

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
February 20, 2017

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. Instructional Update
7. Policy:
 - A. 6000 Series (Part B): Transportation Services
 - B. 6000 Series (Part C): Purchasing, Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
8. School Calendar for 2017-2018
9. Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars
10. Annual Financial Report for 2015-2016
11. FY18 Budget
12. Board Member Compensation
13. Report from "School Board 101"
14. Superintendent's Update
15. Important Dates
16. Public Comment
17. Other Items
18. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on February 20, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Betty 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*

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
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Alan Justice, Director, Transportation/Athletics/Safety
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
April Gaydosh, Principal, BES
Joe Russo, TCAE President
Chad Owen, School Resource Officer

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting agenda for February 20, 2017 was approved as presented.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Brevard Middle School that was on display in the board room and thanked SRO Owen for being in attendance. He reported the following items:

TCS DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2017 Transylvania County Schools District Science Fair/Expo that was held January 30 through February 2, 2017 at the Transylvania County Library:

ELEMENTARY

1st Place - Quincy Cogan, BES

JUNIOR

Earth and Environmental Science

1st Place - Frank Parsons, BMS, *"Bringing Thermoelectric Power to Planet Earth"*

2nd Place - Emma Coye and Ivy Scott, BMS, *"Water, Water Everywhere and Nary a Drop to Drink"*

Physics

1st Place - Caroline Jones, BMS, *"The Juice Flows When the Wind Blows"*

SENIOR

Biological Science A

1st Place - Emily Trusler and Elise Poche, BHS, *"Isolation and Identification of Entomopathogenic Fungi for Use in Mosquito Control"*

2nd Place - Emma Dauster, Kylie Evans and Cullen Duval, BHS, *"Olfactometer assays to measure the response of Culex quinquefasciatus to plant and fungal volatiles"*

3rd Place - Jasmine Gillispie and Noah Cole, BHS, *"Toxicity of nightshade plants to the freshwater clam Corbicula Fluminea"*

Biological Science B

1st Place - Bryce Spradlin, Aidan Spradlin and Hannah Lemel, BHS, *"An Evaluation of Local, Thermally Polluted Lakes for the Presence of Naegleria fowleri via PCR Without Hazardous Cultivation"*

2nd Place - Sara Megown, BHS, *"The Antifungal Effect of Plant Extracts on Candida albicans and Aspergillus niger"*

3rd Place - Lily Harris and Carly Tabor, BHS, *"Megacopta cribraria attraction to plant volatiles"*

Earth and Environmental Science

1st Place - John Nguyen and Matthew Bailey, BHS, *"Oligochaete Populations in Transylvania County Trout Streams: A Risk Assessment of Susceptibility to the Whirling Disease Parasite, Myxobolus cerebralis"*

2nd Place - Bain Brown and Nicole Rideout, BHS, *"Screening kudzu associated insects and fungi for enzymes with potential application in aqueous oil extraction"*

Chemistry

1st Place - Chase Bishop and Alex Eberhardt, BHS, *"Feasibility of Cultivating Arthrospira platensis as a Food Source for Mars Exploration and Colonization"*

Engineering

1st Place - Sam Ballard, RHS, and Fritz Ruppert, BHS, *"Particle manipulation by an acoustic levitator"*

WESTERN REGION SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to the following students who took top places at the Western Region Science Fair at Western Carolina University:

Biology A

2nd Place - Emma Dauster, Kylie Evans and Cullen Duval, BHS, *"Olfactometer assays to measure the response of Culex quinquefasciatus to plant and fungal volatiles"*

Honorable Mention - Emily Trusler and Elise Poche, BHS, *"Isolation and Identification of Entomopathogenic Fungi for Use in Mosquito Control"*

Biology B

1st Place - Bryce Spradlin, Aidan Spradlin and Hannah Lemel, BHS, *"An Evaluation of Local, Thermally Polluted Lakes for the Presence of Naegleria fowleri via PCR Without Hazardous Cultivation"*

3rd Place - Lily Harris and Carly Tabor, BHS, *"Megacocta cribraria attraction to plant volatiles"*

Chemistry

1st Place - Chase Bishop and Alex Eberhardt, BHS, *"Feasibility of Cultivating Arthrospira platensis as a Food Source for Mars Exploration and Colonization"*

Earth/Environmental Science

1st Place - John Nguyen and Matthew Bailey, BHS, *"Oligochaete Populations in Transylvania County Trout Streams: A Risk Assessment of Susceptibility to the Whirling Disease Parasite, Myxobolus cerebralis"*

2nd Place - Bain Brown and Nicole Rideout, BHS, *"Screening kudzu associated insects and fungi for enzymes with potential application in aqueous oil extraction"*

Engineering

1st Place - Sam Ballard, RHS, and Fritz Ruppert, BHS, *"Particle manipulation by an acoustic levitator"*

Stockholm Water Award

1st Place - Bryce Spradlin, Aidan Spradlin and Hannah Lemel, BHS, *"An Evaluation of Local, Thermally Polluted Lakes for the Presence of Naegleria fowleri via PCR Without Hazardous Cultivation"*

3rd Place - John Nguyen and Matthew Bailey, BHS, *"Oligochaete Populations in Transylvania County Trout Streams: A Risk Assessment of Susceptibility to the Whirling Disease Parasite, Myxobolus cerebralis"*

PARI Award

Chase Bishop and Alex Eberhardt, BHS, *"Feasibility of Cultivating Arthrospira platensis as a Food Source for Mars Exploration and Colonization"*

Soil and Water Conservation

2nd Place - Emma Coye and Ivy Scott, BMS, *"Water, Water Everywhere and Nary a Drop to Drink"*

Physics

3st Place - Caroline Jones, BMS, *"The Juice Flows When the Wind Blows"*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The month of February is recognized as Black History Month in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Classrooms in Transylvania County Schools 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. At Rosman High School, for example, Amy Schoenacher is spotlighting famous black artists and their contributions. One example is Elizabeth Catlett <http://elizabethcatlett.net/>, an African-American artist whose sculptures speak to the struggles of black men and women.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

National School Counseling Week 2017, "*School Counseling: Helping Students Realize Their Potential*," was celebrated from February 6-10 to focus public attention on the unique and important contribution of school counselors within our nation's schools. Several of our counselors made time during the week to share the good things happening in our schools on the WSQL podcast. We celebrate our skilled and dedicated school counselors for all that they do to help students explore their potential, set goals, and become productive members of society.

GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

Congratulation to Mrs. Buckner's class at Rosman Elementary School, winners of the Great Kindness Challenge held January 24-27. Students completed 5,668 acts of kindness during the challenge.

DAR ESSAY WINNER

Congratulations to Barrett Mayes, fifth grade student at Brevard Elementary School, who was selected as the chapter winner of the American History Essay Contest for 2016-2017 by the Waightstill Avery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Barrett was awarded with a special certificate, a bronze medal, a \$25 check, and a personalized, handmade birdhouse. She is the daughter of Matt and Kaye Mayes, and a student in Ms. Merrill's class. Her essay was entitled, "Celebrating a Century of America's National Parks."

NCSPPRA 2016 BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Transylvania County Schools received five top awards at the North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPPRA) Blue Ribbons Awards Brunch that was held on January 27, 2017 at the O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro. Congratulations to Kevin Smith for his outstanding work:

- Gold Award, Digital Media Engagement: "*Teacher of the Year 2017*"
- Gold Awards, Excellence in Writing: "*Brevard Bees*" and "*Community Helpers Club*"
- Gold Award, Photography: "*USMC Junior ROTC*"
- Gold Award, Special Events/Programs: "*Squirrel Box Derby Returns*"

"LOVE THE BUS"/SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed the week of February 13-17, 2017 as School Bus Driver Appreciation Week in North Carolina. North Carolina also recognizes "Love the Bus" week each year during the week of Valentine's Day. We say "thank you" to our school bus drivers for the valuable contributions they make to public education and student safety every day.

CONNESTEE FALLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In January, representatives of the Connetsee Falls Student Scholarship Program delivered checks totaling \$79,500 to Brevard College, Blue Ridge Community College, and Transylvania County Schools to help local students obtain college educations. Our thanks to the Connetsee Falls community for their ongoing support and generosity.

2017 TASTE OF TRANSYLVANIA

The sixth annual "Taste of Transylvania" will be held on May 2, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brevard Lumberyard. Funds raised at the event support the Transylvania County School Educational Foundation mini-grant program, which awards money each year to classroom and enrichment projects. This year, the TCSEF awarded \$18,000 in competitive grants to Transylvania County Schools teachers.

TCS STUDENT ARTWORK FEATURED IN ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT GALLERY

The Student Artwork Showcase, a new exhibit at the Asheville Regional Airport, features student artwork from multiple counties in Western North Carolina. Students from Brevard Elementary, Brevard Middle, and Hillandale Elementary have a variety of pieces on display until March 5. Select pieces will remain on display through the end of the school year.

ALL-DISTRICT HONORS BAND

Congratulations to the following Brevard High School students who made All-District Honors Band. Eight (*) are eligible to audition for All-State Band:

Madison Allen, 2nd*
 Ashlea Milligan, 3rd*
 Aaron Flynn, 1st*
 Crista Cali, 1st*
 Tyler Hutchins, 10th
 Sara Megown, 2nd*
 Elise Poche, 3rd*
 John Nguyen, 1st*
 Jordan Wells, 3rd
 Asher de la Torre, 1st*
 Luke Milligan, 8th

Congratulations to the following Brevard Middle School students who made All-District Honors Band. Those with an asterisk (*) have qualified to audition for All-State Band.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND I - Anna Reed* (3rd chair flute), Harper Wade (8th chair flute), Clare Kennerly* (2nd chair clarinet), Frank Parsons* (3rd chair clarinet), Sierra Gardner (9th chair clarinet), Rebecca Milligan* (2nd chair trumpet), and Emma Coye (7th chair French horn)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT BAND II: Ada Weaver (2nd chair flute), Jess Kimzey (10th chair flute), Micah Ridenour (1st chair tenor sax), Joe Smith (1st chair baritone sax), and Liam Zink (1st chair French horn)

ALTERNATES: Jady Garvitte (2nd alt. clarinet), Charlie Stewart (1st alt. alto sax), Hayden Byrd (2nd alt. baritone sax), Spencer Jackson (1st alt. tuba), and Banks Bradenburg (1st alt. string bass)

TCS DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Students in Transylvania County Schools now have a convenient online option to begin working toward their learner's permit and driver's license. The new online course is a great option for students and families who prefer not wait for a regularly scheduled sit-down driver's education class. The 30-hour course is provided by Mountain Professionals, Inc., which provides driver education for students throughout western North Carolina, including Transylvania County. Registration for the online program costs \$60, compared to \$40 for the regular classroom course offered at Brevard and Rosman High each year. Students must be 14½ years old to register. For more information about the driver's education program, visit the Transportation page on our website or the Mountain Professionals website at www.mtnpro.com.

TCS VIRTUAL DAYS FEATURED ON DPI WEBSITE

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recently featured Transylvania County Schools' Virtual Days initiative on its monthly "Celebrate NC Schools" website: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/celebrate/feature/>. So far this winter, students have had two virtual days. The district had five in 2015-16, the first year of the initiative. In each of the two previous years, Transylvania schools were closed for eight days because of snow - a challenge that led the district to launch the innovative Virtual Day alternative. Local feedback on the Virtual Day initiative has been very positive, and other mountain school districts are sending inquiries as they consider launching similar programs.

SEVEN AREA WRESTLERS QUALITY FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Five members of the Brevard High School wrestling team qualified for the state championships at the recent 2A regional tournament: Daniel McJunkin, Cole Galloway, Tanner Ellenberger, Logan Roth, and Keenan Hawkins. Ellenberger took first place in the tournament, with his championship

giving him 100 career victories. Two Rosman wrestlers, Tanner Whitman and Cody Swangim, took top honors. Whitman finished second at the 1A west regionals and Swangim took first place in the 170 pound division. Tanner tied Coach Wesley Whitman's school record with 151 total wins and could surpass that at the state finals. (*Transylvania Times, Feb. 13, 2017*)

ALL EYES ON BHS TRACK

Brevard High School runner Noah Graham picked up another three state titles, bringing his total to seven, after leading the Blue Devils Men's Track Team to a third-place finish at the 1A/2A Indoor Track State Championship meet. The BHS track team also did very well at the prestigious David Oliver Classic, a two-day invitational meet showcasing some of the best runners in the region.

RES TEACHERS ATTEND "LEADER IN ME" SYMPOSIUM

On February 16-17, five Rosman Elementary School teachers, Michelle Cabe, Laura Russo, Laura Sullivan, Crystal Whitman and Jennifer Worley, attended a "Leader in Me" symposium in Spartanburg, SC. The group heard inspirational speakers, talked with teachers and school leaders, and visited schools that are implementing the "Leader in Me" program. Rosman Elementary is exploring the "Leader in Me" concept as a potential school theme and program to better reach and teach its students.

2A WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Brevard High School 2A Women's Cross Country Team, 2016 WNCAC Champions and 2016 State Champions. Mr. Alan Justice, TCS Athletics Director, presented plaques to team members Emma Dauster, Madeline Dierauf, Ava Findlay, Dominique Karesh, Alyssa Lefler, Alydia Monahan, Anna Schrader, Lillie Siniard, and Julia Smith; and coaches Philip Latter and Jackie Witherspoon.

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. There were no new names on the list.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the minutes of the January 17, January 26, and January 27, 2017 meetings and the personnel report for February 20, 2017 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. Instructional Update

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs gave an update on school dropout data for the 2015-2016 year. He reported that the number of dropouts declined from 38 students in 2014-2015 to 22 students in 2015-2016. This represents a 42.1% decrease over the course of one year. Dr. Gibbs reported that most of the students who drop out of school face challenges that typical middle class families do not. Board members were pleased to see the lower dropout rate and expressed thanks to all of the teachers and specialists who work with at-risk students.

7. Policy

Brian Weaver presented 11 policies from the 6000 Series Part B (Transportation Services) for approval and three old policies for rescission. He reported that there had been no changes to the policies since the first reads in January. There was no discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously adopted the 11 new policies and rescinded the 3 old policies as indicated below:

6000 Series (Part B): Transportation Services			
ADOPTED		RESCINDED	
6300	Goals of Student Transportation Services	EEA	School Transportation Services
6305	Safety and Student Transportation Services		
6306	School Bus Idling	EEAA; EEAB-R	School Bus Idling; Energy Management - School Buses
6310	Organization of Student Transportation Services	EEA	School Transportation Services
6315	Drivers		
6320	Use of Student Transportation Services		
6321	Bus Routes		
6322	Student Assignment to Buses		
6325	Parking Areas for Students		
6330	Insurance for Student Transportation Services	EEA	School Transportation Services
6340	Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts		

Mr. Weaver presented 19 new policies from the 6000 Series Part C (Purchasing, Equipment, Materials, and Supplies) and 8 old policies as first-read information. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he feels the goal of 4% participation by minority-owned businesses that is stated in policy 6402 (Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses) is too low, and suggested changing the goal to 10%. Mr. Barger reported that 4% is a realistic goal for a rural school system in WNC, where there are fewer minority-owned, female-owned, and disabled-owned businesses in general. Mr. Donnahoo reported that larger systems such as Buncombe County only have goals in the 4-6% range. MR. KIVINIEMI MADE A MOTION to change the 4% goal to 7% in line 9 of policy 6402. MRS. WELLBORN SECONDED THE MOTION. Board members discussed the proposed change. Mrs. McGaha expressed concern about establishing a goal that could not realistically be met. Mr. Griffin noted that most contracts have to be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. Mr. Donnahoo offered to survey other school systems regarding their percentage goals and send the information to Dr. McDaris. MR. KIVINIEMI WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND MRS. WELLBORN WITHDREW HER SECOND pending more information from the board attorney.

Mr. Weaver addressed other questions from the board regarding local procedures related to purchasing, equipment and supplies. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the 19 new policies and 8 old policies listed below were unanimously accepted as first-read information. Action on the policies will be requested in March.

6000 Series (Part C): Purchasing, Equipment, Materials, and Supplies			
New Policies		Old Policies	
6400	Goals of the Purchasing Function		
6401	Ethics and the Purchasing Function		
6402	Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses	DJCA	Contracting and Purchasing Procedures

6410	Organization of the Purchasing Function		
6421	Pre-Audit Certification		
6425	Continuing Contracts		
6430	State Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies	DJ; DJ-R	Purchasing Requirements
6440	Local Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies		
6442	Vendor Lists		
6450	Purchase of Services		
6500	Goals of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies Services	GC/EDBA	Allocation of Personnel and Supplies
6520	Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies	IIAD	Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
6521	Personal Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies		
6522	Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies by Non-School Groups		
6525	Instructional Materials Services		
6530	Resource Conservation		
6540	Hazardous Materials		
6550	Vandalism		
6560	Disposal of Surplus Property	DN; DN-R; IIAAA	Disposition of School Property; Disposition of Old Textbooks

8. **School Calendar for 2017-2018**

Brian Weaver presented the recommended school calendar for 2017-2018 as first-read information. He reported having good representation from parents, staff, and others on the calendar committee and good feedback from schools on the initial drafts. Mr. Kiviniemi reported that he had attended the calendar committee meetings and was impressed by the cooperation among different grade levels in developing a calendar that all could agree on. Mr. Weaver reported that Transylvania County Schools did qualify for a state waiver that would allow school to start earlier than August 28. The first day for TCS students will be August 23. Chairman McCoy asked if there had been any discussion about moving the designated early release days away from Wednesdays. Mr. Weaver reported that it had been discussed; however, the committee agreed that because of the number of activities and events scheduled on other days, Wednesdays remain as the best option. Approval of the 2017-2018 calendar will be requested at the next regular meeting.

9. **Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars**

As requested at the January meeting, the superintendent presented a resolution for the board's consideration supporting local control of school calendars. The board approved of the draft as presented, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the unanimously adopted the resolution supporting the efforts in the North Carolina House of Representatives for local school calendar control and requesting that local control over school calendars be returned to local boards of education (see attached). The board asked for copies of the resolution to be sent to Senate and House legislators. Mr. Kiviniemi and Mrs. Wellborn expressed thanks to Representative Cody Henson for his efforts in introducing a bill to return local calendar control.

10. Annual Financial Report for 2015-2016

Norris Barger presented the Transylvania County Schools annual financial report for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and the auditors' compliance report to the board. The audit disclosed no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls; no instances of noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements; and no findings or questioned costs in any funds. Mr. Barger pointed out the ongoing dwindling of fund balance and stated that the only way to reverse the trend is to increase revenue or decrease expenditures. Mr. Kiviniemi remarked that while the school system has to use its fund balance for operating expenses, the county's revenues continue to grow. Chairman McCoy congratulated Mr. Barger and his staff for the excellent audit and careful stewardship of resources.

11. FY18 Budget

Norris Barger reported there was no new budget information from Raleigh. He noted that the state has a reported \$550 million budget surplus, but education may not see any benefit. Two big concerns are the impact of the Senate's class size ratio bill and the possibility of changes to the state funding formulas. The House passed HB13 unanimously, but it is unknown what may happen in the Senate. Chairman McCoy reported that she had spoken with Chairman Chapman and he had indicated the county commissioners would be willing to support a joint resolution in support of HB13.

12. Board Member Compensation

At the January meeting, Vice Chairman Kiviniemi presented a comparison of compensation levels for members of the board of education and members of the board of commissioners and indicated that he would introduce a motion to increase the board of education's compensation. Mr. Kiviniemi reported that he had since decided not to offer a motion at this time as any change would not go into effect until July 1. He presented a comparison of compensation amounts in 19 western counties that shows Transylvania tied for 17th place. He discussed the wide range in earnings and attributed the disparity to the fact that school boards must ask county commissioners for increases. Mr. Kiviniemi reported that he is gathering more research on how compensation levels affect the way governmental bodies perceive each other and would consider making a motion at a later date.

13. Report from "School Board 101"

Mrs. Wellborn gave a report from the North Carolina School Boards Association "School Board 101" conference that was held on January 23-24, 2017 in Raleigh. She reported that the two days of training were interesting and informative, with topics including board member roles and responsibilities, ethics, public school finance, education law, contracts, common liability issues for school districts, and policy development.

14. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- Work continues by the superintendents' statewide task force on the revised ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). The task force has weekly conference calls and several face to face opportunities with legislators this spring.
- The *NC Public School Forum* has released information on the state legislature's opportunity scholarship program which provides taxpayer funded vouchers to

private schools. The top three private schools accepting the vouchers as authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly are:

- a. Trinity Christian School in Fayetteville (\$958,440)
 - b. Word of God Christian Academy in Raleigh (\$918,074)
 - c. Greensboro Islamic Academy (\$882,840)
- House and Senate budget proposals will be unveiled in coming weeks and months. There is concern that lawmakers may propose a block grant for principal pay in lieu of reconnecting principal pay to the teacher salary schedule. The teacher salary schedule is a better option for ensuring a career path for teachers who want to move into school leadership roles.
 - The House K-12 Education Committee considered legislation last week to form a task force that would look at changing funding formulas for school systems. The task force would consider changing from the current allotment-based funding formula to one that is determined using a weighted-student formula.
 - A bill was recently filed to make major changes to the way the State Board of Education is composed, including electing members instead of appointing them, giving the state superintendent voting rights, and removing the state treasurer from the board. House Bill 133 proposes amending the state constitution so that board members are elected by congressional district and serve four-year terms. Under current law, board members are appointed by the governor, confirmed by the legislature in joint session, and serve eight-year terms.

15. Important Dates

Mar. 6	REGULAR MEETING & Community Input Session, 6:30 p.m., BHS Media Center
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)
Apr. 3	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., TBD
Apr. 6	Kindergarten Rally, 4-7 p.m., Trans. Co. Recreation Department
Apr. 11, 12	Kindergarten Registration, 8-3, BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 13	Kindergarten Registration, 8-6, BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 14	Teacher workday (Good Friday)
Apr. 17-21	Spring break
May 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 2	Taste of Transylvania, 6:00 p.m., Lumberyard
May 9	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

Ms. Hunter reported that the second community input session has been tentatively scheduled for April 3 in the Rosman High School media center. Mr. Griffin suggested changing the second input session to March 20 instead of April 3. Ms. Hunter will look into the media center availability for March 20 and let members know. Board members discussed the importance of widely publicizing the meetings and how best to structure the presentations on school facilities.

16. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

17. **Other Items**

No other items were discussed.

18. **Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the board went into closed session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) and 115C-319 through -321. Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mrs. McGaha, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Wellborn, Dr. McDaris, Mr. Donnahoo, and Mr. Weaver. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the board reconvened in open session at 9:15 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
February 20, 2017**

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

Licensed Personnel

Ashton Hughes, Teacher, RMS, effective February 15, 2017
Elizabeth Privette, Teacher, BES, effective August 8, 2017

Classified Personnel

Shane Foreman, Custodian & Bus Driver, effective May 31, 2017
Leigh Anne McJunkin, Bookkeeper, BHS, effective June 30, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Melissa McKinnon, Teacher, RMS, effective March 6, 2017

Classified Personnel

Colby Hogsed, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 21, 2017
Erika McCall, School Health Assistant, BES, effective February 10, 2017
Elizabeth Reid, Part-Time Temporary Student Employee, Building Futures Program, effective January 26, 2017
Tyler Rhodes, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 21, 2017
John Thomas Whitmire, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 21, 2017

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

Samuel Head, Teacher, RMS, short-term disability, effective February 12, 2017 through February 11, 2018

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Lynnette Driver
J. C. McCarson
Gilbert Newbury
Amanda Stockli

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Crystal Cochran
Sue Kinsey
Natasha McCall
Margaret Newbury
Cynthia Nicholson

Crystal Pressley

**Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars
2017**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes give local boards of education powers of supervision and control of local school systems; and

WHEREAS, local control over establishing school calendars is an integral component of school system supervision, administration, and operation with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, state law has arrogated local control by imposing a one-size-fits-all decree on how school calendars are to be set; and

WHEREAS, by arrogating local control, the current calendar law has led to the calendar for high schools, community colleges and universities being out of alignment by approximately two weeks, causing scheduling problems as college courses now begin before high school students complete January final exams; and

WHEREAS, the current school calendar law has created a situation where fall semester cannot be completed before the winter break, forcing exams to be administered after the break, and meaning that students get no break without assessments/assignments pending; and

WHEREAS, our great nation, the United States of America, prudently looks to our great traditional public schools as the foundation for economic success and maintaining a competitive lead over other nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, the competitive edge that makes America unique among other nations includes the support for our traditional public schools' efforts in designing a calendar that best prepares our students to be the next generation of leaders for our nation; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented through multiple studies that children experience learning loss during the summer months when they are away from the classroom and not engaging in educational activities, a phenomenon known as summer learning loss and which has a disproportionate impact on low-income children; and

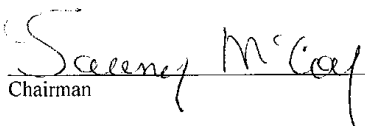
WHEREAS, long breaks can also negatively impact child nutrition, as low-income children who have access to regular meals at school through the free and reduced priced meal program may not have access to regular meals at home; and

WHEREAS, the schedule for fall athletics has not changed to coincide with the state-mandated school calendar, meaning that most schools have played two football games before school even begins; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to best meet the unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the children and families within their communities while allowing for innovative experimental approaches to dealing with summer learning loss;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education supports the efforts in the North Carolina House of Representatives for local school calendar control and requests that local control over school calendars be returned to the local boards of education.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of February 2017.


Chairman


Secretary