

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
November 20, 2017**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Architect Presentations
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. Instructional Update
8. Policy:
  - A. Policy 2670, Business Advisory Council
  - B. 4000 Series, Parts B & C (Students)
9. Bond Update
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Report from NCSBA Annual Conference
13. Public Comment
14. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on November 20, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Alice Wellborn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately 10 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

**MEDIA:**

John Lanier, Transylvania Times  
WLOS-TV

**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 Resources  
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator  
Heidi Bullock, AIG Specialist/Coordinator  
Joe Russo, TCAE President  
Mark Ellenberger, School Resource Officer

**1. Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda was revised to postpone item 12, Report from NCSBA Annual Conference, until the December 18 meeting.

**2. Architect Presentations**

The board heard presentations from five firms regarding qualifications for architectural design services related to the Transylvania County Schools master facilities plan. Each firm gave a 15-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute period for questions from the board. The presenters were Architectural Design Studio, Boomerang Design, Clark Nexsen, Moseley Architects, and PFA Architects. Following the presentations, the board took a recess from 7:05 to 7:15 p.m.

**3. Public Comment**

Mrs. Shelley Bossert spoke about bullying and racism. She stated that in the current political climate the anti-bullying policy exists only on paper. She stated that if the board wants to have a no-tolerance bullying policy with teeth, it must be willing to have the ugly discussions. She stated that she was horrified to hear that the perpetrator of a racial incident at the end of last school year was back in school.

Mrs. Rose Sample stated that as the parent of a student who was the victim of a racially-motivated assault last spring, she feels the situation was handled wrongly. She stated that what happened to her son was not an isolated incident and was swept under the rug. She reported that she brought a restraining order on the first day of school that was not upheld by staff or law enforcement, and that she was told she would not be allowed to stay in the BHS office without a criminal background check. She asked why the school can spend money on renovations, but will not put in more security cameras. She stated that the school system is responsible for her child's safety and she does not think that proper accommodations have been made. She would like for there to be a collaborative effort, including school staff, to fix the problem.

**4. Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*RED RIBBON WEEK*

During the week of October 23-27, 2017, Transylvania County Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week to help raise awareness of drug, alcohol, tobacco, and violence prevention. The theme for 2017's campaign was "Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free." School resource officers helped lead activities, games, and a food drive held jointly with the Bread of Life. Elementary classes that showed the greatest spirit earned prizes such as ice cream sundaes or getting to throw pies at their principals, teachers, or SROs.

*PFES CHORUS PERFORMS AT NCMEA CONVENTION*

The Pisgah Forest Elementary School Chorus was selected to perform a trio of songs as the featured ensemble at the North Carolina Music Educators' Association (NCMEA) annual convention in Winston-Salem in November. Congratulations to music director Carolyn Smith and the PFES chorus members.

*FOUR STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS*

Four fifth grade students were selected for the 2017 North Carolina State Elementary Honors Chorus in Winston-Salem. Hannah LaFever from Pisgah Forest Elementary, and Brooke LaRose, Ellery Zink, and Kelsey Gillespie from Brevard Elementary School traveled with music teachers Carolyn Smith (PFES) and Sarah Moser (BES) to the NCMEA annual convention. There they joined with 194 other fourth, fifth, and sixth grade singers for all-day rehearsals on November 11 and a performance in the Stevens Center on November 12. Congratulations to these performers and their teachers.

*BHS STUDENTS EARN PRESTIGIOUS HONORS CHORUS SEATS*

For the third consecutive year, Brevard High School sent student musicians to North Carolina's top high school choir, the North Carolina Music Educators Association Honors Chorus. Senior Douglas Grimm and juniors Candace Britt and Sabra Freeman competed in September to earn seats in the 176-voice vocal ensemble that performed at the NCMEA convention in Winston-Salem earlier this month. In addition, five students from the BHS Choir were selected to the Mars Hill 2018 Festival Choir. This is the region's oldest choral festival, celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2018 on the campus of Mars Hill University. Congratulations to seniors Doug Grimm (3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year) and Emily Sheffield (4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year), juniors Candace Britt and Sabra Freeman, and sophomore Sofia Pandolfo, as well as BHS music director Bart Gilleland for his outstanding leadership of the BHS choral program.

*GRADUATION AND GROWTH AWARDS CERTIFICATES*

State Superintendent Mark Johnson and the Department of Public Instruction have issued certificates of achievement for graduation and growth to the following schools for the 2016-2017 school year:

Rosman High School - Achieving an outstanding graduation rate of 96.1%  
 Brevard High School - Achieving an outstanding graduation rate of 95.4%  
 Brevard Elementary School - Achieving expected academic progress  
 Brevard Middle School - Achieving expected academic progress  
 Rosman Elementary School - Achieving expected academic progress  
 T. C. Henderson - Achieving expected academic progress

*RHS SENIOR WINS WENDY'S HEISMAN*

Rosman High School senior, Alicia Guinn, has been named a Wendy's High School Heisman Winner in recognition of her hard work, commitment to excellence, and dedication to never cutting corners. Since 1994, Wendy's and the Heisman Trophy Trust have honored more than 600,000 of the nation's most esteemed high school seniors for giving back to their communities, treating people with respect, continuing education, and excelling on the athletic field. As a school winner, Alicia receives a certificate and a Wendy's High School Heisman Patch, and is eligible to compete as a state finalist.

*2017 INDUCTIONS TO RHS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME*

At its home football game on November 3, Rosman High School inducted five new members into its Alumni Hall of Fame. This year's inductees included a former teacher, assistant principal, and Vocational Education director; a local student-athlete hero; an inspirational coach; a decorated Marine Corps veteran; and the longest-serving sheriff of Transylvania County. Congratulations to these individuals and their families:

Clinton Owen (Contributions to RHS) - Class of 1963  
 Greg Owen (Athletic Success) - Class of 1998  
 Larry Bullock (Inspirational Experiences) - Class of 1972  
 Eddie Fox (Career Success) - Class of 1984  
 Milford Hubbard (Public Service)

*SUPERINTENDENT MCDARIS AWARDED FRIDAY MEDAL*

Chairman McCoy reported that on Wednesday, November 15, Superintendent Jeff McDaris was awarded a 2017 Friday Medal honoring Innovative Superintendents of Rural North Carolina Districts by the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation in Raleigh. The Friday Institute, located on the campus of North Carolina State University, honors significant, distinguished and enduring contributions to education through advocating innovation, advancing learning, and imparting inspiration. The prestigious

Friday Medal is given annually to selected individuals who best embody the mission and spirit of the Friday Institute. Dr. McDaris was one of seven superintendents in the state who were selected to receive the Friday Medal.

*RON KIVINIEMI TO SERVE 2<sup>ND</sup> TERM ON NCSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

The North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) elected new officers and new members to the Board of Directors during the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Board Member Development earlier this month. Mr. Ron Kiviniemi was elected to serve a second two-year term on the NCSBA board. Mr. Kiviniemi was elected to his first term in 2015.

*MISCELLANEOUS*

Mr. Griffin expressed appreciation for the Brevard High School Rent a Student project on November 16 that raised money for Backpack Buddies and the Hunger Coalition. Chairman McCoy reported that the board has been invited to participate again in the annual Cops for Kids event in December. Dr. McDaris recognized the artwork from TCH that was on display in the board room and thanked SRO Ellenberger for being in attendance.

**5. Former Students in the Military**

In honor of Veterans Day, 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. There were two new names on the list, Ezra Brown and Bob Wickliffe.

**6. Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the minutes of the October 16 and October 17, 2017 meetings; the personnel report for November 20, 2017 (attached); and the following non-faculty coaches for winter sports 2017 were unanimously approved:

Brevard High School

David McNeil, Women's Basketball  
Hannah Sexton, Basketball Statistician  
Christie Cabe, Basketball Statistician  
Paul Witt, JV Men's Basketball  
Philip Latter, Indoor Track  
Joe Ellenberger, Wrestling  
Jimmy Jones, Weight Certification

Rosman High School

Hunter Reese, Men's Basketball  
Jennifer McCall, Women's Basketball  
Alexis Combs, JV Basketball Cheerleading  
Preston Garren, Wrestling  
Joe Moreira, Wrestling

Brevard Middle School

Chad Laney, Wrestling  
Tom Young, Boys' Basketball

Rosman Middle School

Preston Garren, Wrestling

**7. Instructional Update**

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs and Ms. Heidi Bullock gave a presentation on the Academically Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program and Advanced Learning. Ms. Bullock reviewed the program components of identification, differentiated curriculum and instruction, personnel and professional development, comprehensive programming within the total school community, partnerships, and program accountability. She described the latest tools and techniques aimed at identifying students who were not traditionally picked up with regular rating scales. Board members commended the increased flexibility, focus on students' individual needs, and emphasis on finding new ways to challenge students.

**8. Policy**

Brian Weaver presented new policy 2670, Business Advisory Council, for approval. He reported there had been no changes to the policy since the first read and informed the board that regulations regarding the composition and organization of the council are being developed. Mrs. Scruggs stated that she would like to see a subgroup in the future that is focused on high school and middle school. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, policy 2670 was unanimously adopted as presented.

Eleven new policies from the 4000 Series (Students), Parts B and C, and 13 old policies for rescission were presented as first-read information. Mr. Weaver noted that new policy 4326, Random Drug Testing of Students, is a custom policy based on old policy JHB, Student Drug Testing. Mrs. Wellborn commended policy 4303, Fair and Consistent Discipline Administration, as good to have in writing. Mr. Weaver reported that the local student code of conduct would be rewritten once the new student behavior policies have been adopted. Action on these policies will be requested in December. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the 11 new policies from the 4000 series and 13 old policies listed below were accepted as first-read information.

4000 Series (Parts B and C): Students			
New Policies (first read; adoption in December)		Old Policies (first read; rescission in December)	
4300	Student Behavior Policies	JFCC; JFCC-R	Student Conduct on School Buses; Student Conduct on School Buses
4301	Authority of School Personnel		
4302	School Plan for Management of Student Behavior	JFDA; JGA	School Plan for Management of Student Behavior; Corporal Punishment
4303	Fair and Consistent Discipline Administration		
4320	Tobacco Products - Students	GBK/KGC	Tobacco-Free Schools
4325	Drugs and Alcohol	JGDB	Drugs and Alcohol
4326 (custom)	Random Drug Testing of Students	JHB; JHB-R; JHB-E	Student Drug Testing; Student Drug Testing; Student Drug Testing
4328	Gang-Related Activity	JFCB	Gang-Related Activity
4342	Student Searches	JFGA	Searches of Students
4700	Student Records	JO	Confidentiality and Access to Student Records
4720	Surveys of Students	JFJ	Students Rights of Privacy

**9. Bond Update**

None

**10. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission has selected five partner institutions based on legislative criteria and an applications process passed into law by the state House of Representatives. They are Elon, Meredith, NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, and UNC-Charlotte. It is hoped that the program will one day go back to its original form and also include the strong regional universities that were founded to

address the teaching needs of rural North Carolina. That includes Western Carolina, Appalachian State, and East Carolina.

- Governor Cooper has announced his appointments to the Governor's Commission on Access to Sound, Basic Education. The Commission, which the governor created through an executive order, will focus on the critical importance of North Carolina meeting its duties under the state constitution as underscored by the landmark rulings in *Leandro v. North Carolina* and *Hoke County Board of Education v. North Carolina*. The Commission includes experts from a wide range of fields that are relevant to education and student and school success.
- Congratulations to Dr. Janet Harmon Mason, Superintendent of Rutherford County Schools, for being named the 2018 A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year.

**11. Important Dates**

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
Jan. 12	End of first semester
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 15, 16	Teacher workdays
Jan. 16	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Jan. 17	Second semester begins
Jan. 23-25	TCS Annual Science Fair/Expo, Rogow Room

**12. Report from NCSBA Annual Conference**

*Postponed until December 18*

**13. Public Comment**

None

**14. Other Items**

None

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
November 20, 2017**

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

Licensed Personnel

John Chmelar, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, RMS & RHS, effective December 14, 2017

Classified Personnel

Jill Chaney, Custodian, BMS, effective December 29, 2017  
Pamela Rumsey, School Health Assistant, BMS, effective October 26, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Breana Murfin, Teacher, BES, effective January 3, 2018

Classified Personnel

Brendan Ellsworth, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective November 21, 2017  
Stanley Owens, Custodian, PFES, effective January 3, 2018  
Ryan Smith, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective November 27, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Meredith Guice, from Teacher, BES, to Teacher & Coach, BMS, effective January 3, 2018

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

David Cornett  
Joshua Dunn  
Henry Felt

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None