

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
November 21, 2022**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Special Recognitions
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Personnel Report
 - B. Non-Faculty Coaches
7. School Improvement Plans
8. Engineering Fees for Metal Building at RHS
9. Superintendent's Update
10. Report from NCSBA Annual Conference
11. Important Dates
12. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on November 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 40 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Courtney Domokur
Marty Griffin
Kimsey Jackson

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chris Campbell, Campbell Shatley

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent
Missy Ellenberger, Director, 9-12 Instruction
Carrie Norris, Director, K-8 Instruction
Audrey Reneau, Director, Federal Programs
Gabi Juba, Chief Finance Officer
Jen Heatherly, Public Information Officer
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Mike Kirst, Principal, BES
Meredith Licht, Teacher, BHS
Greg Bemby, School Resource Officer

1. Approval of Agenda

CHAIRMAN MCCOY MADE A MOTION to reposition Public Comment before Special Recognitions. MR. JACKSON SECONDED, and the agenda for November 21, 2022 was unanimously approved as amended.

2. Public Comment

Chairman McCoy reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Sam Edney - I served on the board of education long ago. When I met Marty Griffin it became abundantly clear to me what Marty was doing and why. At that time, Marty's priorities were students and fellow teachers. Throughout his long and distinguished

career, he has proven me right. Thank you, Mr. Griffin, for your dedication to our teachers, students and community. A life of teaching without becoming weary is admirable. You have demonstrated both wisdom and love throughout your career.

Susan Lefler - A note of gratitude to Marty Griffin. You have been an inspiration to me and our community through a difficult few years. You have worked in a calm and deliberate way and have shown respect to administrators and teachers and others. I have watched as you have worked with an intransigent group of county commissioners. I consider their actions to be a scandal. I plan to attend many future meetings and want to find ways to rebuild a fabric of trust in our community. I say this with gratitude and hope that you who are ending your terms on the board will continue to serve our community in other ways.

3. Special Recognitions

Chairman McCoy recognized Marty Griffin and Courtney Domokur, whose tenures on the Transylvania County Board of Education will end at the end of this month. She reported that Mr. Griffin has served on the board since 2014 and Mrs. Domokur has served since 2018. During that time, each has devoted countless hours to supporting public education and serving the students and staff of Transylvania County Schools. Engraved plaques were presented in recognition of their dedicated service and outstanding leadership. Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Kiviniemi each extended individual thanks and appreciation to Marty and Courtney and stated that they would be missed. Mrs. Domokur and Mr. Griffin thanked everyone for their support.

Chairman McCoy called a recess at 6:45 p.m. for a short reception. The meeting was called back to order at 7:07 p.m.

4. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from T. C. Henderson that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Greg Bemby for attending the meeting. He shared the following good news:

Connestee Falls 2023 Scholarship Funds

On November 15, representatives of the Connestee Falls Scholarship Committee presented a check for \$50,000 to Transylvania County Schools for student scholarships in 2023. Our thanks to the members of the Connestee Falls community for their outstanding support of our students and their tremendous fundraising efforts each year.

Thanksgiving Lunch

Thanks to our School Nutrition team, the 2022 Thanksgiving lunch in Transylvania County Schools was big success. Their hard work planning and preparing this meal was evident and greatly appreciated by all. Also a thank you to our Board of Education for providing meals for current and retired TCS staff.

5. Former Students in the Military

The board recognized 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. Fourteen new names were recently added to the list.

6. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the personnel report for November 21, 2022 (see attached) and the following non-faculty coaches for winter sports 2022-2023 were unanimously approved.

RMS

Baily Bagwell, Women's Assistant Basketball
 Rachel Carnathan, Head Women's Basketball Cheerleading
 Kayne Smith, Head Wrestling

RHS

Cory Reid, Head Men's JV Basketball
 Kim Green, Men's Assistant Basketball
 Jacob Montgomery, Basketball Statistician
 Preston Garren, Head Wrestling
 Corey McCall, Assistant Indoor Track

BMS

Wayne Rundell, Head Men's Basketball
 Bradley Elmore, Men's Assistant Basketball
 Megan Dalton, Women's Assistant Basketball
 Nathan Turner, Assistant Wrestling

BHS

Paul Whitt, Head Men's Varsity Basketball
 Tyler Snipes, Men's Assistant Basketball
 Brent Chapman, Women's Assistant Basketball
 Kathy Hensgen, Women's Assistant Basketball
 Christie Cabe, Basketball Statistician
 Kayla McEwan, Head Women's Varsity Basketball
 Maddie O'Hearn, Head Varsity Women's Basketball Cheerleading
 Joe Ellenberger, Assistant Wrestling
 Jimmy Jones, Wrestling Weight Certifier
 Patricia Poché, Assistant Swimming
 Jackie Witherspoon, Assistant Indoor Track

Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he would like to see more faculty head coaches. Mrs. Domokur stated that there are long travel times even for middle school teams. For a faculty coach who must prepare for classes the next day and/or arrange for substitutes when the team has to leave early, that can be lot to put on educators. Mr. Griffin reported that when he was an athletic director he relied on non-faculty coaches, as do most systems across the state. He reported that most people who coach are parents or those who love the sport. It is a hard job with long, late hours and little pay. He added that there has not been an increase in coaching supplements in more than eight years. Chairman McCoy remarked that our schools could not provide all the sports they do without our non-faculty coaches.

7. School Improvement Plans

School Improvement Plans for Brevard Elementary School, Brevard High School, Brevard Middle School, Davidson River School, Rosman Elementary School, Rosman High School, and Rosman Middle School were presented for first read on November 7. Director Missy Ellenberger reported that meetings to look at more specific academic goals as recommended by Mr. Kiviniemi have been set up. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the School Improvement Plans for BES, BHS, BMS, DRS, RES, RHS, and RMS were unanimously approved as presented.

8. Engineering Fees for Metal Building at RHS

G.S. 143-64.31 requires the announcement of engineering requirements and selection of firms to perform architectural, engineering, and surveying services without regard to fee, while G.S. 143-64.32 permits exemption of individual projects from such announcement where the estimated fee is less than \$50,000. Dr. Jeff McDaris presented a

memorandum to approve T. E. Allen Engineering, PC, for a 30x80 metal building project at Rosman High School in the amount of \$8,400 and to exempt this project and other small projects performed by T. E. Allen Engineering from the requirements of G.S. 144-64.31, pursuant to G.S. 143-64.32. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the memorandum was unanimously approved (see attached).

9. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris shared the following updates:

- The Brevard Elementary PTO is working to design and construct an outdoor classroom similar to the one at Pisgah Forest Elementary. The PTO has received donations and plans to do the project with volunteers at no cost to the school or school system. The PTO is working with Plant Operations Supervisor Jason Merrill on logistics and permitting with the City.
- Today, November 21, is the anniversary of the Mayflower Compact, written and signed just over 400 years ago in 1620 (and prior to the landing of the Mayflower in what later became Plymouth, Massachusetts). It was first framework of government written and enacted in the territory that is now the United States of America.
- We celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday of this week. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. Some historians argue that the first Thanksgiving was actually celebrated in Florida in 1564 by French Huguenots—also Calvinists like the Pilgrims. Regardless of which was first, the Pilgrim's celebration laid the foundation for our national holiday. For over 200 years, a day of thanksgiving has been celebrated by individual colonies and states.
- In July 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg ended with more than 50,000 casualties over three days of Americans fighting Americans. On October 3rd of the same year, with the battle, victory, and human cost in mind, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation establishing a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. Although some of the original tenets for Thanksgiving have become overshadowed, we have much to be thankful for. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

10. Report from NCSBA Annual Conference

On November 14-16, Vice Chairman Ron Kiviniemi attended the NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development in Greensboro. He reviewed some of the topics that were discussed:

- Demographic changes and the need for multicultural learning
- Nationwide learning loss due to the pandemic. It is estimated that the additional months that would be needed to make up the loss ranges from 2.25 months to 15.25 months, depending on subject area.
- Leandro funding
- A motion to amend the NCSBA legislative agenda to ask that charter schools sports teams not be allowed to participate at the 1A level because they have the ability to recruit student athletes and the traditional public schools do not. Many charter school teams are comprised of travel teams from surrounding counties. The amendment was overwhelmingly approved

The board discussed how learning loss is being addressed locally. Director Carrie Norris reported that we have the funds to do a robust summer program. We had approximately 350 students attend summer programs last year. Transportation and free breakfast and lunch were provided; however, some families chose not to take advantage. Mr. Jackson asked if we could make math classes longer. Director Missy Ellenberger discussed the strategies in place for students who are struggling in Math 1. Dr. McDaris noted that ironically, at a time when schools are trying to alleviate learning loss, a proposal is being floated in the legislature that would mandate a shorter school year (start after Labor Day and end by Memorial Day).

11. Important Dates

Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break		
Dec. 5	REGULAR MEETING (new and re-elected members sworn in)	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Dec. 8-9	NCSBA Core Training for New Board Members	2 days	Raleigh
Dec. 12-13	NCSBA Core Training for New Board Members	2 days	Raleigh
Dec. 19	BOARD MEMBER TRAINING SESSION	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Dec. 20	Students dismissed at noon		
Dec. 21-Jan. 2	Christmas break		
Jan. 2	NO MEETING (holiday for staff & students)		
Jan. 3	Students & staff return from break		
Jan. 16	MLK Day (teacher workday)		
Jan. 17 (Tue.)	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Jan. 23	Teacher workday		

12. Other Items

Chairman McCoy again thanked Courtney Domokur and Marty Griffin for their years of service on the Board of Education.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
November 21, 2022**

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

Licensed Personnel

Alyse Hollingsworth, Digital Learning Specialist, BES, and Digital Learning Coordinator, TCS, effective January 31, 2023

Classified Personnel

Kerry Guice, Office Support, BHS, effective December 31, 2022

Heidi Johnson, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective December 31, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Cady Arrieta, Teacher Assistant, RMS, effective November 28, 2022

Hannah Dickson, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective November 28, 2022

Joshua Caleb Gilbert, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective November 28, 2022

Margaret Laney, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective December 1, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel

Breana Murfin, from Teacher, BES, to Instructional Coach, PFES, effective January 9, 2023

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

Ann Rich

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None

MEMORANDUM FOR: T.E. ALLEN ENGINEERING, PC

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FOR 30x80 METAL BUILDING AT RHS and OTHER SMALL PROJECTS PERFORMED BY T.E. ALLEN ENGINEERING, PC, FROM G.S. 143-64.31

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.31 generally requires the announcement of engineering requirements and selection of firms to perform architectural, engineering, and surveying services without regard to fee, while G.S. 143-64.32 permits exemption of individual projects from such announcement where the estimated fee is less than \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION proposes to consider T.E. ALLEN ENGINEERING, PC for the project listed above for a fee of \$8,400;

NOW, THEREFORE, the TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION in open session at a duly scheduled meeting of the Board and with a quorum present, hereby exempts the above project from the requirements of G.S. 143-64.31, pursuant to G.S. 143-64.32.

Adopted this the 21st day of November 2022, upon motion by Board member Ron Kiviniemi, seconded by Board member Marty Griffin, and passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

Tawny McCoy
Tawny McCoy, Board Chair

Attest: Dr. Jeff McDaris
Dr. Jeff McDaris
Ex Officio Secretary to the Board

11/21/22
Date