

**Minutes**  
**Transylvania County Board of Education**  
**December 15, 2008**

OATH OF OFFICE

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Election of Officers
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Personnel Report
6. Non-Faculty Coaches
7. School Health Advisory Council
8. Obesity Grant
9. Capital Projects Update
10. Policy:
  - A. IGAJ-E1 (Driver's Education and License Eligibility)
11. ProActive System: Parent Component
12. School Improvement Plan Amendment
13. District Data Notebook Update
14. Employer Assisted Housing Project
15. Topics for Retreat
16. Important Dates
17. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on December 15, 2008, in the Brevard Middle School media center. Present were Mike Rogers, Vice Chairman; Chris Whitmire; and Board members-elect Tawny McCoy, Shelia Norman, Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Sonna Lyda, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; and approximately 60 staff, media and guests.

Transylvania County Clerk of Superior Court, Rita Ashe, administered the oath of office to Tawny McCoy, Shelia Norman, and Cindy Petit. Mrs. McCoy gave the invocation and Mrs. Norman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished the new Board members well.

Dr. Sonna Lyda announced a special treat. Directed by teacher Sally Germanaro, the Brevard Middle School chorus performed a mini-concert including a holiday song and the new school song, "BMS Rocks." The chorus presented Dr. Lyda with a copy of their brand new CD. Following the performance, the Board took a ten-minute recess.

**1. Election of Officers**

ON A NOMINATION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the Board unanimously elected Mike Rogers as Chairman and Chris Whitmire as Vice Chairman of the Transylvania County Board of Education for 2009.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Good News Report**

Dr. Lyda introduced RHS student representative, Jacob Crabtree, to the Board. She reported the following good news items:

*BHS Helps Heat Homes*

Several of the Brevard High School student organizations banded together to raise money for the Sharing House heating assistance fund. Interact and National Honor Society, aided by members of the Environmental Club, raised \$1,520 through their annual Rent-A-Student program. Students raked leaves, cleaned out gardens, cleared brush, and much more. Interact sponsors Kim Rosselle and Laura Patch and NHS sponsors Meredith Licht and Charisma Arbogast are very proud of the students. This was the most successful Rent-A-Student day yet. Dr. Lyda reported that all of the schools have had community assistance projects such as angel trees and food drives. Mr. Crabtree reported that Rosman High School had collected 300 cans for its food drive.

*National Board Teachers*

Patrick Chapman, Stacie Dotson, and Mandy Foster are the latest TCS teachers to achieve National Board Teaching Standards Certification. The Board will formally recognize them at the January 12 meeting.

**4. Former Students in the Military**

The Board recognized former TCS students who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Military. Chairman Rogers expressed appreciation to all of the individuals and their families for their dedication and sacrifice. He asked everyone to remember Jeremiah Galloway, who was injured by a land mine.

**5. Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the revised minutes from the November 17, 2008 meeting and the personnel report for December 15, 2008 (attached) were approved.

**6. Non-Faculty Coaches**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board approved Pam Sanders as a volunteer first-time assistant coach for BHS Girls Varsity Basketball, pending satisfactory background checks.

**7. School Health Advisory Council**

Dr. Lyda presented two new names for the School Health Advisory Council:

Suzi Miller, BMS Physical Education Teacher (2 year term)  
Sherry McCracken, PFES Parent Representative (1 year term)

In addition, Tawny McCoy volunteered to serve as the Board of Education representative on the council. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board approved Suzi Miller, Sherry McCracken and Tawny McCoy as members of the 2008-2009 School Health Advisory Council.

#### **8. Obesity Grant**

Stephanie Ramsey, Transylvania County Department of Public Health, gave a report on the childhood obesity epidemic and efforts to combat the problem in Transylvania County. Nationwide, the rate of childhood obesity has more than tripled from 1980 to 2004. North Carolina has the fifth highest rate for child and adolescent obesity. In Transylvania County, 39% of elementary school students are overweight or obese.

Several local programs are underway to help reduce the incidence of overweight and obesity. In Transylvania County, the "Munching and Moving" program is designed to increase nutrition education and physical activity through a three-tier approach at the school, family and community level. Energizers trainings have occurred at BES, PFES and TCH, with RES training to take place in January. Triple Play is being implemented into the after-school settings. Pedometer programs have started at BES, PFES, and TCH. A Turkey Trot community walk event was held in November. Brevard Elementary and T. C. Henderson have received Successful Schools certification from the North Carolina Action for Healthy Kids. Schools are tracking Body Mass Index (BMI) numbers for students. Grants are being sought to extend these and other efforts.

Lisa Anderson gave an update on elementary and middle school efforts to promote healthy lifestyles. Free nutrition curriculums have been ordered for K-8. Fourth grade teachers are doing 4-6 week sessions on nutrition. Middle school health classes and PE classes at all levels are focusing on activity and nutrition. Elementary classes are competing for the most laps walked.

Dr. Lyda thanked Ms. Ramsey and Steve Smith, Health Department Director, for their strong partnership with the schools and all they do for students.

#### **9. Capital Projects Update**

Norris Barger gave a status report on capital projects. The Rosman old gym renovation is scheduled to begin on January 2. Mr. Whitmire gave a reminder of the need for a privacy blind in the men's restroom. He asked about traffic flow for buses at RES and parking at RHS during the renovation. Mr. Barger discussed the specific plans for these items. There was considerable discussion on fill dirt. Chairman Rogers suggested a discussion on fill dirt options at the next meeting. Mr. Whitmire requested moving up the gas pump roofing project for the bus garage in order to be completed before the spring rainy season. Dr. Jeff McDaris discussed axle design and turning radii for the new school buses that will be delivered before Christmas, and how that might impact the bus loop at RES.

**10. Policy**

Dr. Bo Williams presented Policy Exhibit IGAJ-E1 (Driver's Education and License Eligibility letter) for rescission. He explained that the letter is revised frequently due to changes at the state and local levels, making it impractical as a policy exhibit. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, Policy IGAJ-E1 was rescinded.

**11. ProActive System: Parent Component**

Dony's Merrill gave an update on the ProActive notification system and the forthcoming parent component. Soon parents will be able to use ProActive as a portal to NCWISE in order to view their child's grades, attendance, and other information. The new parent component will be rolled out school by school, with orientation sessions scheduled to instruct parents on how to use the system. Brevard Elementary and Brevard High will be the first schools to introduce the new component. Chairman Rogers thanked Mrs. Merrill and the technology staff for all of their hard work in getting the system ready to go.

**12. School Improvement Plan Amendment**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the Board approved the Brevard Elementary School Improvement Plan amendment as presented on November 17, 2008.

**13. District Data Notebook Update**

David Sutton presented updates to the following performance indicators:

1. ABC's Growth & Performance Recognition Status
2. Percent Proficient on K-2 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Math
3. Composite EOG and EOC Proficiency Rates

He reviewed the 2007-2008 results for each indicator and explained the factors that caused the scores to increase, decrease, or remain stable. Mr. Rogers requested more information on the EOC science scores.

**14. Employer Assisted Housing Project**

David Sutton gave a report on an employer-assisted housing project for Transylvania County. Affordable housing is an urgent need countywide. Mr. Sutton, Dr. Lyda, and Mr. Barger have met with representatives from city and county government, the Transylvania Regional Hospital, Workforce Housing Coalition, and OnTrack Consumer Counseling to look at a collaborative program that would offer programs in home buying, personal financial planning and credit counseling as a no-cost or minimal cost employee benefit. An employee survey is being developed to determine the level of interest in the program. If there is enough interest, plans will proceed for the next step in the process.

**15. Topics for Retreat**

Dr. Lyda reported that the Board would hold its annual planning retreat on February 2, 2009. The following topics have been suggested for discussion:

<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Board</b>
Indoor Air Quality in Schools	Drug Awareness Curriculum
Budget	Community Land Trust
Community Land Trust	High School Scheduling
Response to Intervention	Academic Coaching
Calendar	Capital Improvements/Facilities Engineer
Math for Core Curriculum	Childhood Obesity
	Staff Development

Board members will be asked to begin prioritizing topics over the next few weeks. Some topics may be moved to regular business meetings.

#### 16. **Important Dates**

Dec. 16	BHS Band/Chorus <i>Holiday Spectacular!</i>	7:00 p.m.	Porter Center
Dec. 18	SPECIAL MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Dec. 22 – Jan. 1	Christmas Break		
Jan. 2	Teacher Workday		
Jan. 12	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	Transylvania Co. Library
Jan. 16	Student Day (formerly teacher workday)		
Jan. 19	Teacher Workday		
Jan. 20	Teacher Workday (formerly student day)		
<i>Jan. 22-23</i>	<i>NCSBA "School Board 101" Training</i>		<i>Raleigh, NC</i>
Feb. 2	RETREAT	TBA	TBA
Feb. 16	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
<i>Feb. 19-20</i>	<i>NCSBA Law Seminars</i>		<i>Raleigh, NC</i>
Feb. 25	Parent Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
Feb. 26	Superintendent's Communication Council	3:45 p.m.	MEC
Feb. 27	Student Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC

#### Make-up Days

December 1 will be made up on June 9.

**17. Other Items**

Chairman Rogers invited student representative Jacob Crabtree to share his comments or concerns with the Board. Mr. Crabtree asked about the scope of the Rosman gym renovation and suggested the Board look into temporary parking at a nearby church during the renovation. He inquired about the feasibility of having vocational students perform the roof job at the bus garage. Lastly, he reported problems with temperature variations at RHS, stating that some classrooms were very hot and others were very cold. Dr. Lyda stated that the heating problem would be looked into. She explained that the roofing job would not be feasible as a student project.

Mr. Whitmire stated that he was looking forward to working with the new Board members. Mrs. Norman stated that she looked forward to working with Mr. Rogers and Mr. Whitmire in their leadership roles as chairman and vice chairman.

Dr. Lyda asked for a volunteer from the Board to serve on the calendar committee. There were no volunteers.

Chairman Rogers thanked Principal David Williams and the BMS staff for hosting the meeting and the BMS chorus for their excellent performance.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
December 15, 2008**

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Steve Galloway, Bus Driver, TCS, effective December 1, 2008

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Rene Bickford, Interim Teacher Assistant, BES, effective January 2, 2009, through June 17, 2009

Melissa Golden, Interim Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective December 16, 2008, through June 17, 2009

Ray Myers, Custodian, BHS, effective December 16, 2008

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Anna McCall, Office Support, PFES, unpaid leave pursuant to local Board policy GCBDB, effective May 25, 2009, through August 17, 2009

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

Substitute Teachers

Greg Clements  
Julie Coggins  
Steven Crabtree  
Ashley Griffin  
Toni Hutcheson  
Jordan Hutchkiss  
Diane Jettón  
Heather Kinsland  
Susan Matthey  
Alyssa Miller  
Tianna Spear  
Carolyn Trapp

Substitute Child Nutrition

None