

**Minutes**  
**Transylvania County Board of Education**  
**February 17, 2020**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Closed Session
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Personnel Report
  - C. Non-Faculty Coaches
7. School Calendar 2020-2021
8. Educator Recruitment and Retention
9. Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements
10. Schematic Designs & Bond Update
11. Resolution to Support the MyFutureNC Attainment Goals
12. NCSBA Legislative Committee Application
13. Report from Board Training Events
14. Superintendent Update
15. Important Dates
16. Public Comment
17. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on February 17, 2020 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Courtney Domokur led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Mr. Kiviniemi was absent due to a family commitment. In addition to one guest, the following board members, staff, and others were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Tawny McCoy, Chair  
Courtney Domokur  
Marty Griffin  
Alice Wellborn

**BOARD ATTORNEY:**

John Henning

**MEDIA:**

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

**STAFF:**

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent  
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services  
Missy Ellenberger, Director, Curriculum & Instruction  
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator  
Mike Hall, School Resource Officer

**PRESENTER(S):**

Chad Roberson, Clark Nexsen Architects  
Sarah Melanson, Clark Nexsen Architects

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting agenda for February 17, 2020 was approved as presented.

2. **Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board went into closed session at 5:34 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 board members McCoy, Domokur, Griffin, and Wellborn; board attorney John Henning; Dr. Brian Weaver; and Dr. Jeff McDaris. No action was taken in the closed session. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the closed session was adjourned and the board returned to open session at 6:23 p.m. The board took a brief recess, and Chairman McCoy called the meeting back into order at 6:30 p.m.

3. **Public Comment**

None

4. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*TCS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXPO*

Congratulations to the following winners in the 2020 District Science Fair & Technology Expo that was held on January 27 at the Transylvania County Library:

SENIOR DIVISION

Biological Science A

1st Place: *Nicole Vargas Sancho, Jarek Stewart Karlowics and Elise Poche (BHS):* Antimicrobial Activity of Microorganisms Isolated from Western North Carolina Mushrooms

2nd Place: *Isaiah Lefler and Graham Green (BHS):* An Evaluation of Utilizing Nitrifying Bacteria in Conjunction with Martian Resources to Enable Hydroponic Growth

Biological Science B

1st Place: *Fritz Ruppert and Jon Gibson (BHS):* Evaluation of the Role of Cryptochromes in *Culex quinquefasciatus* Magnetoreception

Physics and Math

1st Place: *Josh Kupras and Heath Sanders (RHS):* Evaluating the Efficiency of Using Martian Materials as Fuel to Reach Martian Orbit

Technology

1st Place: *Kathryn Hart and Andy McKibbon (BHS):* Developing Computational Models Using Deep Learning Softwares to Identify Individuals Within the Eastern Spotted Skunk Species

Engineering

1st Place: *Frank Parsons, Ben Caroway, and Satchel Malo (BHS):* The Effectiveness of a 3D Printed Hydrogel to Sustain Algal Growth

Environmental Science

1st Place: *Marli Cohen and Ada Weaver (BHS):* Different Anodes Effects' on Biofilm Formation of Local Photosynthetic Microorganisms in Biophotovoltaic Cells

2nd Place: *Ivy Scott and Josie Troyer (BHS):* Characterization of Pigments Extracted from Southern Appalachian Mushrooms as Sensitizers in Dye Sensitized Solar Cells

## JUNIOR DIVISION

Biological Science B

1st Place: *Madison Henderson (BMS)*: Mystery Cupcakes

2nd Place: *Maxwell Rowell (BMS)*: Ages Between Magic

3rd Place: *Vanessa Miranda-Pineda and Brea Boyd (BMS)*: Fashion

Honorable Mention: *Kyleigh Gillespie and Haley McCall (BMS)*: Are Dogs Color Blind?

Chemistry

1st Place: *Elodi Malo and Lilly Vanderburg (BMS)*: What's In Your Water?

Physics

1st Place: *Wyatt Bandhauer (RMS)*: Do You Hear What I Ear?

2nd Place: *Lucas Akyroyd (BMS)*: Which is Better—Aluminum or Wood?

## ELEMENTARY DIVISION

1st Place: *Sophie Owen (BES)*: To Rust or Not to Rust

1st Place: *Hollyn Compton (BES)*: Bone Reactions

1st Place: *Izayah Dill (RES)*: Comet Debris

2nd Place: *Wrenna Baldwin (BES)*: Feline Designs

2nd Place: *Chelsea Borman (PFES)*: Can We Clean Up Oil Spills in a Non-Toxic Way?

*2020 WESTERN REGION SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS*

Congratulations to the following TIME Science students for their achievements in the 2020 Western Region Science Fair that was held on February 14 at Western Carolina University:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Biology A: *Isaiah Lefler and Graham Green (BHS)*: An Evaluation of Utilizing Nitrifying Bacteria in Conjunction with Martian Resources to Enable Hydroponic Growth

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Biology A: *Nicole Vargas Sancho, Jarek Stewart Karlowics and Elise Poche (BHS)*: Antimicrobial Activity of Microorganisms Isolated from Western North Carolina Mushrooms

1<sup>st</sup> Place Biology B: *Fritz Ruppert and Jon Gibson (BHS)*: Evaluation of the Role of Cryptochromes in *Culex quinquefasciatus* Magnetoreception

1<sup>st</sup> Place Physics; Special Award in Physics and Chemistry: *Josh Kupras and Heath Sanders (RHS)*: Evaluating the Efficiency of Using Martian Materials as Fuel to Reach Martian Orbit

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Technology; Best Biodiversity Research Project presented by Highlands Biological Station: *Kathryn Hart and Andy McKibbin (BHS)*: Developing Computational Models Using Deep Learning Softwares to Identify Individuals Within the Eastern Spotted Skunk Species

1<sup>st</sup> Place Engineering; Kimmel School Special Prize in Engineering and Technology; Stockholm Junior Water Prize; Regional Water Prize Award: Frank Parsons, Ben Caroway, and Satchel Malo (BHS): The Effectiveness of a 3D Printed Hydrogel to Sustain Algal Growth

1<sup>st</sup> Place Environmental Science; Special Award in Environmental Science: *Ivy Scott and Josie Troyer (BHS): Characterization of Pigments Extracted from Southern Appalachian Mushrooms as Sensitizers in Dye Sensitized Solar Cells*

#### *BLACK HISTORY MONTH*

The month of February is celebrated as Black History Month in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Classrooms everywhere have activities throughout the month to commemorate the important people and events of the Civil Rights movement and the contributions and accomplishments of African-Americans in every area of endeavor in history.

#### *NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK*

National School Counseling Week 2020, “*School Counselors: Helping Build Better Humans,*” was celebrated during the week of February 3-7, 2020 to focus public attention on the important and unique contribution of school counselors within our schools. School counselors have a tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Join us in thanking these dedicated professionals for all they do.

#### *“LOVE THE BUS” / SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK*

February is “Love the Bus” month nationwide, and February 10-14 was “School Bus Driver Appreciation Week” in North Carolina. Here are some facts about school buses and bus drivers that you may not know:

- In North Carolina, over 14,000 school buses operate daily and travel a total of 181,285,181 route miles per year (this does not include activity buses or “spare” school buses).
- Nearly 795,000 total students ride the bus to and from school in our state.
- The average bus ride time for students is 24 minutes.
- According to the National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Department of Transportation and other authorities, school buses are the safest form of transportation for getting children to and from school. A child is 13 times safer in a school bus than in other modes of travel.
- School bus drivers go through intense, highly specialized training to ensure they are knowledgeable about student behavior management, school bus features, the loading and unloading process, and security and emergency medical procedures. Drivers must participate in pre-employment as well as random drug and alcohol tests, driving record checks, background checks, and medical exams.
- “National School Bus Yellow” is an actual color.
- The school bus system is the largest transportation system in the nation.

We ask a great deal of our drivers and we encourage students, parents, and staff to express their appreciation to these dedicated men and women who transport our children safely every day.

#### *RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS*

February 17<sup>th</sup> is “National Random Acts of Kindness Day.” Members of College Walk Retirement Community recently gave a “Random Acts of Kindness” Ingles gift card to the school system. Mr. Barger will request that the card go to a deserving school bus driver. Brevard Elementary students and staff are counting up to 1,000 acts of kindness over a

two-week period to spread kindness and raise awareness for the “Jameson’s Joy” campaign.

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Rosman Middle School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Hall for attending the meeting.

**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 no new names on the list.

**6. Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. DOMOKUR, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting; the personnel report for February 17, 2020 (attached); and the non-faculty coaches for spring sports 2020 (see below):

Brevard High

Chuck Owenby, JV Baseball  
Logan Sales, Varsity Baseball  
Bruce Kelley, Varsity Baseball  
David McNeil, Softball  
Chad Owenby, Softball  
Rodney Gilbert, JV Softball  
Jeff Horrell, JV Softball  
Larry Betsinger, Women’s Soccer  
Gordon Murray, Women’s JV Soccer  
Philip Latter, Men’s Track  
Ethan Shook, Track

Brevard Middle

Sierra Chase, Softball  
Kyle Farmer, Baseball  
Jacqueline Witherspoon, Boys’ Track  
Chelsea Gray, Girls’ Track

Rosman High

Scottie Ruff, Baseball  
Kyle Reese, Softball  
Doug Tucker, Softball  
Paiton Reese, Softball  
Chris Galloway, Softball  
Craig Rice, JV Softball  
Nathan Bumgarner, Golf

Rosman Middle

Dwayne Powell, Baseball  
Brent Owen, Softball  
Brent Metcalf, Softball  
Tom Whitaker, Boys’ & Girls’ Track

**7. School Calendar 2020-2021**

At the January 21 meeting, Dr. Brian Weaver presented as information the recommended school calendar for the 2020-2021 year. Mrs. Domokur expressed concern about the relocation of a February workday to May, noting that having no scheduled breaks in February and March would be hard for younger students. Dr. Weaver reported that the calendar committee had discussed that issue; however, a majority voted for the May option, in part because it is rare not to have at least one snow day in February. Dr. McDaris noted there may be some future legislative support for aligning school calendars and community college calendars. Chairman McCoy expressed appreciation to Dr. Weaver and everyone who worked on the calendar for their efforts. ON A MOTION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the school calendar for the 2020-2021 year was unanimously approved as presented.

**8. Educator Recruitment and Retention**

Dr. Brian Weaver gave a report from the Educator Climate Committee that was tasked last spring with looking at why teachers leave the school system (or the teaching profession) and ways in which we can improve in order to retain more teachers.

Comparison studies show that attrition data for Transylvania County Schools is in line with peer counties. Transylvania's attrition rate for 2019-2019 was 10.8% and the state average was 12.5%. The top reason reported for separation was relocation (53). Other reasons were retirement (24), career change (13), family (8), health (5), and disability/graduate school/other (4). Dr. Weaver reported that he will be attending education job fairs at two historically black universities this spring. Results of last spring's survey to collect educator feedback showed the top three factors affecting teacher retention and job satisfaction are local supplement, strong administrative support, and instructional planning time. Mrs. Domokur reported that the Educator Climate Committee meetings were very positive and produced constructive strategies and teacher leadership. Dr. Weaver stated that he will provide another update to the board later this spring.

**9. Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements**

Curriculum Director Missy Ellenberger presented a revision to policy 3460, Graduation Requirements. The current policy requires four courses to be a CTE concentrator. Due to Perkins V funding, the administration is requesting to change to a three-course concentrator. This would give students more opportunity to take an Advanced Placement, elective, or other exploratory course while still providing a quality focus. The board discussed the proposed change, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, unanimously accepted the revision to policy 3460 as first-read information. Approval of the revised policy will be requested at the next regular meeting.

**10. Schematic Designs & Bond Update**

Clark Nexsen architects Chad Roberson and Sarah Melanson presented final schematic designs for the BHS, RHS, and RMS school bond construction projects. Mr. Roberson thanked the teachers and staff at both schools for their input over the last few months. He stated that the input sessions were very helpful with lots of suggestions and energetic dialogue.

Board members were enthusiastic about the designs and asked a number of questions. Discussion centered on the mix of traditional classrooms and collaborative spaces, increased safety with controlled entrances and exits and access to student areas, traffic flow and DOT collaboration, and the potential for growth at both campuses. Mr. Roberson reported that as expected, soil samples showed a lot of water at the Rosman site, which is not uncommon in western NC. Seismic classifications were very good and will save us at least six figures.

Schematic designs for both campuses may be viewed at [www.tcsnc.org/bondprojects](http://www.tcsnc.org/bondprojects). The next phase in the process will be design development.

Schedule

Design Development	July 2020
Construction Documents	March 2021
Bidding	April 2021
Notice to Proceed Date	May 2021

Chairman McCoy thanked Mr. Roberson and Ms. Melanson for their presentation and the time they took to get everyone's input. She stated that the board is excited to get started.

*The board took a five-minute recess from 8:25 to 8:30 p.m.*

**11. Resolution Supporting MyFutureNC**

Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that myFutureNC is a statewide non-profit initiative focused on educational attainment and economic development for the citizens of North Carolina. Its stated goal is to have two million North Carolinians earn a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030. The effort has strong bipartisan support across the state. The NCSBA Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of the work of myFutureNC at their September meeting. Local boards of education have been asked to consider adopting a similar resolution of support. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the myFutureNC attainment goals (see attached).

**12. NCSBA Legislative Committee Application**

The North Carolina School Boards Association Board of Directors has invited local boards to nominate one member to serve on the next NCSBA Legislative Committee. Eight "at large" local school board members will be selected to serve for 2020. Interested individuals must be nominated through a vote of the full board taken in open session. The deadline to submit an application is March 5. ON A NOMINATION BY MRS. WELLBORN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, Marty Griffin was unanimously selected to submit an application to serve on the 2020 Legislative Committee.

**13. Reports from Board Training Events**

North Carolina statute requires board of education members to receive a minimum of 12 hours of professional development training every two years. Local policy states that members who attend a training activity will provide a report of the event to other board members. On January 23-24, Courtney Domokur attended the NCSBA Public Policy Conference in Raleigh. She reported that the conference included a candidates' forum for the State Board of Education election, a panel on myFutureNC, and a presentation from a middle school in Wake County that has eliminated the A-F grading system and replaced it with project-based learning. There was also a presentation from the North Carolina Teacher of the Year who discussed the benefits of professional development travel opportunities for teachers through grant funding.

**14. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris shared a video from the Edenton-Chowan school system that highlighted some of the educational and economic challenges for North Carolina and the goals of the myFutureNC initiative. Two-thirds of future jobs in our state will require education beyond high school. Currently, only 30 students out of 100 complete a two-year or four-year college degree.

**15. Important Dates**

Feb. 27	SCHOOL FACILITY TOURS, 7:30-3:30, TCH, RES, BES, BMS, PFES, DRS
Mar. 2	REGULAR MEETING, 5:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 16	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 23	Teacher Workday
Apr. 6	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 7	"Teacher of the Year" Awards Reception, 5:30 p.m., Rogow Room
Apr. 10	Students dismissed at noon
Apr. 13-17	Spring break

Dr. McDaris invited board members to join him for lunch at the schools this spring any time their schedules allow.

16. **Public Comment**  
None

17. **Other Items**

Mr. Griffin requested information on a pipe replacement at PFES and heating issues at BHS. Dr. McDaris gave an update.

Dr. McDaris informed the board that he is compiling a report on the ratios of school nurses and school counselors based on the latest numbers from the Department of Health.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary



**PERSONNEL REPORT  
February 17, 2020**

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

Licensed Personnel  
None

Classified Personnel  
George Ball, Custodian and Bus Driver, TCH, effective February 28, 2020  
Sharon Eubanks, Bus Driver, RHS, effective March 6, 2020  
John Dustin Shore, Custodian and Bus Driver, PFES, effective February 28, 2020

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

Licensed Personnel  
None

Classified Personnel  
Jennifer Warren, Interim Distance Learning Facilitator, BHS, effective February 10, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year

- 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  
None

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

Substitute Teachers  
David Borman  
Tyrel Galloway  
Hollis Hoier  
Lizl Kruger  
Ashlee O'Dwyer

Substitute School Nutrition Workers  
Janice Glagau  
Diana Valencia



**Transylvania County Board of Education  
Resolution to Support the MyFutureNC Attainment Goal**

WHEREAS, myFutureNC is a statewide non-profit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government; and

WHEREAS, the myFutureNC Commission, along with the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor concluded that North Carolina should have a goal that two million North Carolinians will have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Education is committed to endeavor to bring about the general improvement and betterment of the public schools in North Carolina; and

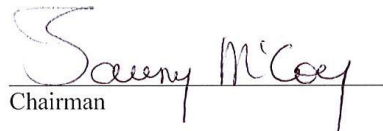
WHEREAS, local school boards, along with other key education partners, help advance educational attainment of students in North Carolina by ensuring students graduate career and college ready; and

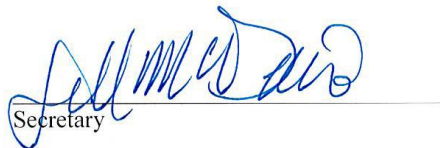
WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Education agrees that North Carolina faces a gap between attainment of, and the projected need for, citizens with post-secondary degrees or credentials.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education supports the attainment goal of myFutureNC that two million North Carolinians should have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education will continue to foster partnerships across the education continuum, and with leaders in business, education, state and local government, and community-based organizations to achieve the goal.

ADOPTED this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary