

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 2, 2015**

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. FY16 Budget
6. Superintendent's Update
7. Important Dates
8. Public Comment
9. Other Items
10. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 2, 2015 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Marty Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to one guest, the following board members, staff, and media representatives were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS: Tawny McCoy, Chair; Cindy Petit, Vice Chair; Marty Griffin; Ron Kiviniemi; and Betty Scruggs

STAFF: Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Chris Campbell, Board Attorney; Jeremy Gibbs, Director of Human Resources; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Brian Weaver, Director of 6-12 Curriculum & Instruction; Audrey Reneau, Director of K-5 Curriculum & Instruction; Tammy Bellefeuille, Director of Student Services; Joe Russo, TCAE; and Desiree Abram, School Resource Officer

MEDIA: Park Baker, *Transylvania Times*

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the meeting agenda for March 2, 2015 was approved as submitted.
2. **Public Comment**
None
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE?

Lianne Duscio and Garland Joseph, sophomores from Brevard High School, traveled to San Jose, California recently to present their science research at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Conference. The AAAS seeks to "advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." This year's AAAS Conference was attended by over 10,000 scientists and science enthusiasts from around the country. In addition to presenting their research, Duscio and Joseph met practicing scientists and other student delegates

from across the nation, attended lectures, and visited Google headquarters. The students were awarded the honor of attending the conference when they won first place in the Biological Sciences category at last year's North Carolina Student Academy of Science (NCSAS) for their project, "Testing for Antioxidants, Vitamin C and Antitumor Properties of Berries from Autumn Olive and Spicebush." During the final banquet, Duscio and Joseph were inducted into the American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS) alongside 156 other student delegates. Duscio and Joseph have many people to thank for their success. The girls conducted their work as part of the TIME 4 Real Science Research Program, a partnership between Transylvania County Schools and NC Cooperative Extension. Retired scientist volunteer Dr. Kent Wilcox mentored the girls throughout their project. Jennifer Williams, the students' science research teacher, travelled with the girls to the conference and served as chaperone for the 12 North Carolina AJAS delegates. Funding for the trip was provided by generous donations from the Brevard chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (NCSAS sponsor).

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS TALLY WINS AT MATH COMPETITION

On February 7, Brevard and Rosman Middle Schools competed against 27 other teams at the MathCounts Competition at T.C. Roberson High School. Both teams performed well and members garnered several individual honors. Brevard Middle took sixth place with a team of nine "mathletes" led by advisor Mellissa Howell. Brandy Glendening led a team of four from Rosman Middle School to a 12th place finish overall. The teams competed in three different events: Individual Test, Team Test, and Countdown Round. James Thompson from BMS was a runner up in the Countdown Round, securing a 13th place in the overall competition. Marcus Morgan of Rosman Middle scored in the top twenty. Brevard Middle's Benji Dial took home the highest individual honor for TCS, earning third place overall out of 220 students participating. He will move on to the State MathCounts Competition in Durham on March 20 at the North Carolina School of Science and Math. Rosman Middle School team members were Dakotah Morgan, Sam Ballard, Grand Reese, and Marcus Morgan. Brevard Middle School team members were Benji Dial, James Thompson, Bella Stzyber, Juliana Rizo, Nyx Siniard, Asher de la Torr , Anna de la Torr , Alex Ear, and Candace Britt.

BRIAN HATTER WINS BMS GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Brian Hatter, 8th grade student at Brevard Middle School, won the school competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 16 and a chance at a \$50,000 college scholarship. The school Bee was the first round in the 27th Annual National Geographic Bee. Other top finishers at BMS included Will Terrell (2nd place), Clint Harron (tie-3rd place), and Kyndal Myers (tie-3rd place). Thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories are participating in the 2015 Bee. The school champions, including Hatter, will next take a written test, and the top 100 scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state Bee on March 27. The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC for the state winners to participate in the national championship rounds on May 11-13. The first place national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society including a subscription to National Geographic magazine, and a trip to the Gal pagos Islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. Award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien will moderate the televised finals on May 13.

2015 WESTERN REGION STUDENT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE RESULTS

The Western Region Student Academy of Science was held on February 27 at UNC-Asheville. The following Brevard High School students took honors and will advance to the state competition in Durham on March 27:

- Sam Farrar, Erin Smith, and Cameron McCathern: The Evaluation of *Stevia rebaudiana* for the Presence of Estrogen Like Compounds - 1st place, Biological Sciences
- Abby Williams and Carly Onnink: Electroantennogram assays to determine *Megacopta cribraria* response to [E]-2-hexenal, tridecane, and [E]-2-decenal - 2nd place, Biological Sciences
- Crista Cali and Sarah Branagan: The Search for *Pityophthorus juglandis* and Associated *Geosmithia morbida* in Transylvania County, NC - 3rd place, Biological Sciences
- Aaron Neumann, Ingrid Findlay, and Hannah Lemel: Evaluation of Honey Bee Health in Transylvania County: An Assessment of *Varroa destructor* and *Nosema* levels - Honorable Mention, Biological Sciences
- Hannah Field and Ryan Holland: Screening Local Lignicolous Fungi for Lignin Degrading Enzymes - 1st place, Biotechnology
- Carver Nichols: Agrobacterium-Mediated Stable Transformation of *Coleus X Hybridus* in Planta Using the Floral Dip Method - 2nd place, Biotechnology
- Sam Lemel and Bryce Spradlin: Adapting Lamp Assay and Culturing Methods for use in Detecting *Pseudoperonospora humuli* in Hops and *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* in Cucumbers - 3rd place, Biotechnology
- Joseph Roberts, Eliza Witherspoon, and Lauren Tooley: Evaluation of VOC producing *Diaporthe* species for enzyme production - 1st place, Chemistry
- Allison Reece and Lauren DuBreuil: The Effect of Antibiotics on the Mortality of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) - 2nd place, Environmental Science
- Ryulee Park and Aidan Spradlin: Identification and heavy metal remediation potential of fungi isolated from Duke Energy's 1964 Asheville coal ash pond - 3rd place, Environmental Science

SCIENCE LAB TABLES FOR RHS

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Patton of Brevard have donated approximately \$15,000 to purchase high quality student laboratory tables for the science labs at Rosman High School. When the tables arrive, a ceremony will be held to thank the Pattons for their generosity and ongoing support of the Transylvania County Schools.

Dr. McDaris welcomed SRO Abram to the meeting.

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. FY16 Budget

Norris Barger presented the latest budget information for FY16. He reported that the TCS afterschool program would likely be discontinued after this year due to financial unsustainability. The program is losing approximately \$37,000 per year. Audrey Reneau reported that the afterschool program has been losing money for a long time, with participation down to an average of 2 to 25 students per day depending on the site.

Mrs. Reneau stated that she hopes to find a way to partner with another agency, possibly the YMCA, to keep at least one of the school sites open. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he would be reluctant to see the afterschool program shut down completely due to the scarcity of daycare options in the county. He suggested asking the commissioners to help with funding. Chairman McCoy asked Mrs. Reneau to keep the Board informed on developments.

Mr. Barger reported that the administration feels that it can save approximately \$36,000 in local funds by combining the BHS distance learning position and the BHS in-school suspension position.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked about the Child Nutrition supplement from the county. Mr. Barger reported that the county is providing \$250,000 per year to help support the program. Dr. McDaris reported that Director Carolyn Barton is looking at options to save money, including the possibility of consolidating meal preparation at a centralized location(s) and reallocating staff.

Mr. Barger reported that the biggest line item in the local request so far is \$786,657 to reduce the fund balance appropriated to \$0. Fund balance has been steadily depleted in recent years in order to maintain the quality of instruction and jobs that have been negatively impacted by state funding cuts. Dr. McDaris noted that the local economy has been slow to rebound from the recent recession. Many local employers have had to make cuts because their volume of business has decreased. The school system has also had to make cuts; however, its business of educating children has not decreased. Dr. McDaris reported that Transylvania is one of the only school districts that has not cut teacher assistant positions, hours, or days of employment. Mrs. Scruggs pointed out that the majority of teacher assistants work in the elementary grades, where there is a big focus on third grade achievement. At the same time, the state continues to cut teacher assistant funding each year.

6. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The Rosman Board of Aldermen has passed a resolution requesting that the Board consider naming the RHS football field in honor of William J. "Bill" Cathey. The Board has reviewed practices across the state, but does not have an official policy on naming facilities.
- As a result of the recent cancellations due to weather, the partnership with Newton-Conover City Schools for a book study on *Crucial Conversations* has been delayed until June.
- Congress was set to take up possible reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) last week; however, that has been put on hold again. Dr. McDaris will be in Washington, DC next week to give input on the waiver process that will be in place until there is a reauthorization.
- A reminder that the Transylvania Spring Business Summit will be held on March 6 at the Porter Center.
- April Owenby has given a reminder of the need for additional school nurses. This would require an additional allocation request by the Board.
- March will be a busy month for many administrators with meetings and travel.
- The Student Advisory Council and Parent Advisory Council meetings that were canceled due to snow have been rescheduled for March 12.

- A short calendar survey will be available online tomorrow for parents to submit preferences for make-up days. On a related note, Representative Chris Whitmire has reported that March 18 is the deadline to submit calendar bills for local school boards.

Dr. McDaris reported that the only make-up options remaining are Saturdays, spring break, or extending the school day. The Board discussed the make-up options. Mrs. Scruggs expressed concern about the impact to high schools of having only 84 days in the second semester. Dr. McDaris stated that, short of having a change in calendar legislation, the Board may want to consider an alternative schedule for high schools that is immune to weather and calendar constraints. Mr. Griffin stated that if we have to use Memorial Day as a make-up day, he would like to see classrooms commemorate the significance of the holiday. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that this discussion clearly demonstrates the need for calendar authority to be returned to local school systems and removed from the whims of legislators. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Board unanimously directed the superintendent to request that Representative Whitmire file a bill seeking the return of calendar flexibility to local boards.

- Dr. McDaris is working on options for possible virtual days.
- It has been reported that the Oklahoma State Board of Education is disavowing portions of its U.S. History curriculum because they do not feel it is pro-American enough. They seem to want a curriculum that does not include any references to historical events such as slavery, forced relocation of Native Americans, WWII internment camps, or anything else that portrays the country in a negative light.
- Brevard College is releasing its economic impact statement. Dr. McDaris would like to see a similar type of impact statement be developed by the school system.
- Work is continuing on ways to improve recruitment and retention of administrators.

7. Important Dates

Mar. 11	Students dismissed at noon
Mar. 16	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 27	Make-up day for Feb. 17
Apr. 3	Make-up day for Feb. 19 (noon dismissal)
Apr. 6-10	Spring Break
Apr. 14-16	Kindergarten Orientation, BES, PFES, RES and TCH
Apr. 20	REGULAR MEETING
Apr. 27-29	AdvancED District Accreditation External Review
Apr. 27	AdvancED interviews, 10:45 a.m., MEC
Apr. 29	SPECIAL MEETING to receive exit report, TBD, MEC

Calendar Revisions:

- February 17 will be made up on March 27.
- February 18 will be made up on June 11.
- February 19 will be made up on April 3 (noon dismissal)
- February 20 will not be made up.
- February 24 will be made up on May 25.
- February 25 will not be made up.
- February 26 TBD
- February 27 TBD

The Board discussed possible dates for a budget workshop in April and selected Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Other Items

None

10. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Board went into closed session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss information that is not a public record (student records), pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) and § 115C-402. The Board took a ten-minute recess and reconvened at 7:42 p.m. Present in the closed session were board members Tawny McCoy Cindy Petit, Marty Griffin, Ron Kiviniemi, and Betty Scruggs; Dr. Jeff McDaris; Jenny Hunter; Chris Campbell; and Detective Sergeant Aaron Thompson, Brevard Police Department.

At 8:28 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board voted unanimously to approve the superintendent's recommendation in the student discipline matter, to offer alternative education services as appropriate, and commit the findings to writing. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Board voted unanimously to approve the superintendent's recommendation regarding the student legal settlement and to commit those findings to writing.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary