

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
December 12, 2011**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Election of Officers
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Personnel Report
7. Policy:
  - A. GCN/AFC-R, "Professional Educator Evaluation Process"
  - B. IC, "School Year"
  - C. ICA, "School Calendar"
8. Topics for Retreat
9. Important Dates
10. Public Comment
11. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on December 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Cindy Petit; and Shelia Norman were present. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Nathan Whitmire, School Resource Officer; and several presenters and guests. Mrs. McCoy gave the invocation and Mrs. Norman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. **Election of Officers**  
ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously re-elected Chris Whitmire as chairman and Tawny McCoy as vice-chairman for the 2012 year.
2. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for December 12, 2011 was approved as presented.
3. **Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.
4. **Good News Report**  
Dr. McDaris reported the following good news items:

*HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS*

The Brevard High School Chorus recently performed at the Biltmore House Candlelight Tour. This has become an annual tradition for the BHS singers. Students in Mrs. Danos' class at Pisgah Forest Elementary School recently treated visitors to a play re-enacting the Life of Squanto for the Thanksgiving Holiday. All schools have holiday concerts and performances scheduled during the month of December.

*HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS*

Angel trees, toy drives, food donations and many other activities are taking place in the schools and the central office in December to help needy families. Thanks to everyone whose donations of time and resources will help make the holidays warmer and brighter for all.

*CHILD NUTRITION NEWS*

On December 1, TCS hosted the Region 8 Child Nutrition Policy Update meeting at the Transylvania County Library. The BMS Cafeteria staff catered the event and received many compliments on the quality and presentation of food. That same evening, the CN department celebrated its winter staff meeting at Twin Dragons Restaurant. Board member Sue Fox assisted with the presentation of the Breakfast Champions awards to each staff member. This was a completion of the award which was presented in Raleigh earlier this fall at the CN Directors' conference. On December 2, reviewers from the state's USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program visited all four TCS elementary schools. They observed presentations, bulletin boards, and interactive class participations that incorporated nutrition education and physical education into the elementary curriculum. Reviewers were very pleased with the "really great things" being done here in Transylvania County Schools.

*WESTERN REGION FBLA COMPETITION*

Rosman High School FBLA students competed on December 7, 2011 at the Western Region Competitive Events held at Mountain Heritage High School. The following students took home awards and will go on to state competition in March:

Sarah Chapman - 1<sup>st</sup> place, Word Processing II  
Tassie Fisher - 1<sup>st</sup> place, Business Communications  
Chesney Anders - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Computer Applications  
Justin Raines - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Future Business Leader  
Michaela Guinn - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Business Procedures  
Devon McIntosh - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Public Speaking II  
Jamie Barton - 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Job Interview

*NATIONAL BOARD TEACHERS*

Transylvania County Schools has two new National Board Professional Teaching Standards teachers. Sherri Owen and Stephanie Sizemore, both at Pisgah Forest Elementary School, successfully completed their NBPTS certification.

*WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OUTSTANDING YOUTH PARTICIPANT*

On December 6, Rosman High School senior, Cody Brissy, was named as the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board's Outstanding Youth Participant for Transylvania County at a special awards luncheon held at the Grove Park Inn. Cody participates in the Building Futures Program and receives regular support from RHS student advocate, Todd Anderson. Cody enrolled in the program in December of 2010. He is employed with TCS assisting the custodial staff at RHS. He lives on his own and helps support his family. He currently holds a GPA of 3.48. He is very involved with the Rosman Amateur Theatrical Society and assisting the RHS Marching Band with equipment and props. After graduation, Cody plans to obtain his associate's degree from Blue Ridge Community College, and then earn a bachelor's degree in History from Western Carolina University. His goal is to teach history at a college or university. During his free time, Cody enjoys civil war reenactments, serving as a volunteer fire fighter for the Town of Rosman, and studying history.

*SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SHOWCASE*

Transylvania County Schools participated in the Sesquicentennial Celebration Showcase on December 3, 2011 at the Transylvania County Library. On display were the time capsule boxes that each school had developed to commemorate the year-long sesquicentennial activities. The school system received a grant of \$11,250 to support these events. Some examples of the activities were a study of logging and transportation in the county; the collection and recording of oral family histories, photographs, and recipes; videos highlighting the county's rich history of music, industry, and arts; students learning to play mountain dulcimers; visual journals of school and culture in 2011; a *Then and Now* project; an 1861 baseball game; and an original play written and performed by high school students enacting Christmas in Transylvania at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The year-long activities were led by Mrs. Sue Fox as the Board of Education representative on the countywide Sesquicentennial Steering Committee.

**5. Former Students in the Military**

The Board reviewed 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 two new names, David Roberts and Danny Roberts, had been added to the list. Additional names will be included as they are received.

**6. Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the minutes from the November 16 and November 21, 2011 meetings and the personnel report for December 12, 2011 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

**7. Policy**

Dr. McDaris reported that David Sutton was on vacation. He presented the following policies as first-read information:

- GCN/AFC-R, "Professional Educator Evaluation Process," has been revised to reflect clarification from DPI as to what constitutes a "long" observation. The change removes the requirement that a long observation must cover an entire class period, which will reduce the time at the high school level from 90 minutes to 45 minutes.
- IC, "School Year," has been revised to reflect the state's decision to change the school year from 180 student days to 185 student days. Other updates reflect current practices regarding the establishment of graduation dates and the removal of "six week" grading periods, which no longer apply.
- ICA, "School Calendar," has been completely rewritten to reflect current state statutes.

Approval of the revised policies will be requested at the next regular meeting.

**8. Topics for Retreat**

Dr. McDaris and the Board discussed possible topics for the planning retreat on February 6, 2012. The following topics were suggested:

- Afterschool issues regarding Title XX
- Essential Standards and Common Core changes
- Capital projects
- Calendar
- 50-year celebration of desegregation
- Year-round and magnet schools
- Blue Ridge Community College partnership
- Athletic conferences
- Technology update
- Substance abuse
- NC QUEST update
- Grants update
- FY13 budget

**9. Important Dates**

Dec. 13	Student Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Dec. 15	BHS Band/Chorus Holiday Spectacular, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Jan. 16	Teacher Leave Day
Jan. 16	Miss Bengal Pageant, 6:00 p.m., RHS Auditorium
Jan. 23	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., TBD
Feb. 6	PLANNING RETREAT, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 9	Superintendent's Communication Council, 3:45 p.m., MEC
Feb. 13	Parent Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Feb. 14	Student Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Feb. 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 20	Teacher Leave Day

**10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**11. Other Items**

Dr. McDaris reported that the State Board of Education has been talking about the costs associated with adding five extra days to the 2012-2013 school year. At this time, no additional state funding has been earmarked for the extra days. Dr. McDaris reported that approximately \$30,000 in extra fuel money would be needed just for TCS buses to operate five more days next year, not to mention the additional costs for child nutrition, utilities, salaries, etc. At a recent meeting, superintendents were advised that the State Board may grant waivers allowing LEAs to keep a 180-day calendar for the 2012-2013 year. Board members discussed the respective merits of a 180-day calendar versus a 185-day calendar. All were in agreement that a waiver should be requested due to financial constraints. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board unanimously approved a request that Transylvania County Schools be allowed to waive 5 instructional days (25 instructional hours) and follow a 180-day school calendar for the 2012-2013 year. Dr. McDaris remarked that with a 180-day calendar, the first day for students could be mid-August. TCS has already received a waiver allowing school to begin before August 25. In a 185-day calendar, the first day for students could occur during the first week of August. Dr. McDaris noted that by converting five student attendance days to teacher workdays, TCS would increase its capacity to provide professional development to teachers.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
12/12/11**

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Crystal Gustin, Teacher and Coach, BMS, effective January 2, 2012

Alyse Hollingsworth, Teacher, BHS, effective January 5, 2012

Terry Lewis, Interim Teacher, BHS, effective January 2, 2012

Classified Personnel

Sam Cathey, Temporary Part-Time Instructional Coach, TCH, effective November 28, 2011 through May 23, 2012

Lisa Crite, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective January 2, 2012

Thomas Johnson, Bus Driver, TCS, effective December 13, 2011

Bernadette Merriman, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective January 9, 2012

Maria Shea, Temporary Part-Time Tutor, PFES, effective January 4, 2012

Mary Ellen Whittle, Temporary Part-Time Tutor, PFES, effective January 4, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Melissa Ellenberger, from Teacher, BMS, to Teacher, BHS, effective January 2, 2012

Tonya James, from Teacher Assistant, BHS, to Interim Teacher, BHS, effective January 2, 2012 for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year

Classified Personnel

Rebekah Mandelli, from Part-Time Instructional Coach, RES, to Teacher Assistant, BES, effective December 13, 2011

- 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

Cody Ashe

John "Jake" Raines

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None