

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
December 19, 2016**

OATHS OF OFFICE

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. Proposal for PFES Outdoor Classroom
8. School Improvement Plans 2016-2018
9. Policy:
  - A. 3565/8307, Title I Program Compatibility of Services
10. Topics for Work Session
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Important Dates
13. Public Comment
14. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on December 19, 2016 at the Morris Education Center. Transylvania County Clerk of Superior Court, Kristi B. Brown, administered the oath of office to new and re-elected board of education members Alice Wellborn, Tawny McCoy, and Ron Kiviniemi. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Betty Scruggs McGaha led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately 20 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

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER:**

Greg Stroup

**STAFF:**

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer  
Brian Weaver, Senior Director, Human Resources  
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum & Instruction  
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services  
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator  
April Gaydosh, Principal, BES  
Tammy Bellefeuil, Principal, BHS  
Jeff Bailey, Principal, BMS  
Tonya Treadway, Principal, PFES  
Donna Wilde, Principal, DRS  
Scott Strickler, Principal, RES  
Jason Ormsby, Principal, RHS  
Greg Carter, Principal, RMS  
Cathy Credle, Principal, TCH  
Joe Russo, TCAE President

**1. Election of Officers**

Chairman McCoy turned the meeting over to Dr. McDaris, who opened the floor for nominations for board chairman. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, Tawny McCoy was nominated as chairman for 2017. There were no other nominations, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the nominations were closed. BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, Tawny McCoy was elected as chairman for 2017. Dr. McDaris opened the floor for nominations for vice chair. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, Ron Kiviniemi was nominated as vice chair for 2017. There were no further nominations, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the nominations were closed. BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, Ron Kiviniemi was elected as vice chair for 2017. Dr. McDaris returned the meeting to Chairman McCoy.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for December 19, 2016 was approved as presented.

**3. Public Comment**

Larry Chapman, chairman of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners, congratulated Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, and Mrs. Wellborn on their elections, and stated that the board of commissioners looks forward to working with the board of education on the financial challenges facing the school system and the county. He stated that he would be open to one-on-one, two-on-two, and/or joint meetings between the boards and encouraged members to contact him with concerns or questions at any time.

**4. Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*TCSYES TWITTER CHALLENGE FALL 2016*

During November 7-22, TCS staffers took the challenge to tweet at least once a day to share the great things happening at school and in their professional lives. Participants shared over 600 tweets and lots of insight into working and learning in Transylvania County Schools. Congratulations to Kathryn Bailey at BHS for winning the Twitter Challenge. Ms. Bailey won a \$30 gift card to Mayberry's and a \$20 gift certificate to D.D. Bullwinkel's. Other winners received \$5 gift cards from Blue Ridge Bakery, Bracken Mountain Bakery, and Quotations. For a look at the entire two-week event, follow this link to <https://storify.com/TransylvaniaSch/tcsyes-twitter-challenge-fall-2016>.

*TCS TECH QUEST WINNER*

Congratulations to PFES teacher, Katie Bland, winner of the TCS Tech Quest Raffle. Katie's name was chosen from 99 entries. Teachers' names were submitted multiple times based on the number of quests he/she completed.

*FBLA REGIONAL COMPETITION*

Congratulations to the following students from BHS who placed at the Western Regional FBLA Competition at Franklin High School on December 2. The event included 160 competitors in 20 different competitions. Dolly McCall is the Brevard High FBLA sponsor.

August Barnham, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Business Communications  
Jammi Hunt, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Business Calculations  
Noah Housman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Business Calculations

Meredith Barton, 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Job Interview  
 Nate Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Public Speaking 1  
 Cullen Duval, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Public Speaking 2

#### *HOLIDAY CHEER*

Students and staff of Transylvania County Schools have been celebrating Christmas all month with holiday concerts, musicals, plays, parades, Twilight Tour, angel trees and other activities. A big thank you goes to everyone who performed, marched, donated, and otherwise gave of their time and talents this holiday season.

#### *SANTA VISITS RES*

Santa Claus came to visit the children of Rosman Elementary School on Tuesday, December 13. He flew in from the North Pole right after the 8 a.m. bell with the gift of a book for each child. Santa encouraged students to continue learning and reading through their lifelong journey. Pictures of students were also taken and shared with families, creating a lasting memory for this year and beyond.

#### *NEW BUS MONITORING SYSTEM*

Working with U.S. Cellular, Transylvania County Schools has a new GPS bus monitoring system that will help school administrators track every bus by location and speed, improving safety and shortening response times for any emergency. A demonstration of the new software was held at the bus garage on December 13 to show how administrators can easily track buses from their desktops and smartphones.

#### *RHS is Getting a Beehive*

Rosman High School recently received word that its application to the Bee Cause Project for a Whole Foods Honey Bee Grant has been approved. Congratulations to Sarah Justice and everyone who worked on the grant application.

#### *BES IS AN A+ SCHOOL*

Congratulations to Brevard Elementary School for being selected as a new A+ School. The A+ Schools Program of the North Carolina Arts Council is the largest, longest running, most successful arts-based whole-school reform effort in the nation. Since 1995, A+ Schools has been using the arts as a catalyst for creating connections and making school engaging, meaningful and enjoyable places to teach learn.

#### *GINGERBREADSTEM*

Students at Pisgah Forest Elementary have taken [#GingerbreadSTEM](#) to a whole new level. Creating gingerbread replicas of downtown Brevard and the Cradle of Forestry, the PFE Rangers showcased their developing research, design, and collaboration skills. Every student at Pisgah Forest participated at some stage in the gingerbread creations. Mrs Rhodes' 4th grade class did a presentation on the Cradle of Forestry, which was featured in a Facebook video. A special showcase of the gingerbread replicas was held on December 19 from 2-4 p.m.

#### *TCSEF 2017 MINI-GRANTS AWARDED*

The Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation has awarded the following projects full or partial grants for the period starting January 1, 2017:

Stephanie Ramsey	RHS	Health Models for Teaching
Heather McNeely	RHS	How Does Your Garden Grow?
Joe Russo	DRS	Mapping America in 3-D
Adria Hardy	BHS	Calculus in Motion/Algebra in Motion

Sarah Justice	RMS/RHS	We've Seen Europe. Now Where Are We Going?
Jeanne DeJong	BES	Catch a Mouse to Make Working on a Chromebook Easier
Amy Schoenacher	RHS	Pop Some Tags
Bart Gilleland	BHS	Portable PA System for Fine Arts at BHS
Jeffrey Micchelli	BMS	The Juice Squad
Monica Bickford	RES	Muddy Sneakers at RES
Sarah Justice and Devin Wilson	RMS	We Come In Peace! The Robot Invasion
Deanna Campbell	BES	BES Muddy Sneakers
Sheila Mooney	DRS	College Visits
Charlene Cali	BES	3D and Me
Karen Brown	RES	Let the Games Begin!
Kevin Smith	Ed. Center	Video "Power Tools"
Jim Leatherwood	BHS	It's All About the Bass
Jessica Webb	DRS	Project Rebound's Annual Service Project: An Educational Community Screening of the Documentary REJECT
Tom Young	DRS	Healthy Exercise/Healthy Eating for Healthy Living
Connie Newman	BMS	Graphic Novels in the Spanish Classroom
Meredith Licht	BHS	Video as Voice: Using the Power of Video to Tell Our Stories
Julie Queen and Linda Carrillo	RHS	Full STEAM Ahead Spanish
Carrie McCall	BMS	Getting Fit
Carrie Morrison	BHS	New York Times Upfront Magazine by Scholastic Subscription for ENG 9/10
Ursula Leahy	PFES	Exercise Pedaler for ADHD Students
Rhiannon Musgrove	BMS	Stand-Up Desks for Odyssey Program
Peggy Bayne	RES	Children's Author at RES
Tammy Ducker	PFES	Full STEAM Ahead with Chromebooks at PFE
Renee Compton	RMS	Moving and Grooving
Anne Hardy	PFE	Sensory Integration Toolbox: Teaching the Whole Child
Jeanne DeJong and Alyse Hollingsworth	BES	Going Places with Google Cardboard
Anna Poteat	RES	Listening to Read: Time to Upgrade

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

**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. There were two new names on the list, Avery Reese and Gerald Reese.

**6. Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the minutes of the November 21, 2016 meeting and the personnel report for December 19, 2016 (attached) were unanimously approved.

**7. Proposal for PFES Outdoor Classroom**

Principal Tonya Treadway, Assistant Principal Missy Ellenberger, and Lead Teacher Anne Hardy presented a proposal to build an outdoor classroom at Pisgah Forest Elementary School. The classroom would enhance STEM achievement through hands-on learning, generate stewardship of the natural world, and boost community involvement. Go Green Builders has volunteered all design and labor for the project, and the PFES Ranger Organization of Parents and Educators (ROPE) is raising money for the building materials. A wide range of community organizations have offered teaching resources, lessons and teacher training. The school also plans to establish a native garden near the outdoor classroom. The garden would facilitate lessons on life cycles, animal migration and adaptations, and be registered as a national Monarch Butterfly Way Station. Mrs. Treadway requested board approval to move forward with the outdoor classroom.

Policy DJ-R, Purchasing Requirements, states that capital projects with an estimated value of \$10,000 or more (including the value of donation of materials and volunteer labor) and funded by individual school funds (including boosters, alumni, and other supporting organizations) must have prior approval of the superintendent and the board of education before entering into any contracts or agreements with any vendor, contractor, or volunteer.

Attorney Donnahoo asked about ADA compliance and recommended having a memorandum of understanding between ROPE, the school system, and Go Green Builders. Mrs. Treadway reported that the architect has planned for handicap accessibility from either the school track or the main building. Norris Barger recommended that he and Mr. Donnahoo work on the MOU and insurance issues. He noted that ADA compliance would be a necessary requirement of any building permit.

Board members were appreciative of the opportunities for learning that the classroom represents and for the support of parents and the local business community in pursuing the project. Dr. McDaris thanked the board for considering an expedited approval, noting that PFES would like to start the project as soon as possible in order to take advantage of the builder's slow season. Mrs. McGaha asked whether the school would have all of the money in hand before the project starts. Mrs. Treadway reported that they have enough to get started, approximately \$2,000. She estimated the total cost of materials would be \$10,000 before discounts. Mr. Donnahoo reported that, should the ROPE organization fail to raise the total amount needed for the project, the board would be required to pay for the remainder out of its budget. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the board unanimously approved the PFES outdoor classroom project pending the school obtaining the necessary funds for materials.

**8. School Improvement Plans 2016-2018**

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs presented the school improvement plans for 2016-2018. He gave a reminder that the plans represent instructional components only; school safety plans will be presented to the board in a future closed session. Principals and school improvement team members were on hand to answer questions from board members. Board members commended the plans' inclusion of strategies to increase parent and community partnerships, good use of data, greater levels of parental participation, improved readability and reduction of jargon, and establishment of high goals. Mr. Kiviniemi asked about feedback to see which goals were accomplished. Dr. Gibbs reported that the board would receive an update a year from now to evaluate progress and another update at the end of two years. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA,

SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the nine school improvement plans for 2016-2018 were unanimously approved. The board thanked everyone for all their hard work on the plans.

9. **Policy**

Dr. McDaris reported that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) had recently established a new requirement for LEAs to have board-adopted policies in place to ensure comparability of Title I services among schools. To assist local boards in meeting this requirement, NCSBA prepared a sample policy for local boards to consider. Due to the extremely short deadline established by DPI, board attorneys recommended that the sample policy be adopted as soon as possible to help avoid any question of compliance and ensure that future policy revisions keep districts up to date. Brian Weaver presented new policy 3565/8307, Title I Program Comparability of Services, as first-read information. He reported that the policy puts into writing procedures that were already in place regarding Title I services. There were no questions, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board unanimously waived a second reading and adopted policy 3565/8307 as presented.

10. **Topics for Work Session**

The board will hold its annual planning work session on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Morris Education Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. A light supper will be provided. Dr. McDaris reported that possible topics include FY18 budget, master facilities plan, capital, technology, and social media. Board members requested an update on student growth by quartile and an update on high school scheduling for next year. Dr. McDaris invited members to send him any other suggestions for the work session.

11. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- The General Assembly convened last week for a special session to address Hurricane Matthew relief efforts for eastern North Carolina. After that session ended, another called session was held during which several bills were passed. One of the bills, HB17, changes the makeup of the State Board of Elections, State Ethics Commission, and county boards of elections to be equally divided by party. The previous law gave the majority of seats to the governor's party. The bill also limits some of the governor's powers, including appointments, and takes away some power from the State Board of Education and transfers it to the newly elected State Superintendent. The legislature may convene another special session to address HB2.
- Approximately 20 other bills were filed addressing multiple topics, including potential changes to school calendar law, but those bills did not pass and/or make it past the Senate.
- The Annual A. Mickey Church Math/Science Fair will be held January 30 through February 2, 2017 at the county library. The exhibits and demonstrations will begin at 6:00 p.m. on February 2 in the Rogow Room. Board members are invited to join the judges' lunch on January 31.
- A former classmate of the superintendent and alumnus of Brevard High School and North Carolina State University, Ernie Silva, has established a scholarship at NCSU in honor of his mother, Ann Price Silva. The scholarship is targeted at students in our region who are interested in pursuing an engineering degree at NC State.
- The Department of Justice program that was held at Brevard High School focused primarily on concerns related to student voice. The top concerns identified by students were Smart Lunch and scheduling. Dr. McDaris noted that neither the

sheriff nor the police chief have received a report yet regarding the DOJ's purpose for scheduling the workshops.

**12. Important Dates**

Dr. McDaris reported that the board will resume its twice-a-month meeting schedule in February 2017. 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. 21-22	Annual leave days (no students)
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Christmas break
Jan. 16	MLK holiday
Jan. 16	Miss Bengal Pageant, 6:00 p.m., RHS
Jan. 17	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Jan. 23-24	NCSBA "School Board 101," Raleigh
Jan. 23	Teacher workday (no students)
Jan. 24	Second semester begins
Jan. 30-Feb. 2	TCS District Science Fair, Rogow Room
Feb. 6	PLANNING WORK SESSION, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Feb. 15	Early dismissal (students), 12:00 p.m.
Feb. 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 6	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 15	Early dismissal (students), 12:00 p.m.
Mar. 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 24-27	Teacher workdays (no students)

**13. Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

**14. Other Items**

Chairman McCoy stated that during this season of giving, one of the greatest gifts we can receive is the gift of a child. She expressed thanks and appreciation to parents, teachers, administrators and staff for all that they do and all that they give, every day. She and the board wished a Merry Christmas to all.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
December 19, 2016**

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

Licensed Personnel

Allen Credle, Interim Assistant Principal, BHS, effective January 20, 2017

Classified Personnel

Charles Pace, Custodian, BMS, effective April 1, 2017

Brooklyn Wilson, School Health Assistant, BMS, effective December 20, 2016

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

Licensed Personnel

Virginia Haynes, Interim Assistant Principal, BHS, effective February 6, 2017 through June 16, 2017

Classified Personnel

None

- 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

Clare Desmelik, Teacher, BHS, effective January 17, 2017 through June 16, 2017

Claire Gasperson, Teacher, PFES, short-term disability, effective October 14, 2016 through October 13, 2017

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Margaret Buchanan

Jenny Wimberly Dodson

James Kevin Henebry

Donna Ingram

Lynda Jayne, effective January 1, 2017



Karen Kreigsman, effective January 1, 2017  
Patricia Soat  
Amelia Waycaster

Substitute School Nutrition Workers  
Lisa Moss