

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
February 21, 2011**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Resolution of Recognition
---Reception for NBPTS Teachers---
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
7. AIG Plan 2010-2013
8. Non-Faculty Coaches
9. Summer Program Interest Survey
10. FY12 Budget
11. Important Dates
12. Other Items
13. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on February 21, 2011 in the Brevard Middle School media center. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; and Shelia Norman. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; and approximately 15 staff members and guests. Mrs. Norman gave the invocation and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Mr. Whitmire recognized BHS representative, Jennifer Badger; and School Resource Officer, April Mackey. He reported that Cindy Petit was absent due to her daughter's playoff game that evening.

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting agenda for February 21, 2011 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
TCAE President, Meredith Licht, asked the Board to consider passing a resolution urging North Carolina legislators to maintain the temporary sales taxes on certain items in order to generate more revenue for the state. The sales taxes are scheduled to sunset this year.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

SCHOLASTICS ART SHOW

Four students from Rosman High School took honors in the Scholastics Art Show in January. The following artists' works will be on display in the Asheville Art Museum through March 6, 2011:

Brooklyn Scruggs - Honorable Mention for "Tyler"
Brooklyn Scruggs - Honorable Mention for "Splatter"
Isaiah Jones - Gold Key for Untitled
Kansas Jones - Honorable Mention for "Card of Life"
Devon McIntosh - Honorable Mention for "Quell the Fear"

FOLLOW THE BAND TO LONDON!

Since December, the Rosman Middle/High School Band has been working diligently to begin fund raising for their trip to London, England in June 2012 to perform at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The goal is to raise just over \$100,000 in order to send 30 students on the trip. A Web site www.tigerstolondon.webs.com and Facebook page, "Rosman High Band," have been set up to provide regular updates on the fundraising efforts and links to donate via a secure PayPal account. Every cent donated goes directly into student accounts to participate in the trip.

BMS ARTWORK AT GORGES STATE PARK

Brevard Middle School students contributed their artistic talents to the educational exhibits that will be on display in the new Gorges State Park Visitor Center. Construction on the visitor center will begin this spring.

NC TEACHING FELLOWS REGIONAL FINALIST

Kandyce Norton at RHS has been selected as a regional finalist for the 2011 North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship. Regional interviews will be held on February 19 at Western Carolina University. Scholarship winners will be announced in March.

FEBRUARY IS LOVE THE BUS MONTH

Parents, students and teachers are celebrating the men and women who deliver more than 1400 students safely to and from school in Transylvania County each day as part of the fourth annual national *Love the Bus* program. Each school will recognize their bus drivers on February 14 and throughout the month of February. The *Love the Bus* program, founded in 2007 and coordinated by the American School Bus Council (ASBC), is celebrated on Valentine's Day and throughout February in school districts across the country as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for the hundreds of thousands of school bus drivers who safely transport more than 26 million school children each day. It is also an opportunity for parents and children to learn more about the safety and environmental benefits of school bus transportation. To help celebrate *Love the Bus*, parents, teachers and children are encouraged to visit the program's Web site, www.LoveTheBus.com, to share stories about their favorite bus drivers, and make interactive valentines to e-mail or print and give to their bus driver on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Bus drivers receive specialized classroom and behind-the-wheel training in driving a school bus, student loading/unloading procedures, student evacuation, student behavior and security management, and emergency medical procedures. School districts and companies that manage school bus fleets carefully monitor bus drivers, with some drivers disqualified from driving a bus for as few as two traffic violations. All school bus drivers are also required to participate in pre-employment, random and post-accident drug and alcohol testing, and frequent driving record checks. In addition to the qualified drivers, school buses are, by far, the safest vehicles on the road, with a safety record confirmed by government authorities to be better than any other form of transportation. School buses are designed and constructed with more

safety features than any other vehicle, and the school transportation industry works continually to incorporate the latest technology, training and testing to keep school buses safe.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The month of February is designated as “Black History Month” nationwide. Classes will have activities commemorating the important people, places and events of the civil rights movement and the contributions and achievements of celebrated African Americans.

FEBRUARY IS CTE MONTH

February is Career-Technical Education Month. The month-long celebration of CTE kicks off with National Groundhog Job Shadow Day and concludes with National Entrepreneurship Week USA. This year’s theme is “CTE: Learning Today, Earning Tomorrow.”

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

A few weeks ago, the principal of Brevard High School received an e-mail from a Tuscola High School alumnus, Mr. Alan Walker, commending a BHS wrestler, his coach and teammates for good sportsmanship. During a match between Brevard and Tuscola on January 25, a wrestler from Tuscola was injured. Mr. Walker’s message stated, “The concern the young man from Brevard, as well as the coaches, showed for the injured wrestler was evident on their faces. The wrestler from Brevard stayed at the edge of the mat, exhibiting compassion for the wrestler whom had been his opponent just moments earlier. When the wrestler from Tuscola was taken from the mat, the great act of sportsmanship shown by the young man from Brevard touched me. Please feel free to share this with the young man and the wrestling team and coaches. Good sportsmanship is noticed and appreciated.”

SESQUICENTENNIAL COLORING BOOKS

Recently elementary school students in TCS received Transylvania County Sesquicentennial coloring books produced by the Transylvania County Historical Society. The coloring books came with flyers to help teachers discuss Transylvania County history with their classes. Because the initial printing contained a few minor errors, the printer offered 300 extra books to the school system. TCS employees may purchase additional books for \$1 per copy (limit of 5 per person, please). The public will be able to buy the books for a higher price from the Historical Society. All proceeds will go to fund student and teacher Sesquicentennial projects. Mrs. Sue Fox visited schools with the “coloring book caravan” during the week of February 14.

MORE SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS

Sarah Justice at RHS is collecting student essays to be included in a Sesquicentennial essay contest. Five “Love Letters to Transylvania County” from BMS students were read on-air at WSQL on February 15. To stay up to date with all of the school-based Sesquicentennial activities, visit www.tcsnc.org and click on the celebration activities link.

SMART START BOARD

Rosman Elementary School Principal, Donna Raspa, has been invited to join the Transylvania County Smart Start Board of Directors.

RHS FRESH MARKET

Students from Rosman High School are selling lettuce and fresh cut herbs from the RHS greenhouse. Their customers include Blue Ridge Bakery and Marco's Trattoria in Brevard. Anyone interested in purchasing these products may contact Heather McNeely, horticulture teacher at RHS.

ALL-DISTRICT BAND

Several members of the RHS/RMS band competed recently in the All-District Band Competition. They are Brook Owen, Kandyce Norton, Rachel Cobb, Annaliese Brown, Chesney Reid, and Jacey Voris. Three students, Norton, Reid and Voris, are eligible to audition for All-State Band in March.

REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

District Science Fair winners represented Transylvania County at the Regional Science Fair on February 8-9, 2011 at Western Carolina University. TCS students did extremely well, bringing home over 50% of the awards presented in both elementary and middle school divisions. The following students won regional awards (*advances to the State Science Fair):

Elementary Division

2nd Place Overall: Matthew Sharpsteen (BES)*
 Honorable Mention: Sarah Branagan (BES)*
 Honorable Mention: Samuel Ballard (TCH)*
 Honorable Mention: Aiden and Bryce Spradlin (PFES)*

Middle School Division

1st Place Technology: Abby Williams and Katlyn Galloway (BMS)*
 2nd Place Biology A: Patrick Frady and Joseph Schrader (BMS)*

Specialty Awards

Science Fair Director's Award for Best All-Around Project: Samuel Ballard (TCH)
 Overall Physical Science Award: Alana Merrell (BES)
 3rd Place Chemistry: Mary Huggins (BMS)
 Honorable Mention Chemistry: Meredith Tooley (BMS)
 Honorable Mention Physical: Madeline Jones (BMS)
 Honorable Mention Biology B: Liam McKissock and Michael Melendez (BMS)
 Air Force Award 1st Place: Justin Coye (BMS)
 Navy Award 2nd Place: Mary Garrett (BMS)

Special thanks were extended to Dr. Kim Elliott, science fair coordinator.

THANKS TO NEWSPAPER

Mr. Whitmire praised recent *Transylvania Times* coverage of the Sesquicentennial celebration, Rosenwald history, science fair and budget.

4. Resolution of Recognition

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board presented certificates to the individuals listed below and approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Education that commendations, thanks, congratulations and appreciation be expressed

to the following teachers for earning National Board Professional Teaching Standards certification during the 2010-2011 year:

Jill Carpenter, RMS
 Chamblee Carrington, RMS
 Erin Creasman, PFES
 Bob Dinsdale, PFES
 Denise Reese, RMS
 Cheryl Smith, PFES
 Jennifer Williams, BHS

The Board recessed for a brief reception in honor of the NBPTS teachers.

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. Dr. McDaris reported that no new names had been added to the list. Additional names will be included as they are received.

6. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board approved the minutes of the January 13, February 1, February 2, and February 7, 2011 meetings and the personnel report for February 21, 2011.

Dr. McDaris introduced Jennifer Badger, BHS student representative, to the Board.

7. AIG Plan 2010-2013

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the Board unanimously approved the Academically/Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan for 2010-2013 as presented in January. Members commended the excellent plan.

8. Non-Faculty Coaches

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the following non-faculty coaches were unanimously approved for spring sports 2011:

BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL

Bill Baldwin - Head, Men & Women's Track
 Jackie Witherspoon - Assistant, Men & Women's Track
 Ashley Rice - Assistant Volunteer, Softball
 Ashley Rice - Head Volunteer, JV Softball
 Christie Cauble - Assistant Volunteer, JV Softball
 Chuck Owenby - Assistant Volunteer, JV Baseball
 Chelsea Shaw - Assistant, Women's Soccer
 Mike Vandergrift - Head, Men's Tennis

BREVARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brad Barreym - Head, Boys' Track
 Troy Cornett - Head, Softball
 Charles McKeller - Volunteer Assistant, Girls' Soccer
 Kelly Nicholson - Head, Girls' Soccer

ROSMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Barry Galloway - Head, JV Baseball
 Trista Kimsey - Assistant, Softball

Doug Leonard - Head, Softball
Eric Owen - Head, JV Softball
ROSMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Pat Carrington - Head, Softball
Shane Galloway - Volunteer Assistant, Baseball
Rick James - Head, Baseball

9. **Summer Program Interest Survey**

Dr. Kim Elliott reported that she is exploring the possibility of having a summer day care program for students in grades K-5. She stated that there seems to be a need, based on the number of phone inquiries from stakeholders. If executed, the program would operate M-F from 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at Pisgah Forest Elementary School. The cost would be \$100 per week per student. Scholarships may be available for families who need assistance. A minimum commitment of 30 students per week would be needed in order to implement the program. Dr. Elliott requested permission to administer a written survey to parents to determine the level of interest. Mrs. Norman asked whether this program would compete with the summer program offered by Communities In Schools. Dr. Elliott explained that the CIS program does not serve elementary-age children. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the Board unanimously approved the summer day care interest survey.

10. **FY12 Budget**

Dr. McDaris reported that Norris Barger was ill and unable to attend the meeting per doctor's orders. Dr. McDaris gave an update on the latest budget information out of Raleigh, including the governor's budget proposal, proposed tax credits for home schools and private schools, possible cuts to the state testing program, possible cuts to central office and assistant principal funding, and other proposed bills that could negatively impact school districts. He reported that in order to balance its own budget, the state may push some high-dollar items onto the shoulders of local county governments. Dr. McDaris commented that while this would be an unfair burden to pass along to local officials, it would not change the fact that the schools will need funding assistance from the county commissioners this year. He warned that the worst case budget scenario could mean a loss of over 80 positions district-wide. Dr. McDaris pledged to cut everything else to the bone before cutting staff.

Considerable discussion centered on the charter school cap increase and House Bill 41, which calls for a \$2,500 per student tax credit for any child attending private or home schools. Chairman Whitmire stated that while there are some excellent home schools, there are many more that provide little to no real education. He noted that North Carolina has minimal accountability requirements for home schools. If parents can be "rewarded" with a \$2,500 tax credit per child, they may be even more motivated to abuse the home school opportunity at the expense of their child's education. He stated that taking money away from public schools in the name of supporting alternate venues is wrong, since public schools educate the vast majority of students. Dr. McDaris stated that he does not oppose raising the cap on charter schools or healthy competition, but believes that there should be a level playing field. Taking tax dollars that are designated for certain services (e.g., student transportation) away from public schools and giving them to charter schools that do not have to provide those services gives an unfair advantage in terms of flexibility. He pointed out that such a measure basically forces a county government to fund two school systems.

Mr. Whitmire encouraged everyone to attend the GOP county convention on March 5, 2011 in the Rogow Room of the Transylvania County Library. Representative Guice and Senator Davis will be the guest speakers. Mr. Whitmire stated that this would be a good opportunity to help our newly elected officials better understand the impact of the state's actions on schools and education in this county. Mr. Whitmire and Dr. McDaris urged everyone to contact their legislators to express their concerns. Mrs. Norman commended teachers, administrators and staff for their enthusiasm and professionalism during these hard budget times.

The Board reviewed the capital outlay five-year plan and developed the following prioritized list for each school based on their observations from the facility tours:

- BES door replacement (clarification from Mr. Barger requested)

- BES paving

- BES storage

- BHS drainage

- BHS auditorium stage floor (electrical)

- BHS old gym bathrooms / stage bathrooms

- BHS gym floors

- BHS stadium inspection

- BHS field maintenance

- BHS bleacher repair

- BHS exterior doors (?)

- BMS all-call system

- BMS parking lot paving

- BMS sidewalk

- PFES new door into reception area

- PFES computer lab spaces

- PFES fencing along tree line

- DRS cameras for stairwell/cafeteria

- DRS exterior doors (?)

- RES alternate access/exit

- RES fencing along river

- RES replace More-At-Four roof

- RHS/RMS CTE building

- RHS/RMS integrated fire alarm system

- RHS/RMS paving

- RHS/RMS sidewalk from lower parking lot to upper lot

- RHS/RMS field maintenance

- RHS/RMS exterior doors new gym (?)

- TCH front entry video security camera

- TCH speed control

- TCH alternate access/exit

- TCH hot water for arts sink

- TCH wiring and plumbing for washer/dryer

It was noted that all principals had qualified their lists by asking the Board to keep people over all else.

There was lengthy discussion with Dony's Merrill regarding wireless saturation and technology needs. Mrs. McCoy commended the technology department for their excellent work.

Dr. McDaris reported there has been no word yet on the proposed joint meeting for February 22 or the Board's offer to host the meeting at one of the schools.

The Board reviewed the latest plans for the RHS CTE renovations. Dr. McDaris reported that he, Norris Barger, Scott Elliott, Greg Carter, Brian Weaver and architect Mike Cox had a productive meeting with the CTE teachers regarding the plans. Dr. Elliott observed that the current plan offers the advantage of giving each program area its own space—no sharing. The plan also connects every classroom space to each teacher's laboratory area. He noted that the school would be able to use two existing classrooms during construction. He reported that Mr. Cox believes the project can come in at or under budget. He cautioned that any significant design changes would increase estimated costs dramatically.

Mr. Whitmire expressed concerns about the plan's restroom design. Dr. McDaris reported that the group had discussed shifting the bathroom design into the dead space shown on the plans. Mrs. Norman asked whether the plan could be scaled back to the original footprint if the bids come in over budget. She expressed fear that the Board would miss another opportunity to upgrade the CTE wing if the bids were not successful. Dr. Elliott expressed doubts that scaling back could provide the space needed. He noted that a single-story structure would be more likely to get successful bids. Dr. McDaris estimated that if all goes well, work could begin by the end of the year.

Dr. McDaris reported that he had a good discussion with Dr. Drew Van Horn regarding the Brevard Memorial Stadium facilities use agreement. He stated that Dr. Van Horn is working on a way for private donors to give money toward repairing the field. Under the private venture, Brevard High School would retain all ownership and control of the field, while enabling Brevard College to hold football games and other events there.

11. **Important Dates**

- Feb. 24 Supt. Communication Council, 3:45 p.m., MEC
- Feb. 25 Student Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
- Feb. 26 Parent Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
- Feb. 26 Miss Bengal Pageant (rescheduled), 6:00 p.m., RHS Auditorium
- Mar. 7 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
- Mar. 21 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
- Mar. 24 Racial Equity Training, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., MEC
- Mar. 25 NCSBA "Understanding the Role of the School Board Chair", Raleigh, NC

Mr. Whitmire informed the group about a "Reinventing Fire" presentation to be held on April 2 in the Rogow Room. "Reinventing Fire" is the name given to the Rocky Mountain Institute's quest for alternative solutions to the nation's dependence on fossil fuels.

DAYS MISSED: MAKE-UP DAYS:

December 13	January 17
December 14	February 12
December 16	February 21
December 17	March 31
January 10	April 22
January 11	May 30
January 12	June 9
January 13	June 10
January 14	June 13
February 10	June 14

12. Other Items

Dr. McDaris informed the Board of a school bus accident that had occurred earlier in the day. The accident damaged the bus mirrors, and no one was injured. The other driver was at fault.

Meredith Licht gave an update on the NCAE forum with Representative Heath Shuler that had been postponed due to weather. The forum has been rescheduled for March 22, 2011, from 5-6 p.m. in Waynesville.

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
February 21, 2011**

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Lena Zaludek, Interim Part-Time Teacher, BHS & RHS, effective February 11, 2011, through the end of the 2010-2011 school year

Classified Personnel

James Galloway, Bus Driver, TCH, effective February 22, 2011

Charles Harbin, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 22, 2011

Wesley Jones, Temporary Part-Time Student Worker, Building Futures Program, effective February 22, 2011 through June 16, 2011

Bryan Koffman, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 22, 2011

Susan Merrill, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 22, 2011

Bernadette Merriman, Interim Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective February 22, 2011 through June 16, 2011

Sandra Paa, Interim Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective February 22, 2011 through June 16, 2011

Dylan Sullinger, Temporary Part-Time Student Worker, Building Futures Program, effective February 22, 2011 through June 16, 2011

Trevor Wolford, Bus Driver, TCS, effective February 22, 2011

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

Lynne Beeson, Family and Medical Leave, effective February 15, 2011 through May 10, 2011

Erin Keane, Personal Leave pursuant to local Board policy GCBDB, effective for the 2011-2012 school year

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Hilda Edwards

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Regeina Wells

Kathryn White