

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
February 18, 2013**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
6. School Calendar 2013-2014
7. FY14 Budget
8. Appointment to Community Land Trust Board of Directors
9. School Board Legislative Meetings
10. Important Dates
11. Public Comment
12. Other Items
13. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on February 18, 2013 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy, Chair; Cindy Petit, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Ron Kiviniemi and Mike Rogers were present. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris; Jenny Hunter; Dr. David Sutton; Dr. Scott Elliott; Dr. Kim Elliott; Meredith Licht; SRO Mark Ellenberger; Jeremiah Reed, *Transylvania Times*; and approximately four guests. Mr. Rogers led in a moment of silence and Mr. Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for February 18, 2013 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Jerry Rice, student advocate, expressed concerns about the role of School Resource Officers in dealing with special education students. He feels that SROs may be asked to intervene in certain situations for which they have not been trained. He distributed materials from the ACLU to board members and the superintendent and requested a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the school system and the sheriff's department for the SRO program.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from RMS that was on display in the board room and reported the following good news items:

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The month of February is recognized as "Black History Month" nationwide. Classes in Transylvania County Schools will have activities commemorating the important people, places and events of the civil rights movement and the contributions and achievements of celebrated African-Americans.

Dr. McDaris reported that a "Freedom Walk" has been scheduled for Friday, February 22, 2013 in recognition of the 50th anniversary of school integration in Transylvania County. Weather permitting, TCS students, staff and alumni will walk from Brevard High School to the courthouse gazebo, where they will listen to guest speakers at approximately 10:00 a.m. In the event of rain, the walk will be rescheduled.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS AT TCH

Students at T.C. Henderson Elementary School raised over \$1,052 during their Pennies for Patients fundraiser, which was more than double the school's goal of \$500. Pennies for Patients is a service learning, team-building, character education and philanthropy program that allows students to make a difference in the fight against blood cancers such as leukemia. The class that raised the most money and the class that raised the most money per student will both have ice cream sundae parties. Other classes will be treated to ice cream sandwiches. The school also hosted a contest in which students voted with donations for the best staff antic. Three staff members dancing "Gangnam-style" won the contest and performed at the celebration assembly.

TCS ART STUDENTS WIN AWARDS

Brevard High and Rosman High art students recently won Scholastic Art Awards. Logan Hamilton (BHS) won a Gold Key Award and American Visions Award; and Morgan Shuman (BHS) and Jasmine Wagner (RHS) each won a Gold Key Award. Their works will be on display at the Asheville Art Museum until February 24, after which they will be sent on to national competition.

All-District Band

Congratulations to the following BHS students who were selected for All-District Band. The All-District Band performed in concert at WCU on February 9. Six of the all-district students (*) placed high enough to be eligible for the All-State Band auditions which will be held in March. Kenny Franklin is the BHS band director.

9 TH & 10 TH GRADE BAND		11 TH & 12 TH GRADE BAND	
4 th chair flute	Mary Ball*	6 th chair clarinet	Kate Barham*
1 st chair oboe	Susan Ashmore*	11 th chair clarinet	Rebekah Pedersen
10 th chair clarinet	Elizabeth Bailey	18 th chair clarinet	Emma Schaefer
17 th chair clarinet	Carly Onnink	6 th chair trumpet	Amparo Wright
3 rd chair alto sax	Liam Bishop	3 rd chair trombone	Jasmine McMillan*
8 th chair trumpet	Forrest Fisher	3 rd chair snare drum	Aaron Brown
9 th chair trumpet	Maggie Dodson		
9 th chair trombone	Jeremy Dodson		
1 st chair snare drum	Logan Dye*		

PRIDE OF PENDLETON MARCHING CLASSIC

Congratulations to the Brevard High School Marching Band that placed 5th out of 19 bands at the Pride of Pendleton Marching Classic. Brevard High School was the only North Carolina band to advance to the finals.

"LOVE THE BUS" WEEK AT TCS

Transylvania County Schools encouraged everyone to take time during National "Love the Bus" week, February 11-15, 2013, to thank the men and women who safely transport more than 1600 students each day and serve as role models and friends to

children across the region. Parents, teachers, and children were encouraged to visit www.LoveTheBus.com to share stories about their favorite school bus drivers and make interactive valentines to give to their bus driver on Valentine's Day, February 14.

REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

TCS students who placed at the County Science Fair in January competed in the Regional Science Fair at Western Carolina University on February 5-6, 2013. Elementary projects were judged against 60 other projects from across Western North Carolina. Of the 13 elementary projects representing TCS, three projects won special awards, and one will go on to state competition. Middle and high school students did extremely well, and all of the TCS high school projects received awards. All projects that placed first, second, or received honorable mention will go on to state competition.

ELEMENTARY	
Honorable Mention	Fritz Ruppert
Alumni Best of Fair	Christian Heath
Best of Biology	Brynlynn Kiser
Geo Science & Natural Resources Award	Frank Parsons
MIDDLE SCHOOL	
1 st Place, Junior Chemistry	Luci Eddins
2 nd Place, Junior Earth & Environmental	Sarah Branagan
Honorable Mention, Junior Physics	Chase Bishop
HIGH SCHOOL	
2 nd Place, Biology A	Joseph Roberts
3 rd Place, Biology A	Justin Coye
1 st Place, Biology B	Carly Onninck and Abby Williams
2 nd Place, Biology B	Kaitlin McCreery
1 st Place, Chemistry	Erin Smith, Cameron McCathern and Elizabeth Johnson
1 st Place, Earth & Environmental	Leah Johnson, Ellie Rudd and Carly Farrar
Honorable Mention, Earth & Environmental	Madeleine Cook
1 st Place, Technology	Cody Lupo
US Stockholm Water Prize	Leah Johnson, Ellie Rudd and Carly Farrar
Highland Bio-Diversity	Leah Johnson, Ellie Rudd and Carly Farrar
WCU Department of Chemistry and Physics Special Award	Erin Smith, Cameron McCathern and Elizabeth Johnson
Naval Research	Cody Lupo
Army	Madeleine Cook

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the 2013 Science Fairs, and thanks to Dr. Kim Elliott, TCS Science Fair Coordinator.

DRS STUDENTS PRESENT TO VISION TEAM

On February 7, community leaders with VISION Brevard/Transylvania toured educational facilities in the county. A highlight of their tour was a visit to Davidson River School. Students there gave presentations describing the unique programs at their school and shared personal accounts of how the DRS "School of Alternatives"

has helped meet their needs and goals for academic success. Jalon Wynn, Brenna Phillips, Zach Wiggins and Libby McCall were the student presenters.

4. 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. Additional names will be included as they are received.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the minutes from the January 14, January 22, February 4, February 11, and February 13, 2013 meetings and the personnel report for February 18, 2013 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. School Calendar 2013-2014

Dr. David Sutton presented the recommended school calendar for 2013-2014. The recommended calendar is a traditional model with August 19, 2013 as the first student day and May 20, 2014 as the last student day. The calendar contains 180 instructional days and 1,025 hours. Dr. McDaris noted that not being allowed to start school before August 19 means that high schools will not be able to have first semester final exams before Christmas. Also, the TCS calendar will not be aligned with community colleges. Dr. McDaris noted that TCS would have been able to schedule exams before Christmas if the legislature had been willing to give just five days.

Considerable discussion centered on the General Assembly’s “one size fits all” approach to school calendars. Dr. McDaris remarked that some elected officials appear to believe the map is flat judging from their lack of consideration for geography and winter weather conditions in the western part of the state. He reported that some House and Senate members would be in favor of returning calendar control and flexibility to local boards of education; unfortunately, a few key Senators will not allow the matter to come to the floor for a vote. Board members commended Dr. Sutton and the calendar committee for developing the best calendar possible under the current constraints. Approval of the 2013-2014 school calendar will be requested at the next regular meeting.

As discussed at retreat, Dr. Sutton presented two hypothetical models showing what a modified calendar might look like for the 2014-2015 year. Both models span 11 months, contain 180 instructional days, and feature intersession breaks for remediation and enrichment between quarters. A comparison of the two models is shown below:

Feature	Modified Model 1	Modified Model 2
First Student Day	July 28	July 31
Intersession Break Q1	(two weeks) Sept. 29 - Oct. 10	(one week) Oct. 6 -10
Thanksgiving	(three days) Nov. 26 - 28	(one week) Nov. 24 - 28
Christmas Break Q2	(two weeks +) Dec. 19 - Jan. 2	(two weeks) Dec. 22 - Jan. 2
Intersession Break Q3	(two weeks) Mar. 9 - 20	(two weeks) Mar. 9 - 20
Easter Break	(two days) Good Friday - Apr. 3 Easter Monday - Apr. 6	(two days) Good Friday - Apr. 3 Easter Monday - Apr. 6

Feature	Modified Model 1	Modified Model 2
Last Student Day	May 29	May 28

Board members had questions about possible calendar exemptions for the Craven County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg districts for next year. Dr. McDaris reported there are at least two bills on the House floor that would allow special exemptions and flexibility for these counties. The reasons for the proposed exemptions are that Craven County had already adopted a two-year modified calendar before the last round of calendar legislation went into effect, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system has a variety of different calendars for the many types of schools within their large district.

The Board will continue to monitor legislative activity on this matter and consider a modified calendar for the 2014-2015 year.

7. **FY14 Budget**

Dr. Jeff McDaris presented the latest budget information and draft documents for review. He reported that Norris Barger was away attending the School Finance Officers' Conference in Greensboro. The Board reviewed a new format for the capital outlay plan that combines the five-year plan and the TCS master plan into one document. Board members expressed appreciation for Mr. Barger's quick turnaround in creating the new format and incorporating board input. Members suggested the following additional changes:

- Include the legend/key for categories 1-5 on each page for ease of reading.
- Create a subcategory for security items under the safety category.
- Clarify the \$72,000 roof repair item for BMS shown in FY14.
- Place the SRO and receptionist relocation for BES and the reorientation of the BHS front office in FY14 as immediate security needs.

Mrs. Petit noted that security-related items total roughly \$723,000 for all schools.

Mr. Rogers remarked that the conditions seen during the school facility tours were eye-opening. He stated it is obvious that current funding levels are not sufficient to maintain our facilities, much less allow improvements. Some of our building's HVAC units are 39 years old. Classroom temperatures at BES have been recorded as high as 102 degrees in the winter. Dr. McDaris noted that BES, BMS and RES were originally designed as "open classroom" schools. When classroom walls were erected to improve learning environments, the resulting air flow was severely restricted in some areas.

Mr. Rogers stated that the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners want to have a good working relationship. To that end, he would like to see both boards address what is needed this year and also agree upon a capital plan that would lay out funding for years to come. By doing so, the boards may be able to take capital outlay off the table in future budget discussions. Chairman McCoy stated that the new capital outlay document should help toward that goal. She suggested and members agreed that the joint meeting on March 5 be a working meeting to discuss needs rather than a formal presentation. Dr. McDaris will make this request to County Manager Wilson at their next meeting.

Dr. McDaris noted that the Transylvania County Health Director has indicated he may request funding for an additional school nurse position in FY14.

Mr. Rogers asked for an update on teacher supplements in other districts. Dr. McDaris reported that the teacher supplement data is being collected and compiled.

Chairman McCoy asked everyone to keep in mind that the district's operational fund balance is at its lowest level yet, and must be addressed.

8. Appointment to CLT Board of Directors

Chairman McCoy reported that the Board needs to appoint a new member to the Transylvania Community Land Trust (CLT) Board of Directors to fill the seat that has been vacated by Chris Whitmire. Dr. McDaris and Mrs. McCoy also serve on the CLT Board. The goal of the CLT is to provide affordable, income-based housing for teachers, law enforcement, and other professionals. ON A NOMINATION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mike Rogers to the vacant seat on the Community Land Trust Board of Directors. Dr. McDaris reported that the next meeting of the CLT Board is scheduled for February 21, 2013.

9. School Board Legislative Meetings

Dr. McDaris reported that NCSBA would like each local board form a plan to visit Raleigh 2-3 times during the 2013 legislative session to meet with legislators on the appropriations and policy issues for K-12 public education. Once boards have selected dates, the NCSBA will assist in setting up appointments. School administrators are also invited to be a part of the visiting teams.

Dr. McDaris reported that Representative Mark Meadows is scheduled to meet with the Western Region Superintendents on February 19. On February 26, he and other NC superintendents will be meeting with Speaker Thom Tillis in Raleigh. In March, Dr. McDaris will be in Raleigh twice more with opportunities to talk with legislators.

Chairman McCoy and Mr. Kiviniemi indicated they may be able to arrange Raleigh visits in coming weeks. Mrs. McCoy also suggested that members arrange time to meet with House Representative Chris Whitmire when he is in Brevard. Chairman McCoy asked Ms. Hunter to poll neighboring school districts to find out when their boards are planning visits in order to possibly coordinate and combine efforts.

10. Important Dates

Feb. 21-22	NCSBA "School Law Conference/Special Issue Seminars," Raleigh
Feb. 25	National Technical Honor Society Inductions, 5:00 p.m., Rogow Room
Mar. 4	NCSBA "It Can't Wait: Legislative and Public Policy Update," Raleigh
Mar. 4	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 5	Joint Meeting w/Board of Commissioners, 7:00 p.m. Rogow Room
Mar. 12-13	NCSBA School Law Academy "Avoiding Legal Liability in Everyday School Operations," Raleigh
Mar. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 29	Holiday
Apr. 1-5	Spring Break
Apr. 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 24	Early Dismissal
Apr. 25	Kindergarten Registration, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., BES, PFES, RES, TCHES
May 6	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 14	BHS and RHS Senior Project Presentations, 3-6 p.m., BHS and RHS
May 14	Joint Meeting w/Board of Commissioners, 7:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 16	TC Scholars Recognition Evening, 7:00 p.m., BHS
May 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

May 21 DRS Senior Project Presentations, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., DRS

Dr. McDaris announced that from now through the end of the school year, any days that are missed on Monday through Thursday will be made up on the Saturday of that week in order to preserve spring break and avoid extending the school year. Also, if schools are closed for students, they most likely will be closed for staff as well. The reason for this is to avoid overtime issues for hourly, non-certified staff that would result from a six-day work week.

11. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

12. **Other Items**

Chairman McCoy asked for an update on the possibility of getting immediate funding to place a full-time school resource officer at T. C. Henderson through the remainder of the current school year. Dr. McDaris confirmed that he has made this request to the county manager, who will present the request to the county commissioners for approval at their next meeting. He reported that Sheriff Mahoney would be making that same request as well.

Board members were reminded that on Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rogow Room of the County Library, consultant Jeanette Goldsmith will present the findings and recommendations of the economic development study that was done for the county. All citizens are invited to attend.

13. **Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board went into closed session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss 1) the possible acquisition of real estate, and 2) a legal matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) and (a)(5). Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Petit, Mrs. Fox, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Rogers and Dr. McDaris. No action was taken in the closed session. At 9:35 p.m., ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the Board reconvened in open session.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
February 18, 2013**

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

Licensed Personnel

Jennifer Stewart, Teacher, BES, effective March 2, 2013

Classified Personnel

Kelly Burton, Part-time Office Support Professional, BMS, effective February 22, 2013

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

Licensed Personnel

Jessica Cochran, Interim School Counselor, BHS, effective February 12, 2013

Christine Glance, Teacher, RMS, effective February 19, 2013

Classified Personnel

Jonathon Colbert, Part-time Student Employee, Building Futures, effective February 12, 2013

William Corn, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 19, 2013

Hannah Galloway, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective February 19, 2013

Amanda Lippard, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective February 28, 2013

Deidre Massingale, Temporary Part-time Job Coach for Exceptional Children, RHS, effective February 21, 2013

Mark Perin, Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective February 4, 2013

Catherine Severs, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 19, 2013

Michele Smith, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective February 26, 2013

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Roderick Brown, from Teacher Assistant, BHS, to Office Support, BHS, effective February 7, 2013

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Judy McCall, Custodian, RMS/RHS, Short-term Disability, effective February 2, 2013, through February 1, 2014

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

Substitute Teachers

Charles Nicholson

Sara Transue

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None