

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
December 18, 2017**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Election of Officers
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Isaac's Home
5. Good News Report
6. Former Students in the Military
7. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report (*moved to Item No. 20*)
8. Instructional Update
9. School Improvement Plan Progress Reports
10. Class Size Waiver Request
11. Policy:
 - A. 4000 Series, Parts B & C (Section 2)
 - B. 4000 Series, Parts B & C (Section 3)
12. Bond Update
13. Superintendent's Update
14. Important Dates
15. Topics for Work Session
16. Report from NCSBA Annual Conference
17. Public Comment
18. Other Items
19. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on December 18, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi 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

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
Arleca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
Joe Russo, TCAE President
Diamond Wright, School Resource Officer

1. Election of Officers

Dr. McDaris reported that N.C.G.S. § 115C-41 calls for local boards of education to have an organizational meeting no later than 60 days after the swearing in of members

following election or appointment, at which time the members of the board shall elect one or their members as chairman for a period of one year, or until his successor is elected and qualified. The Transylvania County Board of Education has traditionally elected a chair and vice chair each year at its December meeting. Chairman McCoy turned the proceedings over to Attorney Donnahoo. Mr. Donnahoo opened the floor for nominations for chairman. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, Tawny McCoy was nominated as board chair for 2018. There were no other nominations, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, nominations for chairman were closed. On a unanimous vote, Mrs. McCoy was elected as board chair for 2018. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, Ron Kiviniemi was nominated as vice chair for 2018. There were no other nominations, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, nominations for vice chair were closed. On a unanimous vote, Mr. Kiviniemi was elected as board vice chair for 2018. Mr. Donnahoo turned the meeting back over to Chairman McCoy.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the personnel report for December 18, 2017 was removed from the consent agenda and placed as item no. 20 on the agenda.

3. **Public Comment**

Marenda McCall, parent, expressed concerns about the afternoon traffic at Brevard Elementary School. She reported that the car rider pick-up line begins forming at 2 p.m. for the 3 p.m. dismissal, sometimes causing traffic to back up all the way to Silvermont. Also, because more grandparents are raising children nowadays, and with limited handicap parking at the school, she sees a danger in people with limited mobility crossing through the line of vehicles to retrieve children. She asked the board to look at the BES traffic pattern and see if there is any way to improve safety and flow.

Angela Owen, president of Rosman Friends of the Band, presented a petition of over 100 signatures asking the board to support the purchase of new band uniforms for the Rosman Middle/High School marching band. She stated that the current uniforms (purchased in 1999) are showing extreme wear and tear and do not represent the school well. She showed the board one of the old uniforms and a sample new uniform. She reported that it would cost an average of \$440 per uniform to outfit the 37-member band.

4. **Isaac's Home**

Dr. McDaris reported that a presentation on Isaac's Home, a housing initiative for displaced and homeless teens, would be given in January.

5. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

DRS WORKS AGAINST BULLYING

Students in the Davidson River School Rebound Program partnered last year with Brevard College to showcase the film REJECT, a documentary video on bullying and social isolation: <http://rejectfilm.com/official-trailer/>. The film delves into the physiological impact on the brain when people are bullied/rejected and the social and emotional impacts. On November 7, Davidson River presented the film at the North Carolina Association of Alternative Educators (NCAAE) Conference and hosted the director of the film for a panel discussion with teacher Jess Webb and student Alex

Padilla. Davidson River plans to further the fight against bullying and its harmful effects through professional development and viewings of the film with its students. Davidson River Taiko also performed at the NCAAE conference that day.

DRS GRANT AWARD

Expect for things to get a bit "squirrely" at Davidson River School this year. Jennifer Speckman recently was awarded a grant from the North Carolina Arboretum to classify squirrel populations in the area. Her students will work with science students in Noelle Fehn's classes who are in their second year of a grant from the Arboretum to track bird populations and migration.

NEW MURAL AT DAVIDSON RIVER

Davidson River School is proud of its newest school-wide project, a new mural that emphasizes diversity and tolerance. The students and staff worked collaboratively designing and painting the mural during the week of December 4 under the direction of artist-in-residence Nachin Bone. The residency was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Peterman.

LEADERS ARE THOSE WHO LEAD

Congratulations to the TCS Transportation Department for leading the way in school bus safety. When Alamance County Schools had a problem with drivers passing stopped school buses, they followed Transylvania's lead and installed longer stop arms signs on 25 of their buses. In a local news story, Robert Geyer, President of Bus Safety Solutions and inventor of the longer stop arms, was asked about the effectiveness of these arms. In his segment, he commended Transylvania County Schools, where all 35 buses have the longer arms. On the day passed buses were counted, the number of drivers who went around stopped buses went down from 16 to 2 in just two years.

DIGITAL LEARNING SHOWCASE GRANT

The State Board of Education has approved a Digital Learning Initiative Showcase Grant for Transylvania County Schools in the amount of \$40,874.68. This was a competitive grant process. The grant will allow the district showcase highly effective practices for digital teaching and learning. The *TCS Step It Up Showcase* will also provide professional learning for other schools in the region through a demonstration model. In receiving the grant, consideration was given to districts and charter schools aligning work to the NC Digital Learning Competencies and one or more of the following: micro-credentialing, personalized learning, digital literacy skills for students, or innovative partnerships with Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs). The showcase will take place at Brevard High School on June 13. Transylvania educators who are interested in presenting at the showcase may submit a proposal by January 12. Selected presenters will receive a \$300 stipend, as well as an all-expense paid trip to the NCTIES Technology in Education Conference in Raleigh. Congratulations to Cathy Zandecki and Vera Cubero for developing a winning grant proposal.

BMS WINS ROBOTICS REGIONALS

On December 2, Brevard Middle School's First Lego League Robotics Team competed at the regional qualifier in Cherokee. Teams were judged on the performance of their robot, its mechanical design, use of effective coding, teamwork, and the project. The BMS team invented an alarm to help prevent frozen pipes. Out of the nearly fifty teams present, Brevard Middle was named the overall champion based on their outstanding performance in the categories above. They will move on to the state tournament on January 20 in Greensboro. Congratulations to the BMS Robotics Team and teacher Justin Ausburn.

TCSEF MINI-GRANTS AWARDED

The Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation has again made \$18,000 available for grants to TCS teachers, thanks to its fundraising efforts with the annual Taste of Transylvania and the work of the Grants Committee, which evaluates upwards of 50 proposals per year. The Grants Committee has recommended that the following projects be funded in 2018-2019, with all projects due for completion between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Name	School	Award	Title
Stephanie Ramsey	RHS	\$980.95	Anatomical Models for Learning
Jessica Whitmire	BHS	\$1,183.00	The Right Tools for the Job
Hale Durant	BHS	\$557.15	Microscopes and Microscope Cameras for Veterinary Assisting and Science Courses
Sarah Rhymer	BHS	\$652.00	Portable Poultry Netting
Kristi Clark	PFE	\$300.00	Main Street, PFE: a Hands on Economics Project for 2nd Graders
Amy Schoenacher	RHS	\$236.83	It's the Little Things
Katrina D Ronneburger	BHS	\$648.15	Frame a Dragon
Arami Bolick-Moore	DRS	\$139.80	Using Gaming Technology to Engage At-Risk Students
Heather McNeely	RHS	\$798.00	Growing the community
Jennifer Speckman	DRS	\$715.05	Yearbook Supplies
Deanna Campbell	BES	\$800.00	Muddy Sneakers
Kimberly Moore	TCH	\$551.98	Real World STEM Challenges
Jeanne DeJong	BES	\$270.37	Tinker Thinkers Toolbox
Kimberly Moore	TCH	\$425.86	Cue the Robots!
Jessica Webb & Mandy Blake	DRS	\$430.98	Encouraging a Sense of Community at DRS
Lisa M. Pauer	BES	\$500.00	World Peace Game Facilitator Training
Noelle Fehn	DRS	\$660.00	Aquaponics Garden Kit
Elizabeth Ballard	RMS	\$335.58	Hand Tools for Art
Carrie Norris	BHS	\$760.00	SLIDE into High School! Every MINUTE Counts!!!
Elizabeth Ballard	TCH	\$522.69	Makey-Makeys for Makers
Alyse Hollingsworth	BES	\$599.96	Buzzing Around BES with Bee-Bots
Hayley Leland	BES	\$670.01	Growing Plants and Young Minds!
Ashley Dickson	BMS	\$349.56	When Reading Gets Real!!
Renee Compton & Michelle Ridenour	BES	\$355.25	Tisket a TASKet
Hayley Leland	BES	\$538.02	Creation Stations

Amy Schoenacher & Sarah Justice	RHS	\$712.00	Chihuly
Carol Martin	BES	\$460.81	It Just Makes Sense
Leigh Hyett	BES	\$615.60	Leveling the Playing Field
Linda Carrillo	RMS	\$600.00	The W.A.Y. (The World Around You)
Peggy Bayne	RES	\$795.00	Bright Star Touring Theatre Summer Tour
Sean Parrish	BHS	\$600.00	Gallery Frames and Pedestals
Barbie Higdon	RES	\$228.00	Pedaling Our Way to Better Focus and Learning

OUTSTANDING WIOA BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD

Congratulations to Transylvania County Schools Career & Technical Education (CTE) Department for being named as an Outstanding WIOA Business Partner at the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board Recognition Luncheon on December 7. The CTE department was nominated by Jason Chappell, NCWorks Director, for its outstanding use of career center services through Blue Ridge Community College and the NCWorks Career Center. Jason Chappell and Arleca Chapman were recognized by the board. Mr. Chappell commended the great things happening in the Transylvania County Schools CTE program.

Dr. McDaris recognized the artwork from Pisgah Forest Elementary School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Wright for being in attendance.

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. There were three new names on the list, Frank J. Patton Jr., Jackie L. Salter Jr., and Varian Salter.

7. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the minutes of the November 20, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

8. Instructional Update

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs welcomed Dr. Laura Leatherwood, Mr. Kevin Spradlin, and Ms. Glenda McCarson from Blue Ridge Community College to the meeting. Mr. Spradlin gave a presentation on dual enrollment and other educational partnerships between Transylvania County Schools and BRCC. He works with all three high schools and both middle schools, with a focus on making connections and helping students understand they have choices. Dr. Leatherwood stated that Blue Ridge is committed to expanding and improving opportunities for students in this county, noting that the earlier students become involved in career planning, the better they will do. Board members asked questions and commended the work of BRCC in helping students explore their interests and potential careers.

9. School Improvement Plan Progress Reports

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs presented progress reports for the 2016-2018 school improvement plans. Board members commended the drill-down approaches, amount of effort and collaboration, building of leadership teams and professional learning communities, inclusion, parent involvement, community involvement, homework strategies, and

emphasis on teacher leadership that are reflected in the plans. Mr. Kiviniemi noted a few problems with some of the plans' embedded links. Dr. Gibbs reported that he would get those items and any other information requested to the members. Chairman McCoy thanked the schools for all of their hard work on the plans.

10. Class Size Waiver Request

Brian Weaver presented a class size waiver request for 2017-2018 pursuant to G.S. 115C-301(g)(4) for classes of K-3 students taught by program enhancement teachers. Program enhancement teachers are defined as teachers who teach arts disciplines, including dance, music, theater, and the visual arts; physical education and health programs; or world languages. Mr. Weaver noted that the instructions for the waiver requests were sent from DPI on November 29 with a due date of November 30. Board members discussed the potential need for additional teachers if the class size legislation is not fixed. Mr. Weaver predicted that based on this year's kindergarten enrollment, six more teachers would be needed (with no additional funding) if the legislation remains as is. Mrs. McGaha discussed the importance of communicating these concerns to legislators. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the class size waiver request for 2017-2018 was unanimously ratified.

11. Policy

Brian Weaver presented 11 new policies from the 4000 Series (Students) for second-read approval and 13 old policies for rescission. He reported there had been no changes to the policies since the first reads in November. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously adopted the 11 new policies from the 4000 Series and rescinded the 13 old policies as indicated below.

4000 Series (Parts B and C): Students			
ADOPTED		RESCINDED	
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

Mr. Weaver presented as first-read information three new policies (4316, Student Dress Code; 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices; and 4400, Attendance) and five old policies to be rescinded. He pointed out that the new dress code policy is broadly written, with specific rules and guidelines to be included in the regulations being developed. Board members had concerns that such a broadly defined policy could lead

to more subjective decisions about what is or is not appropriate dress. Mr. Donnahoo explained that NCSBA policies are generically broad to fit all systems so that superintendents and administrators can install regulations with the specificity needed for their system's schools. In addition, regulations can be changed more quickly and easily than a policy, while having the same force as a policy.

The board reviewed the wireless communication policy and attendance policy. Discussion centered on instructional day versus instructional time, asking parents not to call or text during class times, the use of devices as instructional tools, and consequences for excessive absences.

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously accepted the three new policies from the 4000 Series and the five old policies listed below as first-read information. Action on the policies will be requested in January. Mr. Kiviniemi requested that the board review the regulations for the dress code policy and wireless communication policy when done.

4000 Series (Parts B and C): Students			
New Policies (first read; adoption in January)		Old Policies (first read; rescission in January)	
4316	Student Dress Code	JFCE	Student Dress Code
4318	Use of Wireless Communication Devices	JI	Wireless Communication and Electronic Devices
4400	Attendance	IKEA; JE; JE- R	Procedures for Making Up Excessive Absences - Middle/High School; Student Attendance; Student Attendance

The board took a ten-minute recess from 8:35 to 8:45 p.m.

12. **Bond Update**

Last month, the board heard presentations from five architectural firms regarding qualifications and design services for a future bond referendum. Mr. Barger reported that he has worked with four of the five firms and feels all five would be good choices. Members discussed their preferences among the five firms. MR. KIVINIEMI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, to select Clark Nexsen as the board's architectural firm and to authorize Mr. Barger, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Donnahoo to develop a contract with the firm based on the board's discussion at this meeting. There was considerable discussion about the scope of services to be included in any contract based on several factors including available funding. It was generally agreed that the firm would provide modified design development and public relations work during the community outreach phase (all of which would expand to construction later on), with a contract price to be negotiated. After further discussion, MR. KIVINIEMI AND MRS. WELLBORN WITHDREW THEIR MOTION AND SECOND AND MADE A NEW MOTION AND SECOND selecting Clark Nexsen as the board's architect firm for further work in regards to the Transylvania County Schools master facilities plan and will engage Clark Nexsen, when funds are available, with a contract to be approved at a later date. The new motion and second passed unanimously.

13. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported that much has been in the news lately regarding local spending for the school system and the county. He presented the following data points to help portray a fuller picture.

- Compared to peer counties mentioned recently in the news, which includes our neighbors, Transylvania County has the 4th highest out of 15 counties in median household income. For our peers of the same size school population, we have the highest.
- Contrast this with the types of basic amenities young families need (to live here or be recruited to live here) such as licensed child care facilities. We have the fewest among our peer counties. Compared to the counties recently presented in the news, we have the fewest among all 15 counties.
- Despite having one of the highest median household incomes, among working families we have the lowest average weekly wage in all industries of counties bordering us.
- Other than Jackson, of the counties that border us we have the lowest percentage of people employed in the manufacturing sector among employed workers. Other than Jackson, of the counties that border us we also have the lowest percentage of people employed in the manufacturing sector among the entire population.
- We are the oldest county among neighbors and our peers in median age, and have the lowest percentage of the population under the age of 20.
- Despite the wealth in the county, in terms of our population aged 5-17 we have the highest child poverty percentage of all the counties bordering Transylvania County.
- In summary, we support proactive movement in economic action in our county, and encourage its growth. It dramatically affects families, which in turn affects schools

Dr. McDaris requested thoughts and prayers for Dr. David Melcher who is stepping down as Chancellor at Western Carolina University in order to battle brain cancer.

14. Important Dates

The board will resume its twice-a-month meeting schedule in February 2018. Meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center, unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 20	12:00 p.m. dismissal for students
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
Feb. 5	PLANNING WORK SESSION, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 19	Teacher workday
Feb. 19	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

15. Topics for Work Session

Dr. McDaris reported that the board will hold its annual planning/work session on February 5 at the Morris Education Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. Potential topics for discussion include master facilities plan, bond, capital funding, FY19 budget, class size legislation, and enhancement teachers. Other topics may be suggested.

- 16. **Report from NCSBA Annual Conference**
On November 13-15, Mr. Griffin attended the NCSBA 48th Annual Conference for Board Member Development in Greensboro. He reported that the presentations were timely and informative and gave a brief summary to the board.

- 17. **Public Comment**
None

- 18. **Other Items**
None

- 19. **Closed Session**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board went into closed session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-319 and 143-318.11(a)(1). Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. McGaha, Mrs. Wellborn, Mr. Donnahoo, Mr. Weaver, and Dr. McDaris. Mr. Griffin recused himself from the discussion due to a potential conflict of interest. No action was taken in the closed session. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board reconvened in open session at 10:23 p.m.

- 20. **Personnel Report**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the personnel report for December 18, 2018 (see attached) was approved as presented on a 4:0 vote (Mr. Griffin recused himself).

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
December 18, 2017**

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

Licensed Personnel

Aimee Adams, Teacher, BMS, effective December 18, 2017

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Jacob Davis, Interim Teacher & Coach, RMS and RHS, effective December 4, 2017

Classified Personnel

David Hollingsworth, Custodian & Bus Driver, BMS, effective January 3, 2018

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

Licensed Personnel

Patrick Chapman, from Teacher, RHS, to Assistant Principal & Athletic Director, RMS and RHS, effective January 17, 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

Reanna Edwards

Kelly Estep

Leigh Anne McJunkin

Tesha Ogle

Daniel Jacob Sund

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None