

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
December 13, 2010

Oath of Office

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Election of Officers
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Closed Session (Acquisition of Real Estate)
4. Public Comment
5. Good News Report
6. Former Students in the Military
7. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
8. School Calendar 2011-2012
9. Overseas Trip Request
10. Update on Curriculum/Essential Standards
11. School Improvement Plans
12. Topics for Retreat
13. Important Dates
14. Other Items
15. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on December 13, 2010 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chairman; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Wayne Brown, Magistrate; Wanda Lu Paxton, *WSQL*; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Norris Barger, David Sutton, Dr. Scott Elliott; Dr. Bo Williams and five guests. Magistrate Brown administered the oath of office to members Chris Whitmire and Sue Fox for the 2010-2014 term. Mrs. McCoy gave the invocation and Mrs. Norman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Election of Officers

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 115C-41, the Board elected officers for the upcoming year. ON A NOMINATION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously reelected Chris Whitmire as chairman for 2011. ON A NOMINATION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously re-elected Tawny McCoy as vice chair for 2011.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Whitmire asked for any revisions to the agenda. Mrs. Norman requested approval of local training hours for a workshop that she recently attended. Chairman Whitmire suggested that this be discussed under "other items." There were no other changes, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting agenda for December 13, 2010 was approved.

3. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board went into closed session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss the possible acquisition of real estate, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) and (a)(5). Present in the closed session were Mr. Whitmire, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Petit, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Barger. No action was taken, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board reconvened in open session at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Whitmire thanked the assembly for their patience and explained that the reason for having the closed session at the beginning of the meeting was due to a potential need to discuss business with another elected body.

4. Public Comment

Meredith Licht, TCAE president, invited Board members to attend the NCAE forum for elected officials, which has been tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2011 in Asheville. The forum would focus on discourse with local congressional representatives. Mrs. Licht will confirm the meeting details as they are known.

5. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris commended the student artwork from RHS that was on display in the board room. He reported the following items:

BMS STUDENTS VISIT PHARMAGRA

In November, students at Brevard Middle School visited the PharmAgra Lab as part of an 8th grade enrichment class. Local scientists demonstrated some of the amazing things they have discovered using science and chemistry. Students gained insight into some of the careers available in the field of science including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture. PharmAgra is a local science and chemistry lab in Brevard.

ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS

Three Brevard Elementary students, Aaron Flynn, Sarah Branagan, and Emily Sheffield, sang in concert with the North Carolina Elementary Honors Chorus in Winston-Salem on November 7. The singers are all members of the Brevard Elementary Chorus, under the direction of music teacher Sarah Moser. Chosen by audition, the honors chorus was composed of 195 students from across the state. Students performed under the leadership of guest conductor Dr. Sandra Snow in front of a standing room only crowd at the historic North Carolina School of the Arts Stevens Center.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Fourteen students from BHS, RHS and DRS participated in the Student Leadership Academy held at Biltmore Estates on November 4. Approximately one hundred students from Asheville City, Buncombe County, Henderson County, Madison County, and Transylvania County schools attended the event. Students attended sessions on Business Etiquette, Professionalism and Public Speaking, and the Biltmore Career Expo for interview tips. The students also enjoyed a tour of "The Farm" at Antler Hill Village, the newest addition to the Biltmore Estates.

One of the activities in which all students participated was the handshake contest. Students learned why a good handshake is so important and how to correctly shake someone's hand in order to make a good impression. They then were given the

opportunity to practice these tips in a handshaking contest. Chelsea Stevenson from Brevard High School was the overall handshake winner. Congratulations, Chelsea!

Transylvania County was well represented by these 14 student leaders. Attendees were Caroline Harrison, Allie Hogsed, Juan Mascaro, Ryan Pepperell, and Chelsea Stevenson from BHS; Casey Barrett, Jamie Barton, Kayla Lance, and Cory Wilson from RHS; and Cassie Leslie, Joe Welch, Bekah McMinn, Logan Roland, and A'Lyana Spalding from DRS. Advisors were Jessica Edney, Billie Wilson, Laura Smith, and Luanna Carter.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The Rosman High School Science Action Force League recently hosted a road clean-up day for the Adopt-a-Highway Campaign. Students and teachers worked hard to beautify stretches of road along Highway 64. A special thanks to the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office for watching out for everyone while they were working hard.

THANKS FOR RHS GREENHOUSE PRODUCE

Dr. McDaris recently received the following letter:

"Dear Dr. McDaris:

I just wanted to let you know how much John and I are enjoying our fresh produce from the Rosman High School Greenhouse. Mrs. McNeely and her Ag class have been providing our bakery with fresh lettuce greens and fresh herbs for several weeks now, and it has been wonderful! I think that they are providing other local restaurants with produce too, and are running their operation as a true small business. Mrs. McNeely and her students have been a pleasure to work with, and I hope that we can continue this relationship for many years to come. I am so proud to be a part of a community that teaches its students to value hard work, the environment and a strong business ethic.

Sincerely,

Katina Hansen
Blue Ridge Bakery
(828) 883-8444

RHS OPENS DR. CANNON EXHIBIT AT THE TRANSYLVANIA HERITAGE MUSEUM

Students from Rosman High School attended a reception to mark the opening of their history exhibit about Dr. Gaine Cannon and the Albert Schweitzer Memorial Hospital that he founded in Balsam Grove. The exhibit was co-sponsored by Susan Cannon and Priscilla Buchanan, Dr. Cannon's daughters, and Mr. and Mrs. Luke Brown, current owners of the clinic property in Balsam Grove. Museum Director Rebecca Suddeth worked with the students to create the exhibit. Jason Chapell, Chairman of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners and an RHS alumnus, attended the reception to recognize the students for their work.

EXXONMOBIL DONATES \$1500 TO TCS

Connie Cunningham, Marcia Pangle, and Barry Edwards with Henderson Oil Company, a local ExxonMobil distributor, recently presented two grants to Transylvania County Schools. Rosman Elementary School and Rosman High School each received a ExxonMobil Education Alliance Program grant in the amount of \$750 apiece. The grants target specific math and science programs that are in need of funding. Over the last seven years Henderson Oil Company has presented over \$75,000 to local schools. Many thanks to ExxonMobil and Henderson Oil Company

for their continued support of education and commitment to the children in Transylvania County Schools.

FIRST CITIZENS TO SPONSOR TOY AWARD

Beginning next year, First Citizens Bank of Brevard will sponsor the \$1,000 district Teacher of the Year award as well as plaques and paperweights for other “of the year” honorees. We greatly appreciate Mr. Billy Higgins and First Citizens Bank for their support of education and partnership with the school system.

TRANSPORTATION AUDIT

The annual audit review of the Transportation Information Management System (TIMS) data for TCS for the 2010-2011 year showed excellent results. To fully pass the TIMS data audit and maintain a high budget rating, all LEA efficiency percentages must exceed 90%. Transylvania ranked at or above 90% in all categories: students transported (95.0%); total bus miles (107.6%); total driver hours (90.0%); and number of buses operated (100.0%). Congratulations to Alan Justice, Julie Roberts and all of the TCS transportation staff.

VISUAL JOURNAL FOR COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate Transylvania County's 150th anniversary, all BMS art students are creating a visual journal page to be part of a school-wide visual journal. Eric Scott, a professional artist, teacher, and visual journaler, is leading 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes in creating their artwork. Each piece integrates photocopies of imagery and/or text from our county, provided by the Transylvania County Library, combined with the student's vision of our county through additional writing and mixed media art. The goal is to eventually display the visual journal through a traveling exhibit and then to house it in the BMS media center for future students to see.

WESTERN REGIONAL FBLA COMPETITION

Seven Rosman High School students and advisor, Lisa Gillespie, attended the Future Business Leaders of America Western Regional Competitive Events on December 2. The event was held at the Burnsville Town Center and sponsored by Mountain Heritage High School. Winners are listed below. All are eligible to compete at the State Leadership Conference in April:

Zach Cozart - First Place, Future Business Leader
Justin Raines, First Place, Business Procedures
Hannah Chappell - First Place, Public Speaking 1
Kelsey McGaha - 2nd Place, Business Calculations
Devon McIntosh - 2nd Place, Job Interview
Vada Judd - 2nd Place, Computer Applications
Jamie Barton - 3rd Place, Business Communications

DESTINY BUS

The DESTINY Traveling Science Learning Program visited Brevard High School last month. The program, based out of the UNC-Chapel Hill Planetarium and Science Center, is an educational outreach serving pre-college teachers and students across the state. It provides a hands-on curriculum that enriches learning beyond the classroom environment. This year BHS students had the opportunity to participate in the “Mystery of the Crooked Cell.” Students discovered the molecular basis of sickle cell disease by using gel electrophoresis as a diagnostic tool to differentiate normal hemoglobin found in individuals with sickle cell disease.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EDUCATION

Students from Brevard High School were recently given a tour of the Brevard Fire Department by Chief Budzinski and Public Education Officer, Captain Hughey. Captain Hughey demonstrated the proper procedure for donning protective gear, including the turn-out coat and fire hat. Students took notes for a writing assignment about firefighting procedures. The classes are also planning a writing assignment about the history of the Brevard Fire Department.

SENIOR PROJECT HELPS CHEERLEADERS WIN HONORS

Rosman High School cheerleader, Megan Owen, choreographed a competitive routine for her senior project. The RHS cheerleaders used her routine to compete at Gardner Webb University on December 4 and placed second in their division.

RMS CAREER DAY

Rosman Middle School held its 7th Grade Career Day on November 12. Students heard from several members of the community about their respective careers. Presenters included Kim Green (banking), Guy Kirk (crime scene investigation), four workers from Haywood EMC (power line service and repair), Katina Henson (small business and cake decorating), Dodie Porter (nail technician), A.J. Sizemore (sheriff's department K-9 unit), and Christy Diehl (dental assistant). The students were intrigued by having these community volunteers take time out of their busy days to share information that may have an impact on their future plans.

6. 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 no new names had been added to the list. Additional names will be included as they are received.

7. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the minutes from the November 15, 2010 meeting and the personnel report for December 13, 2010 were unanimously approved.

8. School Calendar 2011-2012

Dr. Bo Williams presented the proposed school calendar for 2011-2012 as developed by the calendar committee. He observed that this is the best calendar he has seen since the calendar legislation was enacted. The first day for students would be August 15, 2011. First semester would have 88 days and second semester would have 92 days. First semester exams would be given before Christmas break. Four Wednesdays (September 14, November 16, February 8, and April 25) have been designated for 12:00 p.m. student dismissals in order to provide professional development opportunities for teachers. On these days, staff development would be scheduled from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and would be mandatory. Dr. Williams reported that some parents on the calendar committee had been in favor of moving the staff development time to Fridays. It was explained during the calendar committee meeting that many teachers have obligations with coaching and other duties on Fridays. One of the parents reported that she had experience with having staff development time on Friday afternoons at another school district, and student attendance on those Fridays was dismal. Board members were very pleased with the proposed calendar. Approval of the 2011-2012 school calendar will be requested at the next regular meeting.

9. **Overseas Trip Request**

Rosman Middle/High School Band Director, Carolyn Smith, presented a request for approval for the RMS/RHS band to travel to London, England in June of 2012 to perform at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Festival, which will be held one month before the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The trip would cost approximately \$3,400 per person. Approximately 30 students would participate. Mrs. Smith reported that fundraisers, benefits, and sponsorships from local businesses would be planned to help cover the costs for students whose families cannot afford the full amount. She emphasized that every band member would have the opportunity to go on the trip regardless of individual financial circumstances. She reported that travel insurance would be purchased in order to recoup funds in the event of a last-minute cancellation. Should the trip not occur for any reason, any community-raised funds would be earmarked for other band program needs (i.e., new instruments).

Board members were supportive of the request, calling the proposed trip "the opportunity of a lifetime." They discussed waiving Policy IIC (Field Trip Approval and Cancellation), which states, "Field trips outside the continental United States shall not be sponsored or approved by the school system . . . Students and/or faculty members who desire to travel as a group to destinations outside of the continental United States may do so in accordance with Section II, 'Non-School-Sponsored Tours'." Mrs. McCoy stated that she believes the trip would be a wonderful opportunity for the students; however, she did have concerns about setting a precedent by waiving the policy.

Mr. Whitmire stated that he had at one time tried to change Policy IIC to allow overseas trips to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Dr. McDaris reported that he has requested an opinion on the proposed trip from the board attorney and suggested that the Board make any approval contingent upon the attorney's recommendation. Board members were in agreement with that suggestion, and noted that granting approval at this time would allow fundraising efforts to begin right away. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously voted to waive Policy IIC for the Rosman Middle/Rosman High band trip to London, England in June of 2012, pending approval by the board attorney. A review of Policy IIC by the policy committee was also requested.

10. **Update on Curriculum/Essential Standards**

Dr. Scott Elliott gave an update on upcoming changes to the state's core curriculum and essential standards. All courses of study under revision will have new curriculum in place by 2013. He noted that North Carolina may be moving toward some electronic textbooks. The state is encouraging LEAs to begin using online EOC and EOG tests in 2013 to prepare for 2014 when all testing will be required to be done online. U.S. History will be divided into two courses, which will change the graduation requirements from 21 to 22 credits. These changes will have far-reaching implications for scheduling, technology, staffing, and professional development. Dr. McDaris expressed concern that the state appears to be moving away from student accountability and placing larger emphasis on teacher accountability.

11. **School Improvement Plans**

David Sutton presented the School Improvement Plans for 2010-2012. He reported that the school improvement planning cycle has changed from three years to two years due to a change in statute. Each plan contains a school profile, program offerings, beliefs and mission, desired outcomes and results, analysis of organizational and instructional effectiveness, and action plan. Each action plan addresses the five strategic priorities

and lays out the specific goals and objectives to address those priorities. Each plan includes a class size waiver request. All nine plans are sensitive to issues of stakeholder feedback, with school improvement initiatives targeted at addressing and improving problems identified in the satisfaction surveys. Mr. Sutton commended the hard work that went into developing the plans, noting that they are the most focused and thoughtful that he has seen. The plans are living documents, viewable online. Approval of the plans will be requested at the next regular meeting.

12. Topics for Retreat

The Board will hold its annual planning retreat on Monday, February 7, 2011. The time has been tentatively set for 5:30 p.m., with a working supper to be provided. Board members were asked to submit possible topics for discussion to the superintendent's office. The list of topics will be reviewed and refined at the next regular meeting.

13. Important Dates

Dec. 15	BHS Senior Projects, 3:00-6:30 p.m., BHS
Dec. 16	RHS Senior Projects, 2-6 p.m., RHS
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. 17	Miss Bengal Pageant (snow date - Jan. 22), 6:00 p.m., RHS Auditorium
Jan. 24	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., TBD

14. Other Items

The following items were discussed:

"Bullying in Our School Community" Survey:

Brevard Middle School teacher, Teresa Duvall, presented a staff-developed survey on bullying and harassment for the Board's consideration. She reported that bullying had been identified as a concern from the school's satisfaction survey results. If approved, the survey would be given to all BMS students. The data gathered will be used help the staff evaluate and address what students perceive as problems. A second survey administration would be given before the end of the year to determine if any improvements have been made. Surveys would be anonymous; however, students would have a place to ask for individual help if they choose. The Board unanimously approved the survey and requested a follow-up report on the findings.

Requests to Name/Rename TCS Facilities

Mrs. Petit reported that she had been approached at different times by members of the Rosman community proposing that the Board name the court in the Rosman High School Silversteen Gym in honor of former Coach Jimmy Howell. Members discussed the request. All agreed that Coach Howell was a fine man worthy of recognition; however, as noted by Mrs. Norman, it has been the Board's practice in the past to abstain from naming facilities for specific individuals. Chairman Whitmire suggested further study, stating that if the Board begins naming facilities for individuals, it should consider first establishing a formal process to ensure that any dedication has been fully vetted and has full community support. The Board asked Ms. Hunter to research board minutes on the issue of naming facilities, which will be revisited at the January meeting.

Dr. McDaris reported that a petition requesting permission to change the name of the Brevard Middle School mascot from "Knights" back to the original "Blue Devils" had been received. Dr. McDaris noted that although the designation of school mascots has traditionally been a school-level decision, he would be supportive of the change as a way to build continuity of school identity from middle to high school. Board members agreed and directed the superintendent to inform BMS that they have no objection to the change in mascot.

Date of January Meeting:

Chairman Whitmire requested that the Board consider changing the date of the January meeting from January 24 to January 10, 2011. He pointed out that moving the meeting to the 10th would prevent a six-week interval between the December and January meetings. There were no objections to the change, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the date of the next regular meeting was changed from January 24 to January 10, 2011.

Suspensions:

Dr. McDaris reported that concerns have been expressed regarding a perceived inequity in high school suspensions. He stated that BHS does have more suspensions than RHS; however, BHS is a bigger school. It was agreed to include suspensions a possible topic for retreat.

Local Training Credit:

Mrs. Norman reported that she had recently attended a PBIS training session in Burnsville. She was directed to submit the pertinent information and a copy of the agenda to Ms. Hunter in order to prepare an application for approval of local training credit at the January meeting.

15. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
December 13, 2010**

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Lester Aiken, Custodian, RHS, effective January 31, 2011

Mildred Powell, Teacher Assistant & Coach, RHS, effective December 31, 2010

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

Licensed Personnel

Martha Snow, Interim, Part-Time Lead Teacher, RES, effective January 3, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Classified Personnel

Todd Anderson, Teacher Assistant, RMS & RHS, effective January 3, 2011

Sam Cathey, Temporary Part-Time Instructional Coach, TCH, effective January 3, 2011 through June 30, 2011

Noelle Fehn, Interim Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective January 10, 2011 through April 29, 2011

Julianna Landers, Temporary Part-Time Student Worker, Building Futures Program, effective December 14, 2010 through June 16, 2011

Joseph Landreth, Bus Driver, TCS, effective December 14, 2010

Levi McCall, Temporary Part-Time Student Worker, Building Futures Program, effective November 22, 2010, through June 16, 2011

Robert Allen Merrill, Custodian, BHS, effective December 14, 2010

Sonya Morris, Interim Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective January 13, 2011 through April 7, 2011

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Greg Biers, from Substitute Bus Driver, TCS, to Bus Driver, RES, effective December 14, 2010

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Sara Seagraves, Teacher Assistant, BES, GCBDB Leave, effective January 3, 2011, to April 15, 2011

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

Substitute Teachers

Cori Emory

Claire Prince

Sarah Chapman Reid

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None