

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 2, 2009
REVISED

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Public Comment
2. Good News Report
3. Former Students in the Military
4. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
5. Non-Faculty Coaches
6. Policy:
 - A. GCPA "Reduction in Force"
 - B. JEC "School Admissions"
 - C. JHCB "Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission"
 - D. IIC "Field Trip Approval and Cancellation"
7. District Data Notebook Update
8. Child Nutrition Update
9. New Web Site Preview
10. FY10 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 March 2, 2009 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Mike Rogers, Chairman; Chris Whitmire, Vice Chairman; Tawny McCoy, and Shelia Norman. Also present were Dr. Sonna Lyda, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; and approximately 10 staff, guests, and media. Mrs. McCoy gave the invocation and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Rogers gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

1. Public Comment

Chairman Rogers gave a follow-up that the City of Brevard is looking into ways to improve safety at the Brevard High School student crosswalk.

2. Good News Report

Dr. Lyda introduced BHS student representative, Allie Perkins, to the Board.

Dr. Lyda reported the following items:

- The following students won awards at the Western Regional Science Fair at Western Carolina University on February 18. Those who placed first or second in the regional competition will go on to the State Science Fair later this spring.

Elementary Level		
Alex McNeely	TCH	3 rd Place; 2 nd Place, Air Force Award for Creativity and Achievement
Cade Brinkley	RES	Honorable Mention

Kohner Miller	RES	Honorable Mention
Cameron Wilson	BES	1 st Place, Air Force Meteorology, Atmospheric Project
Ella Hung	BES	Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute Project of the Year
Middle School Level		
Daniel Taylor	BMS	3 rd Place
Josh Tourtellotte	BMS	3 rd Place
Meredith Tooley	BMS	Honorable Mention
High School Level		
Brook Burrows	BHS	1 st Place*
John Burrows	BHS	1 st Place*
Matt Travers	BHS	1 st Place*

*In addition to the first place award for their group project, these students received \$25 gift cards from Amazon.com, a \$50 award for the best vertebrate project, and a trip to the NC State Veterinary School. BHS student Lilly Jones-Herbst helped gather data for this project.

- The following students were winners in the District Soil and Water Conservation “Yours for Life” Poster, Essay, and Speech Contest for 2009:

3 rd Grade Poster Contest		
Weston Whitmire	RES	1 st Place
Abby Buchanan	RES	2 nd Place
Iris Reynaldo	RES	3 rd Place
Chloe Owen	PFES	Honorable Mention
4 th Grade Poster Contest		
Abby Ammons	RES	1 st Place
Destyneee Galloway	RES	2 nd Place
Paiton Reese	RES	3 rd Place
Marissa Henson	RES	Honorable Mention
5 th Grade Poster Contest		
Haley Parker	RES	1 st Place
Ruby Gonzalez	PFES	2 nd Place
Taylor Robarts	TCH	3 rd Place
Brooklyn Owen	TCH	Honorable Mention
6 th Grade Poster Contest		
Aly Pagano	RMS	1 st Place
Chesney Reid	RMS	2 nd Place
Emily Robinson	RMS	3 rd Place
6 th Grade Essay Contest		
Chesney Reid	RMS	1 st Place
Claire Harris	RMS	2 nd Place

- BHS *Broadcaster* Opinions Editor, Zack Cady, received national recognition for his online review of the movie *Gran Torino*. Each year, professional newspaper editors review thousands of high school publications from across the country. Only the most outstanding examples of student journalism are selected for inclusion in *The National Edition*. Zack’s review was one of five entertainment articles selected to appear in *The National Edition*.

- Rosman Elementary School held a “Share the Love, Change the World” charity fundraiser benefiting Cystic Fibrosis and the Alternating Hemiplegia Foundation. Teachers and students collected change for three weeks and raised a total of \$1,354.34. Each charity will receive half of the proceeds. The Cystic Fibrosis donation is being given in memory of Kyla Parker. The Alternating Hemiplegia donation is being given in honor of Hunter Compton, son of staff member Renee Compton.

3. Former Students in the Military

The Board recognized former TCS students who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Military. The list is read in its entirety twice a year. Chairman Rogers expressed the Board’s appreciation to all of the individuals and their families for their dedication and sacrifice.

4. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMRE, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the following items were approved:

- Minutes from February 2, 2009
- Minutes from February 16, 2009
- Minutes from February 23, 2009
- Minutes from February 27, 2009
- Personnel report (see attached)

5. Non-Faculty Coaches

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the following community coaches were approved for spring sports 2008-2009. Approvals of first-time coaches are contingent upon clear background checks.

BHS Baseball Justin Bell* - Varsity Vol. Asst. Rick Lambert - JV Asst. Chuck Owenby - JV Vol. Asst.	RHS Baseball Barry Galloway - JV Asst. Scotty Ruff - Asst.
BHS Golf Derek Wilbanks - Head	RHS Golf G. F. Rice - Head
BHS Softball Dean Janavice - Head Roberta Janavice - Asst.	RHS Softball Terry Anders - Head JV Jimmy Meese* - Vol. Asst.
BHS Women’s Soccer Dale Hagedon - Head Mike Hawkins - Asst. Rich DeJong - Vol. Asst.	Eric Owen - JV Asst. Jay Sheridan - Head Bobby Ward - Asst.
BHS Track and Field Bill Baldwin - Men/Women Head Jackie Witherspoon - Asst.	
BHS Men’s Tennis Louis Vitella - Head Varsity	
BMS Girls’ Soccer Bill Tellman - Head Julia Tellman* - Vol. Asst. Timothy Shea* - Vol. Asst.	RMS Baseball John J. Raines - Vol. Asst. Josh Riddle - Vol. Asst.

BMS Softball Allen Keogh* - Vol. Asst. Scott Limerick - Head David McNeill - Vol. Asst.	RMS Softball Jeremy McCarter* - Vol. Asst. Cody Petit* - Asst.
BMS Track and Field Donna Allsteadt - Head Girls Chris Mosser* - Head Boys	
*First-time coach with TCS	

6. Policy

The Board reviewed revised Policy GCPA (Reduction in Force). Mrs. Norman pointed out additional changes that need to be made to the policy. The policy will be further revised and returned on March 16 for approval.

ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, revised Policy JEC (School Admissions) was approved as presented.

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, revised Policy JHCB (Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission) was approved as presented. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, Policy JHCB-R (Inoculations of Students) was rescinded.

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, revised Policy IIC (Field Trip Approval and Cancellation) was approved as presented.

7. District Data Notebook Update

David Sutton presented the following strategic indicator updates:

- *SAT Results* - This is a new indicator and will become a regular update. In 2008, the TCS average score was 1539, compared with the state average score of 1489 and the national average of 1511. In overall scores, TCS has exceeded the state and national averages since 2001. Chairman Rogers attributed this trend to our high quality teachers and staff and the district's high standards.
- *Annual Local School Finance Study Data* - For 2008, Transylvania County ranked 27th out of 100 counties in actual funding effort. In relative effort (what the county is able to pay), the school system ranked 82nd out of 100. In 2008, the local per pupil spending in TCS was \$2,727. The state average was \$2,719 per pupil. In local revenue capacity (how much could have been spent had the county taxed at the state average tax rate), Transylvania could have spent \$7,930 per child. Transylvania ranks in the top 10% of counties in spending ability per child, but in the bottom 20% in actual spending per child.

8. Child Nutrition Update

Carolyn Gordon gave an update on the Child Nutrition program. The program projects a deficit of \$140,000 in FY09. They are requesting a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 from local funds to stabilize operations for FY10. All North Carolina CN programs are expected to lose money this year because rising food and labor costs have outpaced federal reimbursement. Many CN programs in this area are already receiving local assistance. In addition to increased food and labor costs, economic factors play a role. Free/reduced rates in Transylvania County are at their highest ever (over 50%). Higher free/reduced rates equal lower sales revenues. Ms. Gordon noted that there

might be some relief on the way from the federal government, but exactly when and how much are unknown. The Child Nutrition department proposes using a combination of a 25-cent lunch price increase, local subsidy, and federal reimbursement rate increase to balance its budget for FY10.

Ms. Gordon described the various money-saving methods being employed such as long-term purchasing contracts (when possible), re-evaluations of paper and plastic products, comparison price shopping and food substitutions, and re-negotiation of food vendor contracts.

Board members had questions about indirect costs. Ms. Gordon explained that these are costs paid back to the school system for operational expenses that are paid for by the school system such as electricity, water, etc. Every federal program may be charged indirect costs provided that the program is making money.

Board members were very concerned about the impact of a price increase on families that are struggling financially. Chairman Rogers stressed his preference to increase the local contribution rather than raise school lunch prices. Mrs. Gordon suggested going ahead and planning for the price increase, and then, based on the hoped-for federal assistance, either reducing or eliminating the increase.

Chairman Rogers suggested that Board receive quarterly updates from Child Nutrition. All agreed.

9. New Web Site Preview

Dony Merrill gave a preview of the new TCS Web site www.tcsnc.org. The site goes live on March 2. The new design provides improved consistency of format, better ease of use, and a more interactive environment for teachers and students. All TCS e-mail addresses will be changed to reflect the new domain. The old e-mail addresses will also continue to work indefinitely. The new site has received many positive reviews from faculty and staff. The Board commended Mrs. Merrill and the technology staff for all their hard work on the new site.

10. FY10 Budget

Dr. Lyda recommended the following changes to the FY10 budget needs list:

- Remove the teacher supplement increase (\$92,946); math teacher position (\$50,759); school nurse position (\$52,668); and technology facilitator position (\$51,650) and move those amounts into teacher and teacher assistant positions to offset potential state cuts.
- Increase Child Nutrition amount to \$100,000.
- Reflect dollar figure for the retirement increase (\$9,603).
- Remove SRO item.
- Reflect 2% COLA increase for certified positions only.

These changes would bring the bottom line amount (approximately \$591,000) to the same level as last year. It was the Board's consensus to make the changes as recommended. The changes will be reflected in the next draft.

Chairman Rogers invited Allie Perkins to share her comments regarding the budget or any other topic. Miss Perkins reported that as a graduating senior, she would have

preferred to have a calendar that would have allowed first semester exams before Christmas.

Norris Barger presented his recommended cuts for capital outlay projects. The cuts would reduce the amount to be requested from the county from \$1,874,025 to \$979,945. He reported that he had selected to keep only those items that represent basic safety needs or items that had been noted in fire and safety inspections. All other non-critical items would be deferred at least one year. Members were concerned that deferring so many projects this year would make the FY11 request too large. Mr. Whitmire also expressed concern that asking the commissioners for so little this year would set a negative precedent for future years. All agreed that the Board would ask for the money back and a return to normal funding levels when the economy improves.

Board members had several concerns about the items being recommended for cuts. Chairman Rogers recommended further discussion of the projects school by school at the next meeting. Dr. Lyda reported that the capital outlay priority list should be ready for first read at that time. She stated that although the capital proposal seems severe, it is important to remember that every county department except for the school system had to return 5% of their budgets this year.

Mrs. McCoy conveyed her appreciation for the impressive upkeep of school facilities as evidenced on the school tours.

11. Important Dates

Mar. 10	SPECIAL MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Mar. 14	Cutoff Date for Supt. Applications		
Mar. 16	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Mar. 19	JOINT MEETING	TBA	TBA
Mar. 23	Teacher Workday		
Mar. 24	SPECIAL MEETING	5:30 p.m.	MEC
<i>Mar. 25-26</i>	<i>NCSBA School Law Academy for School Administrators</i>		<i>Hickory, NC</i>
Mar. 25	Elected Officials' Breakfast	8:00 a.m.	Trans. Regional Hospital
Mar. 28	Western Region Career Club Competitions	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	RMS
Apr. 2	Kindergarten Orientation	6:00 p.m.	BES, PFES, RES, TCHES
Apr. 6	Technology Showcase	4 - 7 p.m.	Rogow Room, TC Library
Apr. 6	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Apr. 10	Holiday (Good Friday)		

Apr. 13-17	Spring Break		
Apr. 20-24	SPECIAL MEETINGS (Interviews)		
Apr. 28	Superintendent's Communication Council	3:45 p.m.	MEC
Apr. 29	Parent Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
May 1	Student Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
May 4	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
May 18	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
<i>May 18-19</i>	<i>NCSBA President's Invitational Conference</i>		<i>Raleigh, NC</i>
May 26	Scholars' Recognition Evening	5:30 p.m.	BHS

Make-up Days

December 1 will be made up on June 9.
 January 21 was made up on February 16.
 March 2 will be made up on June 10.

12. Other Items

Mrs. McCoy reported that Mrs. Petit was absent from the meeting due to her son's surgery that day and that her son was doing well.

Mr. Whitmire asked for an update on representation at the Policy IK-R committee meetings. Chairman Rogers reported that Mr. Keith Norman, parent, had been added to the group; Board member Petit was unable to serve; and Board member Norman would serve in Mrs. Petit's place.

13. Public Comment

None.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman

 Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
March 2, 2009

- 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
None

Classified Personnel
Derek Wilbanks, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 3, 2009

- 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
Ashton Elizabeth Barton
Anita Elms Bishop
Brittany Trotter Dodson
Robert Aaron Eder
Raymond Jackson Harshbarger
John Bernard Tolppi
Sarah Louise Wood