, Women's Basketball
 Lydia Odell, Swimming
 Tanner Whitman, Wrestling
 Jimmy Jones, Weight Certification

ROSMAN HIGH

Corey McCall, Football
 Trey Brown Football
 Blaise McCall, Football
 Chaz West, Football
 Jessica Whitmire, JV Volleyball
 Heidi Hall, Basketball V. Cheerleading
 Preston Garren, Wrestling

ROSMAN MIDDLE

Emily Taylor, Girls' Basketball
 Cory Reid, Boys' Basketball
 Zane Ramey, Wrestling
 T. J. Souther, Wrestling

BREVARD MIDDLE

Manny Deshauteurs, Football
Kyle Justice, Football
Cody Ashe, Football
Heidi Spradlin, Girls' Cross Country
Chelsea Gray, Boys' Cross Country
Jacob Miner, Boys' Basketball

7. CTE Honors Internship

Director Missy Ellenberger presented a proposal for students working in an approved CTE internship capacity to earn honors credit. She stated that offering an honors option would give students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of their selected career/industry, an increased academic challenge, opportunity to earn quality points and higher GPA; and a more competitive resume and/or college application. Mrs. Domokur reported that a CTE student had interned in her family's business recently and it was a very good experience. Mr. Griffin asked how many students would be involved. Mrs. Ellenberger reported that 12 students completed internships last year, and 3-4 of those would have qualified for honors credit if available. The board thanked Mrs. Ellenberger for her presentation and expressed support for the proposal. Approval will be requested at the next regular meeting.

8. Bond Projects Update

Norris Barger presented the latest budget and expenditure report and gave a status update. After getting valuable input from various departments, Mr. Barger anticipates much dialogue with the architects and CMAR over the next few months. Mr. Kiviniemi asked when new cost estimates would be ready. Mr. Barger hopes they will be ready for the next board meeting. Mr. Griffin reported that people are asking if the bonds have been issued yet and if we are still on track to break ground in May. Mr. Barger reported that yes, we are still on schedule, and no, the county has not issued the bonds. How and when the bonds are issued will be up to the board of commissioners. Mrs. Domokur asked if there have been any COVID-related delays. Mr. Barger reported that Vannoy has had issues with some finishing materials on other jobs, but nothing that has impacted our projects at this point. Chairman McCoy shared compliments she has received regarding Mr. Barger's stewardship of the projects. Mr. Barger commended the school staffs for their involvement during the planning process. He added that the architects said they have never received so much input from staff on any of their previous school projects.

9. DPI Facilities Needs Survey

Every five years, local boards of education are required by G.S.115C-521(a) to submit their Facility Needs Assessment (long-range plans) to the State Board of Education. The assessment provides an estimate of current and future student capacity and a cost estimate of what it would take to meet that capacity and bring facilities up to DPI standards. Norris Barger presented the 2020-2021 DPI Facility Needs Survey for Transylvania County Schools. He explained there are differences between this plan and the TCS master facilities plan due to reporting methodology and format. The state indicated that projects already "in the works" with funds available should not be included in cost estimates. Therefore, Brevard High, Rosman High, and Rosman Middle are not included.

Board members had questions about some numbers. Mr. Barger explained that the 93% figure reported as the percentage of students with reliable home internet connection is an average based on local surveys, self-reporting, and the interpretation of "reliable." Pre-K numbers reflect future growth that is expected in the Pisgah Forest area. Davidson River was not included in tallies because long-term plans for that building are

still being evaluated. Science lab numbers for some locations will be reviewed and amended.

Mr. Barger reported that the board of education must review and approve the survey. The board of commissioners must acknowledge receipt and review of the survey, but are not required to approve. The survey does not commit the board of commissioners to funding of any of the needs. The survey is on the board of commissioners' agenda for December 14. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the 2020-2021 DPI Facility Needs Survey for Transylvania County was unanimously approved subject to amendments as presented by the finance officer.

10. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- According to the *Wall Street Journal*, home prices rose in every corner of the U.S. during the third quarter, as the COVID-19 pandemic boosted activity in a way not seen in recent history. Record low interest rates motivated home shoppers to enter the market. Nationwide, the median single-family home price rose 12% from a year earlier to \$313,500. The median price of homes currently listed in Asheville is \$355,000. The median rent in the Asheville area is now between \$1,500 and \$1,600 per month. These prices make recruiting new teachers who need affordable housing a challenge.
- *EdNC* has an excellent article on the pre-K program in Polk County. Polk County is a high-performing school district. Beginning in 2000, a local philanthropist made pre-K education available at a very low cost to Polk families. They now have multiple pre-K classrooms in every elementary school in the district. Polk County also has a history of an aggressive summer school program that for many years offered enrichment to students in elementary through high school. Bill Miller, former Polk superintendent, once said that a student graduating from Polk County might have as much as an extra year or more of total school time over the course of their academic career.
- Last week saw an increase in the number of school systems in eastern North Carolina (affected by severe flooding) utilizing virtual days. In the west, Burke County has joined Transylvania in calling virtual days as needed for weather closures. Two other western units are considering the same as winter approaches.

11. Important Dates

Nov. 25	Annual leave day (no students)
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec. 7	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Dec. 21	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Dec. 22	End of first semester: students dismissed at noon
Dec. 23-Jan. 4	Christmas break
Jan. 5-6	Teacher workdays
Jan. 7	Beginning of second semester
Jan. 12	WORK SESSION, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Day; annual leave day
Jan. 19	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

12. Other Items

Chairman McCoy recognized Mr. Kimsey Jackson, board member-elect.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
November 16, 2020**

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

Licensed Personnel

Sarah Moser, Teacher, BES, effective December 31, 2020
Hannah Souther, Teacher, PFES, effective November 27, 2020

Classified Personnel

Hannah Siniard, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective October 15, 2020
Maria Stephens, Teacher Assistant, effective November 16, 2020
Rita Whitlock, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective December 31, 2020

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

Licensed Personnel

Katie Wilson, Interim Teacher, PFES, effective December 1, 2020, through June 4, 2021

Classified Personnel

Jennifer Baughn, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective November 30, 2020
Thomas Adam Entenza, Custodian & Bus Driver, BMS, effective November 9, 2020
Albert Evans, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective November 2, 2020
Hannah Souther, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective November 30, 2020

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

Licensed Personnel

Alexandria Galloway, from Teacher Assistant, RMS, to Teacher, RMS, effective January 5, 2021
Jenae Merkle Turner, from Teacher, PFES, to Instructional Technology Facilitator, RES & TCH, effective January 5, 2021

Classified Personnel

Kimberly Nanney, from Bookkeeper/Office Support, BHS, to Cost Clerk/Office Support, Transportation Department, effective January 1, 2021

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

Licensed Personnel

Alana Anderson, Teacher, PFES, Family Leave Without Pay (BOE Policy 7510), effective November 1, 2020, through June 4, 2021
Holly Jones, Teacher, RHS, Discretionary Leave of Absence Without Pay (BOE Policy 7510), effective January 5, 2021 through June 4, 2021

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Vickie Osborne

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Josie Pace