

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
March 2, 2020**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Closed Session
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Personnel Report
7. Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements
8. Attendance Committee Update
9. FY20 Budget Amendments
10. FY21 Budget
11. Bond Update
12. Superintendent Update
13. Important Dates
14. Central Services 2020 Summer Schedule
15. Public Comment
16. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on March 2, 2020 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately 10 guests, the following board members, staff, and others were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Tawny McCoy, Chair  
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair  
Courtney Domokur  
Marty Griffin  
Alice Wellborn

**BOARD ATTORNEY:**

Cynthia Lopez

**MEDIA:**

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

**STAFF:**

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent  
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services  
Missy Ellenberger, Director, Curriculum & Instruction  
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator  
Dr. Bryan Abernethy, BHS Principal  
Brent Owen, School Resource Officer

**PRESENTER(S):**

Jessica Sharp, DRS Rebound Teacher

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting agenda for March 2, 2020 was approved as presented.
2. **Closed Session**  
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board went into closed session at 5:33 p.m. to consult with the board attorney regarding a matter that is not public information (student records), pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-402, 143-

318.11(a)(1), and 143-318.11(a)(3). Present in the closed session were Tawny McCoy, Ron Kiviniemi, Courtney Domokur, Marty Griffin, Alice Wellborn, Dr. Jeff McDaris, Jenny Hunter, Board Attorney Cynthia Lopez, and four others. A hearing was held on a student matter. Four witnesses gave statements. After deliberations, the board unanimously upheld the superintendent's recommendation. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the closed session was adjourned and the board reconvened in open session at 6:43 p.m. After a five-minute recess, Chairman McCoy called the meeting back to order at 6:49 p.m.

### 3. Public Comment

Sean Parrish, BHS art teacher, expressed concerns about the student art gallery space in the school bond designs for Brevard High School. He stated that the new design does not represent an equal or better replacement. He feels that teachers did not have enough opportunity for input with the design team and asked the board to allow teachers to sit down with the architects and come up with new plans.

Angela Patane, BHS drafting teacher, stated that the CTE programs at BHS are losing space in the new school bond designs. She reported that teachers were promised an additional meeting with architects to discuss space needs after the initial meetings, but that did not happen. She stated that the lack of a CTE director since December has prevented the CTE department from having an advocate. She asked why spend millions if the new plans do not improve what already exists.

Jessica Whitmire, BHS culinary arts teacher, expressed dissatisfaction with the new culinary arts designs. She stated that she would like to stay where she is now in terms of classroom and storage space. She reported that the terrazzo floors are hazardous.

Colby Guice, BHS masonry teacher, stated that he would be losing about 75% of his space under the new plans. He asked how he would be expected to utilize outdoor space with the amount of rain in this area.

Vincent Warren, BHS engineering teacher, expressed the same concerns as his colleagues. He thinks we should not be afraid to step back and start over.

Katrina Ronneburger, BHS digital media teacher, stated that she only attended one input meeting and had just a few minutes with the architects. She stated that the new plans do not address all of her program's needs.

David Siniard, retired Rebound educator, expressed his support for Jessica Sharp and the presentation she will give later in the meeting. He spoke about the challenges faced by at-risk and homeless youth and the importance of early intervention strategies. He stated that the numbers of chronically absent students are alarming.

### 4. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

#### *RHS GRAD DISCOVERS NEW DINOSAUR SPECIES IN CANADA*

Congratulations to Jared Voris, Rosman Class of 2012, who recently discovered a new dinosaur species that may be a cousin to the *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. *Thanatotheristes*, which translates to "Reaper of Death," is estimated to have been 26 feet long with nearly 3-inch teeth. Portions of the fossil were initially found a decade ago in Alberta, Canada. Voris studied the remains that were kept in storage and was able to conclude that it was a new species. Jared studied geology at Appalachian State and is now pursuing a Ph.D.

in dinosaur paleontology at the University of Calgary. He was one of the earliest students in the TIME Science Research Program and credits his family and his teachers at Rosman, in particular Sara Cathey, for supporting his scientific ambitions.

#### *NCSPPRA Blue Ribbon Awards*

Transylvania County Schools was among the 36 districts to be honored at the North Carolina School Public Relations 2019 Blue Ribbon Awards ceremony held in Greensboro on January 31. Transylvania won Gold and Bronze awards in Digital Media Engagement, two Gold awards in Photography, and a Gold award in Image/Graphic Design. Congratulations to Kevin Smith for his media mastery and excellent work in promoting the school system.

#### *BMS Student Accepted to American Ballet Theatre Summer Program*

Congratulations to Brevard Middle School sixth grader Tyana Crite, who has been accepted by the American Ballet Theatre for their Summer Intensive program in Florida. The American Ballet Theatre (ABT) is one of the most prestigious classical ballet companies in the world—superstar Misty Copeland is one of their principal dancers. Dancers between the ages of 11-20 years old may audition for the ABT summer program either on site or by videotape, and participation is by acceptance only. Tyana attends the Brevard Ballet School and is the daughter of T.J. and Maya Crite of Brevard.

#### *GRANT FUNDING TO BOOST RURAL CONNECTIVITY*

A new initiative focused on increasing public Wi-Fi access and installing computers across Western North Carolina recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The Rural Downtown Wi-Fi & Jobs Project will help students, job seekers and others by providing wireless internet access points and computer kiosks at rural community centers. Educators know that increased internet access is vital for online classes, homework, virtual days, and much more. The Land of Sky Regional Council and its many partners in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties (including Transylvania County Schools) have been working together for some time to help bridge the region's digital divide. We thank the many public and private partners who have worked together to make this endeavor happen.

#### *NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK*

National School Breakfast Week is March 2-6, 2020 and this year's theme is "School Breakfast: Out of This World." Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and schools nationwide provide millions of breakfasts to hungry children. Join us in celebrating the school nutrition staff in our local schools who work hard feeding hundreds of students each and every day.

#### *NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY*

Monday, March 2, is National Read Across America Day (also known as Dr. Seuss Day). It is a yearly observance held on the school day that is nearest to March 2, the birthday of famed children's author, Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel. Read Across America was begun in 1997 to help get kids excited about reading. One of the best ways to celebrate is to read aloud to children at schools, libraries and bookstores.

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Rosman Middle School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Owen for attending the meeting.

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. There were no new names on the list.

6. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. DOMOKUR, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 27, February 3, and February 17, 2020 meetings and the personnel report for March 2, 2020 (attached).

7. **Policy 3460, Graduation Requirements**

At the February 17 meeting, Missy Ellenberger presented a revision to policy 3460, Graduation Requirements, as first-read information. She remarked that the revision is needed to align with a change at the state level. There were no questions, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, policy 3460 was unanimously approved as presented.

8. **Attendance Committee Update**

Dr. Brian Weaver and Jessica Sharp, DRS Rebound teacher, gave a report on student attendance. Dr. Weaver reported that Ms. Sharp has done a comprehensive study on attendance and truancy, and her findings have spearheaded the work of the TCS Attendance Committee. Ms. Sharp reported that she works with students who are court involved. A few years ago she noted trends in absence and truancy rates and began tracking absence data at all levels. Her research has shown the following:

- Students whose total number of absences is equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of days during the school year (18 days) are considered to be chronically absent.
- Half of students who miss 2-3 days in September will go on to miss nearly a month of school by year's end.
- Missing only an average of 2 days a month negatively affects academic performance (2 days a month = 20 days in a year = 1 year of school missed over grades K-9; this equates to 200 hours of math and 300 hours of reading instruction missed).
- Differences in absentee rates and projections for graduation can be observed as early as kindergarten.
- Poor attendance can influence whether or not kids read proficiently by grade 3.
- By sixth grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Discipline data shows more disruptions from chronically absent students.
- Absences affect everyone. Teachers must spend more time "catching students up."
- Excused and unexcused absences have the same negative effect on academic performance.
- Low income students are 4 times more likely to be chronically absent.

Ms. Sharp reported that student absences and truancy are on the rise in our county. She explained that truancy (10 or more unexcused absences) relies on legal and administrative solutions. Chronic absences (18 or more absences—excused, unexcused and suspensions) rely on community-based, positive strategies for improvement. She reported that many schools only track unexcused absences, when they should be tracking excused absences as well. She feels that all school systems need someone to track absences, follow up, work with court services, and connect families with resources. Attendance improves with parent participation and mentors for chronically absent students.

Ms. Sharp also recommended changes to the local attendance policy such as limiting the number of notes parents can write and increasing the amount of time a student must be at school in order to be counted present for the day (from 50% to 75%). Dr. Weaver reported that he plans to bring a policy revision to the board later this spring for potential implementation next year. Board members asked a number of questions and thanked Ms. Sharp for her informative presentation.

**9. FY20 Budget Amendments**

Norris Barger presented four budget amendments for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. He explained each item and answered questions from the board. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the FY20 budget amendments for the State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Grants Fund, and Capital Outlay Fund were unanimously approved (see attached).

**10. FY21 Budget**

Norris Barger gave a first look at Fund 2 budget changes for fiscal year 2020-2021. Potential increases in employer retirement and health insurance rates, salaries, local teacher supplements, and payments to charter schools were discussed. Mr. Barger reported that high school athletic directors have requested increases to pay for security coverage at school sports events.

**11. Bond Update**

Mr. Barger gave an update on budgeted costs and actual costs for the school bond projects. He discussed payment procedures with the county via shared documents and reported that they would look for ways to further streamline the process as the projects move forward.

**12. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris reported that the western region superintendents will be attending State Board of Education meetings over the next few months on a rotating basis. He will attend the SBOE meeting on March 4-5 in Raleigh. While there, he will also serve on a panel discussion for the Public School Forum of NC and participate in an "Education Matters" taping for WRAL radio.

Dr. McDaris informed the board that due to issues with the quality of house label brands, delivery of requested items in requested quantities, and service fulfillment issues in general, Carolyn Barton may go out for bids again this spring for food and supply items.

**13. Important Dates**

Mar. 16	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 23	Teacher Workday
Apr. 6	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 7	"Teacher of the Year" Awards Reception, 5:30 p.m., Rogow Room
Apr. 10	Students dismissed at noon
Apr. 13-17	Spring break
May 4	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 5	"Taste of Transylvania," 5:00 p.m., Shuford Farm
May 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 21	Scholars' Recognition Evening, 5:00 p.m., BHS
May 25	Memorial Day holiday
June 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 4	DRS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Community Church
June 4	Students dismissed at noon

June 5	Teacher workday
June 5	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
June 6	RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center
June 8-10	Teacher workdays

**14. Central Services 2020 Summer Schedule**

Dr. McDaris presented the 2020 summer schedule for central services and other administrative offices. Eight 40-hour weeks consisting of four 10-hour days will begin on Monday, June 15 and end on Friday, August 7. Offices hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed on Fridays). Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 2, for the Independence Day holiday. The regular five-day schedule will resume on Monday, August 10.

**15. Public Comment**

Josh Tinsley thanked Mr. Barger for finding a place for his yearbook class.

**16. Other Items**

The board thanked the administration for being proactive in preparing for the coronavirus outbreak. Dr. McDaris reported that the school system has a pandemic plan in place and commended the Transylvania County Health Department for their partnership and support.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
March 2, 2020**

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

Licensed Personnel

Teresa Duvall, Teacher, BMS, effective June 10, 2020  
Angela Patane, Teacher, BHS, effective June 10, 2020  
Rhonda Whitmire, Instructional Coach, RMS & RHS, effective June 10, 2020

Classified Personnel

Austin Cooke, Distance Learning Facilitator & ISS, RHS, effective March 6, 2020  
Greg Galloway, Custodian and Bus Driver, RHS, effective February 21, 2020  
Mary McKeller, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective June 8, 2020

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Ronnie English, Temporary Part-Time Custodian, RMS & RHS, effective February 26, 2020 through May 29, 2020

- 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

Angela Baynard, Custodian, BES, Short-Term Disability Leave, effective February 28, 2020 through February 27, 2021

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

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None

**Budget Amendment - State Public School Fund****Amendment no. 1**

Function Code	Description	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
	<b>REVENUES</b>			
	Revenues	\$23,364,355	\$170,798	\$23,364,355
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
5100	Regular Instructional	13,729,686	(27,210)	13,729,686
5200	Special Instructional	2,978,734	64,461	2,978,734
5300	Alternative Programs	848,593	0	848,593
5400	School Leadership	1,289,573	86,362	1,289,573
5800	School-Based Support	1,654,702	0	1,654,702
6100	Support And Development	73,557	0	73,557
6200	Special Population Support And Dev	32,000	0	32,000
6300	Alternative S & D	0	0	0
6400	Technology Support	122,112	1,582	122,112
6500	Operational Support	2,045,063	45,603	2,045,063
6600	Financial And Human Resources	233,927	0	233,927
6900	Policy And Leadership	254,948	0	254,948
7100	Regular Community Service	0	0	0
7200	Ancillary Services	101,460	0	101,460
8100	Pay To Oth Govt & Tfrs Of	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>		<b>\$23,364,355</b>	<b>\$170,798</b>	<b>\$23,364,355</b>

**EXPLANATION:**

See attached

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 2nd day of March, 2020

  
 Tawny McCoy, Chairman

  
 Jeff McDaris, Secretary



PRC	Description	Amount	Reason
001	Classroom Teachers		
003	Non-Instructional Support Per.	104,132	Transfer from 061
007	Instructional Support		
013	CTE-Months Of Emploment		
014	CTE-Program Support	(739)	Adobe software licenses
015	School Technology Fund	1,582	Interest
016	Summer Reading Camp		
024	Disadvantaged Student Supp		
027	Teacher Assistants		
029	Behavioral Support	2,150	Workshop allotment
032	Exceptional Children	(13,017)	Headcount adjustment
034	Academic/Intellectually Gifted		
045	Compensation Bonus		
046	Test Result Bonus	25,578	3rd grade
048	Test Result Bonus	86,362	Principal, credentials, and 4th
056	Transportation of Pupils	(63,529)	Efficiency rating adj
061	Classroom Materials	(102,049)	Transfer to 003
063	Developmental Daycare	80,328	Initial allotment
064	CTE Grade Expansion	50,000	Initial allotment
069	At-Risk Student Services		
130	Textbook Credit Balance		
131	Textbooks And Digital Resources		
		170,798	

**Budget Amendment - Local Current Expense Fund****Amendment no. 1**

Function Code	Description	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
	<b>REVENUES</b>			
	Revenues	\$12,850,312	\$0	\$12,850,312
	Appropriated Fund Balance	0	0	0
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
5100	Regular Instructional	4,284,763	(110,000)	4,174,763
5200	Special Instructional	377,713	25,000	402,713
5300	Alternative Programs	181,787	(55,000)	126,787
5400	School Leadership	1,250,138	0	1,250,138
5500	Co-Curricular	373,727	0	373,727
5800	School-Based Support	1,047,772	0	1,047,772
6100	Support and Development	409,063	0	409,063
6200	Special Population Support and Development	57,412	0	57,412
6400	Technology Support	91,028	0	91,028
6500	Operational Support	2,644,004	60,000	2,704,004
6600	Financial And Human Resources	488,618	0	488,618
6700	Accountability S & D	8,949	0	8,949
6900	Policy And Leadership	335,443	25,000	360,443
7100	Regular Community Service	7,895	0	7,895
8100	Pay To Oth Govt & Tfirs Of	1,292,000	55,000	1,347,000
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>	\$12,850,312	\$0	\$12,850,312

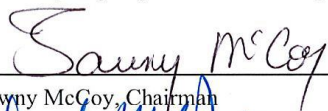
**EXPLANATION:**

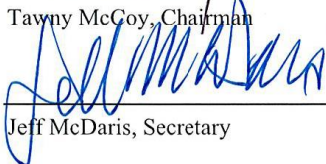
5100 - transfer \$55,000 to 8100 for charter school payment, \$25,000 to 5200 Special Inst,

\$25,000 to 6900 (legal fees), and \$5,000 to 6500 transportation expense

5300 - transfer to 6500 transportation expense

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 2nd day of March, 2020

  
Tawny McCoy, Chairman

  
Jeff McDaris, Secretary

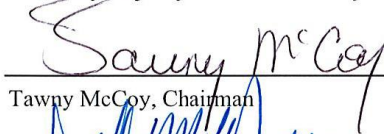
**Budget Amendment - Federal Grants Fund****Amendment no. 1**

<b>Function Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
	<b>REVENUES</b>			
	Revenues	\$2,247,279	\$118,437	\$2,365,716
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
5100	Regular Instructional	217,415	75	217,490
5200	Special Instructional	664,671	15,747	680,418
5300	Alternative Programs	1,155,949	57,520	1,213,469
5400	School Leadership	0	0	0
5500	Co-Curricular	0	0	0
5800	School-Based Support	32,665	36,956	69,621
6200	Special Population Support And Dev	64,480	0	64,480
6300	Alternative S & D	0	0	0
6400	Technology Support	0	0	0
6500	Operational Support	0	0	0
6600	Financial And Human Resources	0	0	0
6700	Accountability S & D	0	0	0
6900	Policy And Leadership	0	0	0
8100	Pay To Oth Govt & Tfrs Of	58,822	3,080	61,902
8200	Unbudgeted Reserves	53,277	5,059	58,336
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>		<b>\$2,247,279</b>	<b>\$118,437</b>	<b>\$2,365,716</b>

**EXPLANATION:**

See attached

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 2nd day of March, 2020



Tawny McCoy, Chairman



Jeff McDaris, Secretary

PRC	Description	Amount	Reason
017	Vocational Ed - Program Improvement		
026	Homeless Grant		
049	IDEA Pre-School Handicapped Grant	24,208	Final allotment
050	IASA Title I - LEA Basic Program		
060	IDEA VI-B Handicapped		
103	Improving Teacher Quality		
104	Title III Language Acquisition	(544)	Carryover adj
105	Title I - School Improvement	94,773	Final allotment
108	Student Support and Academic Enrichment		
109	Rural and Low Income Schools		
111	Title III Language Acquisition Increase		
115	TSI School Improvement		
118	IDEA Preschool Targeted Assistance		
119	IDEA VI B Special Needs		
		118,437	

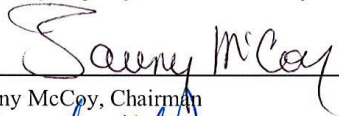
**Budget Amendment - Capital Outlay Fund****Amendment no. 1**

<b>Function Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
	<b>REVENUES</b>			
	Revenues	\$1,841,222	\$803,000	\$2,644,222
	Appropriated Fund Balance	710,469	0	710,469
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
5100	Regular Instructional	115,876	0	115,876
5200	Special Instructional	0	0	0
5300	Alternative Programs	0	0	0
5400	School Leadership	0	0	0
5500	Co-Curricular	91,395	0	91,395
5800	School-Based Support	405,100	0	405,100
6100	Support And Development	0	0	0
6300	Alternative S & D	0	0	0
6400	Technology Support	0	0	0
6500	Operational Support	1,865,820	803,000	2,668,820
6600	Financial And Human Resources	0	0	0
6700	Accountability S & D	0	0	0
6900	Policy And Leadership	3,000	0	3,000
7200	Child Nutrition	70,500	0	70,500
8100	Debt Service/Contingency	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>		<b>\$2,551,691</b>	<b>\$803,000</b>	<b>\$3,354,691</b>


**EXPLANATION:**

6500 - Bond expenditures

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 2nd day of March, 2020



Tawny McCoy, Chairman



Jeff McDaris, Secretary