

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
March 3, 2014**

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. School Calendar
7. Technology Plan 2014-2016
8. FY14 Budget Amendments
9. Update on BHS Baseball/Softball Concession & Restroom Project
10. FY15 Budget
11. Local Flexibility Options for NC Final Exams
12. Final Methodology for 25% Teacher Contract Selection
13. Superintendent's Update
14. Important Dates
15. Public Comment
16. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 3, 2014 at the Morris Education Center. Chairman McCoy led in a moment of silence and Mrs. Fox led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Mr. Kiviniemi was out of town and would be participating in the meeting via Skype. In addition to approximately 20 guests, the following board members, staff, and media representatives were in attendance:

*BOARD MEMBERS:* Tawny McCoy, Chair; Cindy Petit, Vice Chair, Sue Fox; Ron Kiviniemi (via Skype) and Mike Rogers

*STAFF:* Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Scott Elliott, Assistant Superintendent; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Jeremy Gibbs, Director of Human Resources; Audrey Reneau, Director of K-8 Curriculum; Chris Whitlock, Director of Technology Services; Tammy Bellefeuil, Director of Student Services; Meredith Licht, TCAE; Principals Greg Carter and Brian Weaver; Assistant Principals Leca Chapman, John Hart, and Betty Scruggs; and School Resource Officers Greg Stroup and B. J. Owen

*MEDIA:* Park Baker, *Transylvania Times*

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS PETIT the meeting agenda for March 3, 2014 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**  
Brian Shelton, Mayor of Rosman, read a resolution in opposition to the consolidation of Rosman High School and Brevard High School that was adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Rosman on March 3, 2014 (see attached).

Roger Petit, Rosman Alderman, stated that he remembered the consolidation effort from the 1970s. He stated it was not a good idea then and it is not a good idea now. He believes the county is not in a position to take on such a financial burden and is strongly opposed to consolidation.

Horace Jarrett spoke against consolidation, stating that study after study proves small schools offer a better quality of education due to their more intimate learning community. He reported that smaller schools have fewer incidents of alcohol and drug abuse, higher graduation rates, less violence, and less student isolation. He feels that the push to consolidate is based in part on a misguided belief in the attraction of larger schools. Remarking "What part of 'no' don't you understand," he stated that if enrollment is down, then building a brand new school at taxpayer expense would be beyond comprehension. He asked about the county's priorities, saying there are always claims of not having enough money for the schools needs, yet funds are somehow found for less important projects. He reported that the prospect of consolidation is tearing up the Rosman community. He stated that the high school is the landmark and heart of the community, with teachers of the highest caliber and student achievement that is outstanding. He recommended that the consolidation advocates begin thinking about what we can do for our schools instead of what we can't do, and urged, "Let's not destroy an outstanding high school."

Sharon Hogsed, retired teacher, stated that our community does not need consolidation. Instead we need to maintain our two high schools that offer different learning environments to meet the needs and choices of all students. She spoke about the impact of extended travel time to and from a centrally located school and the impact on extra-curricular activities. She urged the Board not to take away what Rosman has established as the hub of the town and the community.

Bill Cathey, retired principal and former Board of Education member, reported that when he first came to Rosman as a young teacher and coach, he was told the high schools would consolidate. It did not happen. He reported that they tried again in the 1960s and again it did not happen. He stated that as an educator, he knows that kids simply do better in an environment where they feel wanted and taken care of and have something that draws them to school. Mr. Cathey stated that some may support consolidation because they want a bigger football team. He pointed out that we have two teams now with approximately 60 total players. If the schools were combined, there would be one team with 30 players. There would also be fewer opportunities for students to participate as class officers, club presidents, band members and other roles. Mr. Cathey stated that he has no use for consolidation.

Freddie Whitman, educator and coach, expressed concerns that consolidation limits rather than expands athletic and leadership opportunities. He reported that he had polled other coaches as to how many students came out for football. He reported that approximated 60 tried out at RHS and approximately 90 tried out at BHS. He stated that combining the schools would not mean that 150 students would come out for football; instead a much smaller number would try out. He noted that Smoky Mountain High School lost momentum when Sylva-Webster and Cullowhee were combined. Coach Whitman commented that Mr. Rogers' article in the newspaper "felt like a slap in the face" because Rosman High School is a very successful school.

### 3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*BES LEAD TEACHER HONORED*

Congratulations to JoEllen Hamilton, Lead Teacher at Brevard Elementary School. She has been selected to receive the Outstanding Courageous Leaders Award from Western Carolina University. Mrs. Hamilton is currently enrolled in the Masters of Administration and Curriculum Program at WCU. She will be honored for her achievement on April 9 in the WCU University Center Grand Room. The reception begins at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by the CEAP Honors and Awards Ceremony at 5:00 p.m.

*STUDENT ART DISPLAY*

Brevard Elementary School second grader, Teah Izzard, was selected to have her art displayed at the North Carolina General Assembly as a part of the Youth Art Exhibition. All North Carolina counties submitted art from elementary to high school students. Teah's art piece, Kente Weaving, was selected to represent Transylvania County. The Youth Art Exhibition will be on display in the North Lobby of the General Assembly beginning in May.

*BES RAISES MONEY FOR HEART HEALTH*

Brevard Elementary students have not only reached but exceeded their goal of raising \$2,000 for the American Heart Association. They raised \$3,100 in their annual Jump Rope for Hearts campaign. As part of the fundraising effort, Teacher Assistant Patti Whitaker led a drive for students to collect 2,000 gallon milk jugs in order to visually represent the volume of blood that our hearts pump each day.

*RMS AND RHS YEARBOOK HONORED*

Rosman Middle School and Rosman High School's outstanding yearbook is being recognized in the Jostens "Look Book." Inclusion in this "best of the best" publication represents a significant achievement. A team of experts selected 426 yearbooks from approximately 25,000 entries for this coveted recognition. Mrs. Tammy Hall and her yearbook staff are to be commended for their excellent work.

*BHS HEALTH FAIR*

On February 21, Brevard High School held its first Health and Wellness Fair for the junior and senior classes. The focus of the fair was to promote healthy lifestyles that include physical activity, healthy eating habits, emotional health, safe dating practices and substance abuse awareness. Students had a great time participating in Zumba, Cross Fit, hip hop dancing and Pickleball. Healthy snacks were provided by Food Matters, Earth Fare, Transylvania Regional Hospital, FFA and Wild Indigo Catering. Student volunteers were an integral part of the fair's success, and feedback from the students was extremely positive. Another great outcome was the partnership and interaction between our students and community organizations and businesses. The health fair was a collaborative effort among Carrie Elmore, Family and Consumer Science teacher at BHS; NC Cooperative Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) program assistant, Sara Freeman; and Transylvania County Department of Public Health educator, Keelin Schneider. Funding for the fair was provided by a grant through the NC Family and Consumer Sciences Foundation.

*TCH "PENNIES FOR PATIENTS"*

T. C. Henderson Elementary School recently completed its "Pennies for Patients" campaign, raising \$935 to support the fight against childhood leukemia. Mrs. Adcock's class was the top fundraiser with over \$200 in donations. Other service projects that TCH students participate in each year include Meals on Wheels, Relay

for Life, Jump Rope for Hearts and Christmas fruit baskets for senior citizens at the Quebec Community Center.

*DR. SEUSS WEEK*

TCH will be celebrating "Dr. Seuss Week" during the week of March 3-7. Students and staff will be reading Dr. Seuss books each day during D.E.A.R time. The school will also participate in "Read Across America" Day on Monday, March 3 and enjoy green eggs and ham for lunch. On Friday, March 7, there will be a Dr. Seuss Pep Rally and Book Character Costume Parade, and that evening the school will host "Dr. Seuss Fun Night" from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the gym. The Fun Night will include food, games, scavenger hunts, book readings, costumes and other activities to promote and celebrate literacy development for students.

*UNITED WAY AWARDS*

At its recent awards program, the United Way of Transylvania County presented the Silver Award to Transylvania County Schools for outstanding service to the people of our community during the 2013 campaign year. The school system was also honored for having the highest number of donors and participation rate during the 2013-2014 payroll campaign.

**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 MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, the minutes from the February 3, February 17, February 18 and February 20, 2014 meetings and the personnel report for March 3, 2014 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

**6. School Calendar**

At the last meeting, Jeremy Gibbs presented the recommended calendars for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. He requested direction from the Board regarding whether or not to continue having early releases on the last student day before Christmas break and the last day of the school year. He also recommended that the Board consider provisional approval of the 2015-2016 calendar pending any new calendar laws that may be enacted by the state legislature.

Mr. Rogers stated that he would have no objection to making the two days in question full days if it would help parents who already see a lot of early dismissals during winter months. He observed that changing those two days to full days would help the district accumulate instructional hours that could be banked for make-up time. Mrs. Petit asked whether the calendar would allow first semester testing to be completed before Christmas. Mr. Gibbs explained that starting on August 25 would make exams before Christmas a mathematical impossibility and reported that first semester testing would occur approximately one week after students return in January.

MR. ROGERS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, to approve the 2014-2015 school calendar as presented with the exception of changing December 19, 2014 and June 10, 2015 from half days to full days. Mr. Kiviniemi asked how the teachers and staff on the calendar committee felt about changing those two days. Mr. Gibbs reported there was no strong preference either way, and noted that eliminating the two early

releases would add six hours of instruction. Mr. Fox stated that as a former teacher, she had always looked forward to the excitement of early release days; however, she also understands the concern for instructional hours. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he feels the last day of school benefits from being a half day because of the difficulty in keeping students focused. Mr. Gibbs suggested a compromise—to keep one of the early releases and eliminate the other. ON A 1:4 VOTE (FOR: Rogers; AGAINST: Fox, McCoy, Kiviniemi, and Petit), the motion was defeated. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the Board unanimously approved the 2014-2015 school calendar as presented with the exception of changing the last day before Christmas break (currently December 19) from a half day to a full day. The last day of the year (currently June 10) would remain an early release day. Mr. Gibbs reported that all early dismissals would occur at 12:00 noon. The Board postponed approval of the 2015-2016 school calendar pending potential legislative changes.

7. **Technology Plan 2014-2016**

Chris Whitlock presented the Transylvania County Schools Technology Plan for 2014-2016. LEA technology plans must be updated and approved by the local board and submitted for approval by the State Board of Education every two years in order to qualify for continued E-rate funding. Mr. Whitlock gave an update on the 1:1 computer initiative. From the first year of issuing laptops to seniors at RHS and then BHS, the initiative has been expanded every year until currently every student in grades 6-12 has a device of their own to use and take home. In addition, the 1:1 initiative is being piloted in grades 3-5 with good results so far. Approval of the 2014-2016 technology plan will be requested at the next regular meeting.

8. **FY14 Budget Amendments**

Norris Barger presented three budget amendments for the 2013-2014 school year (see attached). The amendments for the state public school fund and the federal grants fund were presented as information and the amendment for the capital outlay fund was presented for approval. Mr. Barger reported that the state amendment reflects funds that have been received since the initial FY14 budget resolution. He reported that the federal amendment represents a carryover adjustment and an unexpected \$10,000 decrease in grant funds received which necessitated a \$10,000 draw from unbudgeted reserves. He gave a reminder that state and federal funds must be spent within the designated categories for which they are targeted and may not be used to supplant other funds. Mr. Barger reported that the capital outlay amendment reflects the Board's desire to return school furniture and equipment allotments to their prior levels and the Board's direction to transfer funds to cover costs for the BES front office relocation project. ON A MOTION BY MR. ROGERS, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, Budget Amendment No. 1 for the Capital Outlay Fund was unanimously approved as presented.

9. **Update on BHS Baseball/Softball Concession & Restroom Project**

Mr. Barger presented revised cost projections for the BHS baseball/softball concession stand and restroom project. Estimated costs minus the amount of community pledges received to date plus contingency fees and fencing would bring the total to \$112,247. Mr. Barger reported that \$56,000 is budgeted for the project in FY14, and another \$56,000 is planned for the FY15 budget. The Brevard Blue Devil Club has pledged a cash donation of \$5,000. Mr. Barger recommended that the Board proceed with the project with the understanding that up to \$61,000 can be spent in FY14. He reported that Sharon Green, project manager, would like to postpone construction until the current baseball/softball season is over. Barring potential playoff games, he predicted that work could begin in mid-May to early June. Mr. Rogers asked about greenhouse fencing. Mr.

Barger gave an update on fencing. The Board indicated that Mr. Barger should proceed with the project as recommended.

**10. FY15 Budget**

Norris Barger presented the latest information and draft documents for the FY15 budget. He noted there is no new information from the state at this time. He asked the Board to keep in mind that the school system lost approximately \$770,000 in funding last year.

Mr. Barger presented bids from Medallion Turf and Carolina Green for the artificial turf installation at Brevard High School. Medallion's base bid was \$504,000 and Carolina Green's bid was \$783,245. He reported that he, Coach Lippard and Principal Ormsby had visited Appalachian State University and Madison High School to see their fields which came from Medallion and Carolina Green. Mr. Barger reported that both fields were approximately the same age, were holding up well, have low maintenance costs, and were reported to have reduced the number and/or severity of player injuries.

Mr. Barger reported that some in the community have expressed a desire to see a blue playing field at BHS rather than the traditional green field. He stated that Medallion would charge an additional \$19,095 to install a blue field (Carolina Green was not able to provide a quote for blue in time for the meeting). The school system would also have to obtain a license from Boise State to install a blue field. Board members discussed their preferences regarding field color. Mrs. McCoy stated that she would reserve her decision until later. Mrs. Fox, Mr. Rogers, and Mrs. Petit expressed preferences for a green field. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that a blue field could have merit provided that someone steps forward with an additional \$19,000. Following additional discussion, ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the Board unanimously approved the base bid of \$504,000 from Medallion Turf Company for the installation of artificial turf at the Brevard High School stadium and directed the administration to bring back a recommendation on field color.

Regarding spoils, Mr. Barger reported that the sod materials that would be dug up during installation would be moved to the practice football field. He feels that the school will be able to reuse its current goal posts. Mr. Barger further reported that the transfer and sale of the Sherwin Williams stock is proceeding. He estimated another 2-5 business days before the transactions would be finalized.

**11. Local Flexibility Options for NC Final Exams**

Dr. Scott Elliott reported that in October 2013, the State Board of Education (SBE) voted to give local school districts the flexibility to use school-wide growth data instead of final exam scores to determine Standard 6 ratings for specific types of teachers. Dr. Elliott gave an update on the flexibility options and discussed the possible consequences if a teacher does not meet expected growth under the options. He reported that he favors any option that would remove some of the testing pressure from teachers, but he would not want to do anything that could be potentially harmful to teachers. He recommended gathering input from the middle and high school teachers who would be affected by the options and presenting a recommendation at the April 7 board meeting. Board members were in agreement with this plan.

**12. Final Methodology for 25% Teacher Contract Selection**

Dr. Scott Elliott presented the final selection methodology for the 25% of teachers to be offered four-year contracts and salary increases pursuant to the 2013-2014 Appropriations Act, SB 402. He reviewed each step in the process and the timeline for

completion. Chairman McCoy thanked Dr. Elliott and the members of the Educator Effectiveness group for their hard work on this task. She stated that although the Board does not agree with the state's actions on this matter, they must abide by the law. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the final methodology for selecting the 25% of teachers to be offered four-year contracts effective with the 2014-2015 school year was unanimously approved. Dr. Elliott reported that he would be meeting with school faculties to present the plan and answer questions.

**13. North Carolina School Boards Action Center**

Dr. McDaris reported that the NCSBA Board of Directors has created the North Carolina School Boards Action Center (NCSBAC), a new 501(c)(4) organization that is designed to strengthen local school board advocacy efforts. The Board reviewed a memorandum from NCSBA Board President, Evelyn Bulluck, and NCSBAC President, Tim Morgan, describing the goals of the organization and a contribution statement for the year. Chairman McCoy reported that membership dues for the 2013-2014 year (based on ADM) would be \$2,000. Mr. Kiviniemi and Mrs. Fox expressed support for joining the NCSBAC in order to strengthen advocacy and unity with other school systems in doing what is best for public education. Chairman McCoy gave a statement of support. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the Board voted unanimously to join the North Carolina School Boards Action Center and authorized the payment of dues for the 2013-2014 school year.

**14. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris presented the following outline of his short-term and long-term goals and expectations for the Transylvania County Schools:

- Continue exploration of magnet options for elementary schools
- Explore online academy options
- Smaller class sizes
- Expand options for S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Design, and Mathematics)
- Early College program with Brevard College
- Expanded AP offerings, including face to face and distance learning
- "Bring your own device" program
- Expanded use of Twitter and other platforms in classroom instruction
- Establish "no days" using wireless technology for students to log-in and receive instruction on days when schools are closed for snow
- Establish Junior ROTC or Cadet Corps
- Expansion of dual enrollment
- Increase school nurse positions
- Increase positions in social studies, AIG and special education
- Expanded athletics offerings, including lacrosse and field hockey
- Foxfire opportunities for students in social studies electives
- A redesign of RMS classrooms to include more space for performing arts and a building at BHS for performing arts
- Improvements in all school facilities
- Turf for additional athletic fields (not just football)
- Perform a study of school needs district-wide

Chairman McCoy stated that in light of the comments received during public comment and the recent article in the *Transylvania Times* entitled, "Mike Rogers Says Falling Enrollment Requires Attention," the matter of consolidation needed to be addressed. She invited Board members to share their views.

Mrs. Petit stated that as a board member, her goal has always been to represent the whole county. She reported that during her first school facility tour in the spring of 2009, she was amazed at what bad shape some of the schools were in. She feels the school board has worked hard over the years, with the help of the county commissioners, to make many needed improvements such as the new CTE building at RHS, better security measures at all schools, school resource officers for all schools, the BHS art gallery, the BES front entrance reconfiguration, and obtaining turf for the BHS field, to name a few. She stated that she has traveled to a lot of schools in better-funded districts all across the state, and that comparing those schools to ours has reinforced her belief that TCS is doing all the right things for its students, even with fewer resources. She noted that it requires at least 100 acres to build a new high school. A central high school would mean bussing some students for hours each way. She feels that if the school board cannot get the \$1.4 to \$1.8 million that is needed to maintain its facilities, there is no way it could ask citizens to pay the estimated \$50 million that it would take to build a new centralized high school. She stated that the projections she saw on the DPI website showed enrollment numbers decreasing only slightly. She spoke about how fortunate she felt as a parent in being able to choose a smaller school for her children, a decision that has helped them to be successful. She stated that she would have to be convinced that the cost of a consolidation study would be worth the amount of money it would require and questioned whether an outside firm should be a deciding factor in how a local board runs its schools. She feels that the millions that would be needed for a consolidated school is money that could better be spent in existing classrooms. She stated that she is totally against consolidation.

Mrs. Fox stated that as a former educator, she does not deal in numbers and statistics so much as she does the affect and environment of the schools. She stated there is more to educating children than just numbers and distributed copies of two studies that describe the benefits and advantages of small schools. Mrs. Fox pointed out that our local schools celebrate our community and our uniqueness, as evidenced by the county's recent sesquicentennial celebration. She spoke about the need to maintain a spirit of community because that is where children learn to feel connected. She reported that small schools offer more individualized attention, better achievement, higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates because students are more likely to participate and be engaged. She stated that forcing students into a huge school where savings may or may not be realized is the wrong approach. She stated that right now our school system has the best teachers, administrators, students, SROs, and staff—a fact that could be proved with numbers. She stated that she is very much opposed to consolidation.

Mr. Kiviniemi stated that in his career as an educator, he has always been an advocate of small, community-based schools. He reported that he has worked in both large schools and small schools and believes that he was a better principal in a small school. He stated that he is strongly opposed to consolidation, and is dubious of claims of cost savings associated with consolidated schools because of the way in which North Carolina schools are financed. He stated that he does not believe any proposed savings would offset the cost of a new high school. He reported that he would be in favor of



doing a study to obtain expert advice as to the best way get our school facilities up to where they need to be.

Chairman McCoy stated that we all have our opinions and we can all find numbers to support what we believe. She stated that she does not support consolidating the high schools or closing any of our campuses. She stated that TCS has proven time and again that it provides a quality education. She reported that just last week she was contacted by a family that wants to move here for the excellent public schools—if they can find jobs. She stated that was not the first time or the last time she would hear this story. She stated that the jobs issue cannot be discounted and that yes, enrollment has decreased as the county lost jobs and families with children have moved away. Even so, the schools have continued to provide excellent education, the graduation rate has increased and the dropout rate has decreased. She stated that our schools are the core of our community, and taking away that sense of belonging would be wrong. She stated that combining schools could mean a loss of jobs, and noted that the Board has fought hard for several years to keep teacher assistants. She stated that having two high schools provides more, not less, opportunity to more students. She reported that she and her husband live in the Brevard district but chose RHS for their son because they believed it was the best fit. Mrs. McCoy stated that she believes our schools can be enhanced with new and innovative teaching methods, citing as an example the tech magnet school in the TCS Technology Plan. She stated that she wants Transylvania to be known as the best school system in the state. As for commissioning a study, she would support it only if she knew what it would cost, who would be doing it, and whether they have a proven reputation and experience working with K-12 education. She reported that she has looked at studies from Davie County Schools that ranged in cost from \$45,000-\$50,000. She reported that the initial discussions that were held to see if the county was interested in partnering on a bond referendum had centered on a preliminary figure of \$20 million; however, that figure is an estimate only and discussions are still ongoing. She stated that if the Board decides to move forward with a bond, the final number would represent all nine schools. She reported that the commissioners seemed to be in favor of a study at the joint meeting, but gave no specific direction.

Mr. Rogers stated that he appreciated everyone in attendance and the input from the speakers. He read the full text of his newspaper article (see attached) and described how he came up with his enrollment projections. He reiterated that he had been opposed to consolidation until he developed his numbers and was shocked by what he saw. He stated that his number one concern is what the system would be able to offer students if enrollment decreases as much as he predicts.

Dr. McDaris reported that as superintendent, one of his charges is to be prepared for the good as well as the bad and to have contingency plans in place for every scenario. To that end, he believes that one must be careful when making decisions based solely on mathematical calculations because eventually those models will reduce down to zero. Secondly, he asked if it is reasonable or accurate to assume that the local economy will never improve. He stated that Transylvania County has nine great schools. The student body of Rosman High School will not fit into Brevard High School and Brevard's student body will not fit into Rosman. A new high school would require millions of dollars and a 100 acres of land. Even if the county were to build a brand new high school, there would still be millions of dollars of needs at the other schools. He stated that the real issue is not consolidation but the larger question of whether we as a community have resigned ourselves to a meager economic recovery or if we want things to improve. He stated that he fully believes our local economy can and will improve.

Chairman McCoy explained that numbers can be manipulated in many ways, as evidenced by the DPI projections for 2013 and beyond which show high school enrollment numbers down by only 72 students. She stated that she agrees with Dr. McDaris in that the county is making an effort to get economic development moving again. She stated that the Board would like the administration to bring back information on a study before a decision can be made. On behalf of the Board, Chairman McCoy thanked everyone for sharing their views and invited anyone with further questions or concerns to call or e-mail board members.

#### 15. Important Dates

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| Mar. 4     | NCSBA Webinar: Lessons from Recent Litigation, 7:00 am-5:30 pm                     |
| Mar. 11-12 | NCSBA School Law Academy, Raleigh, NC  |
| Mar. 13    | NCSBA School Board Chairs Seminar, Raleigh, NC                                     |
| Mar. 14    | NCSBA Webinar: Employee Use/Misuse of Social Media, 7am-5:30 pm                    |
| Mar. 14    | NCSBA Webinar: Student Searches, 7:00 am-5:30 pm                                   |
| Mar. 14    | NCSBA Video: Ethics for School Board Members, 7:00 am-9:00 pm                      |
| Mar. 17    | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  |
| Mar. 24-28 | Spring Break   |
| Apr. 1     | NCSBA Webinar: Legal Issues at Graduation, 7:00 am-5:30 pm                         |
| Apr. 7     | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  |
| Apr. 7     | Kindergarten Orientation, 8:30 am-2:30 pm, BES, PFES, RES, TCH                     |
| Apr. 8     | Kindergarten Orientation, 8:30 am-2:30 pm, BES, PFES, RES, TCH                     |
| Apr. 9     | Early Dismissal  |
| Apr. 10    | Kindergarten Orientation, 8:30 am-2:30 pm and 3:30-5:30 pm;<br>BES, PFES, RES, TCH |
| Apr. 18    | Holiday - Good Friday  |
| Apr. 21    | Make-up Day for Jan. 30  |
| Apr. 21    | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  |

#### *DAYS MISSED*

1. January 6, 2014 - made up on January 10
2. January 29, 2014 - made up on February 17
3. January 30, 2014 - to be made up on April 21
4. January 31, 2014 - to be made up on June 2
5. February 11, 2014 - to be made up on June 3
6. February 12, 2014 - to be made up on June 4
7. February 13, 2014 - *to be determined*
8. February 14, 2014 - *to be determined*

#### 16. Public Comment

Stacey Dotson, RHS teacher, spoke about the blessing of living in a county that has two wonderful high schools with such great reputations statewide. She questioned then why anyone would want to destroy such a source of pride in a community that is already suffering economic pressures unless there is a dire financial need to do so. She discussed how each high school offers its own unique advantages. She stated that as a parent, it was nice to know that her children had a choice and that if something was not offered at one school, it was no problem to get it at the other school. She spoke about the advantage of having high schools in which the SROs know each and every student. She recommended that we celebrate, not punish, the high schools for their differences. She stated that since the major industries closed down, enrollment in the county has indeed fluctuated, but not by a huge amount. She attributed this to people wanting to live in a community that has top quality schools. She stated that she also knows of people

who want to move here for the schools but cannot find jobs. She stated that we need to be sure we are focusing on the right issue.

Patrick Chapman, RHS teacher, echoed that we are blessed in this county with school choice. He feels that parents are grateful to have the option to transfer students and he believes it would be a disservice to take that option away. He stated that two having high schools means two sets of class officers, two sets of clubs, two valedictorians, and on and on. Consolidation would cut those leadership opportunities in half. He stated that the district could not ask for a better situation than the one it has now. He noted that both high schools have been designated as schools of excellence. Both are run efficiently. He stated that in a county where the school system is the main draw for bringing people in, and the drawback is the fact that people can't find jobs, then you are looking at the wrong problem.

Commissioner Larry Chapman thanked the Board for saving the county \$280,000 with its selection of a turf provider. He encouraged everyone to get involved and be informed regarding a possible bond referendum. He reported that the Board of Commissioners would be hearing a presentation at its next meeting from a firm that would be helping in the selection of a new county manager and stated that the Commissioners would like to invite the Board of Education to be involved in that process.

Mayor Shelton reported that one of his sons had been able to transfer from RHS to BHS during his school career and that without that option he might have chosen to go to Henderson County.

17. Other Items

No other items were discussed.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
March 3, 2014**

- 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  
Connie Denning, Exceptional Children Program Compliance Coordinator, district-wide, effective April 28, 2014

Classified Personnel  
Delmas Brown, Bus Driver, effective February 20, 2014  
Eli Carnathan, Bus Driver, effective March 4, 2014  
Tom Osterhaus, Bus Driver, effective February 25, 2014  
Dominique Owen, Bus Driver, effective February 25, 2014

- III. ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT MADE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel  
Arleca Chapman, from Assistant Principal, BHS, to Director of Career-Technical Education and Middle School Curriculum, effective date to be determined

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  
Mark Perin

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers  
None

RESOLUTION 1-2014  
OF THE TOWN OF ROSMAN  
OPPOSING CONSOLIDATING ROSMAN HIGH SCHOOL  
AND BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL

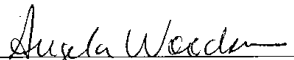
Be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Rosman opposing the consolidation of Rosman High School with Brevard High School for reasons including the following:

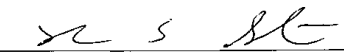
1. The devastating impact financially to the Town of Rosman as Rosman High School activities, athletically and academically bring in tremendous revenue to the Town and surrounding areas.
2. The significant increase in time on the road in school buses from communities such as Balsam Grove, Gloucester, Silversteen and Whitewater.
3. The significant increases in taxes that would be needed to purchase property of sufficient size to house a newly constructed consolidated school.
4. The opposition to the increase in costs to every citizen of Transylvania County that a Bond (Referendum) of significant size to fund construction of a consolidated school would encompass.
5. The lack of effort shown to seek and obtain employment opportunities that would increase student enrollment.

APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Rosman and the Mayor of the Town of Rosman, North Carolina, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2014.

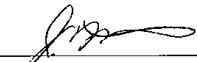
ATTESTED BY:

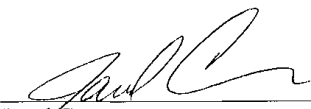
APPROVED BY:

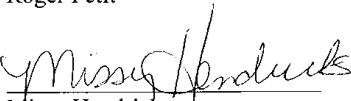
  
Angela Woodson, Town Clerk

  
Brian Shelton, Mayor

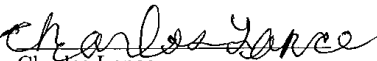
APPROVED BY ALDERMEN:

  
Roger Petit

  
Jared Crowe

  
Missy Hendriks

  
Walter Pettit, Jr.

  
Charles Lance

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

| Function Code | Description                        | Current Budget | Increase (Decrease) | Amended Budget |
|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
|               | <b>REVENUES</b>                    |                |                     |                |
|               | Revenues                           | \$19,738,918   | \$326,608           | \$20,065,526   |
|               | <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                |                |                     |                |
| 5100          | Regular Instructional              | 11,803,344     | 15,056              | 11,818,400     |
| 5200          | Special Instructional              | 2,511,825      | 241,505             | 2,753,330      |
| 5300          | Alternative Programs               | 658,362        |                     | 658,362        |
| 5400          | School Leadership                  | 1,018,469      |                     | 1,018,469      |
| 5800          | School-Based Support               | 1,278,733      | 13,449              | 1,292,182      |
| 6100          | Support And Development            | 47,600         |                     | 47,600         |
| 6200          | Special Population Support And Dev | 27,300         |                     | 27,300         |
| 6300          | Alternative S & D                  | 0              |                     | 0              |
| 6400          | Technology Support                 | 132,132        | 15,586              | 147,718        |
| 6500          | Operational Support                | 1,808,172      | 41,012              | 1,849,184      |
| 6600          | Financial And Human Resources      | 179,377        |                     | 179,377        |
| 6900          | Policy And Leadership              | 181,020        |                     | 172,448        |
| 7100          | Regular Community Service          | 0              |                     | 7,980          |
| 7200          | Ancillary Services                 | 92,584         |                     | 7,980          |
| 8100          | Pay To Oth Govt & Tfrs Of          | 0              |                     | 87,669         |
|               | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>    | \$19,738,918   | \$326,608           | \$20,067,999   |

**EXPLANATION:**

5100 - Indian Gaming Fund, substitute pay, technology fund

5200 - Developmental Daycare allotment

5800, 6400 - Technology Fund

6500 - Transportation remaining allotment and fuel adjustment

**Budget Amendment - Federal Grants Fund**

**Amendment no. 1**

| Function Code | Description                        | Current Budget     | Increase (Decrease) | Amended Budget     |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|               | <b>REVENUES</b>                    |                    |                     |                    |
|               | Revenues                           | \$3,599,639        | (\$8,507)           | \$3,591,132        |
|               | <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                |                    |                     |                    |
| 5100          | Regular Instructional              | 287,109            |                     | 287,109            |
| 5200          | Special Instructional              | 923,284            | 1,446               | 924,730            |
| 5300          | Alternative Programs               | 1,798,758          |                     | 1,798,758          |
| 5400          | School Leadership                  | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 5500          | Co-Curricular                      | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 5800          | School-Based Support               | 161,515            |                     | 161,515            |
| 6200          | Special Population Support And Dev | 98,131             |                     | 98,131             |
| 6300          | Alternative S & D                  | 77,216             |                     | 77,216             |
| 6400          | Technology Support                 | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6500          | Operational Support                | 15,306             |                     | 15,306             |
| 6600          | Financial And Human Resources      | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6700          | Accountability S & D               | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6900          | Policy And Leadership              | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 8100          | Pay To Oth Govt & Tfirs Of         | 87,459             | 47                  | 87,506             |
| 8200          | Unbudgeted Reserves                | 150,861            | (10,000)            | 140,861            |
|               | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>    | <b>\$3,599,639</b> | <b>(\$8,507)</b>    | <b>\$3,591,132</b> |

**EXPLANATION:**

PRC 118 carryover adjustment

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**Budget Amendment - Capital Outlay Fund**

**Amendment no. 1**

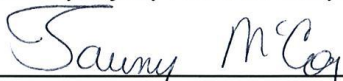
| Function Code | Description                     | Current Budget     | Increase (Decrease) | Amended Budget     |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|               | <b>REVENUES</b>                 |                    |                     |                    |
|               | Revenues                        | \$2,279,120        | \$56,800            | \$2,335,920        |
|               | Appropriated Fund Balance       | 461,898            |                     | 461,898            |
|               | <b>EXPENDITURES</b>             |                    |                     |                    |
| 5100          | Regular Instructional           | 119,212            | 56,800              | 176,012            |
| 5200          | Special Instructional           | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 5300          | Alternative Programs            | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 5400          | School Leadership               | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 5500          | Co-Curricular                   | 73,319             |                     | 73,319             |
| 5800          | School-Based Support            | 668,900            | (50,000)            | 618,900            |
| 6100          | Support And Development         | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6300          | Alternative S & D               | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6400          | Technology Support              | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6500          | Operational Support             | 1,803,471          | 50,000              | 1,853,471          |
| 6600          | Financial And Human Resources   | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6700          | Accountability S & D            | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 6900          | Policy And Leadership           | 13,000             |                     | 13,000             |
| 7100          | Regular Community Service       | 0                  |                     | 0                  |
| 8100          | Debt Service/Contingency        | 63,116             |                     | 63,116             |
|               | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b> | <b>\$2,741,018</b> | <b>\$56,800</b>     | <b>\$2,797,818</b> |

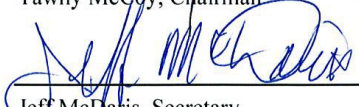
**EXPLANATION:**

5100 - Increase in furniture and equipment school allotments

5800, 6500 - Transfer from access control budget to BES construction budget

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 3rd day of March, 2014

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tawny McCoy, Chairman

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jeff McDaris, Secretary



*Text of Mike Rogers' comments read at the March 3, 2014 meeting:*

**Where do these figures come from?**

I requested the enrollment numbers for each school to compile the data.

**How did you get them?**

Because different enrollment numbers are available from NC Department of Instruction (DPI), I requested numbers from Dr. Jeff McDaris. Funding numbers are from audits and information published which is available from DPI and NC Report Cards.

**How did you go about compiling the data?**

1. I took the enrollment numbers for each grade level at each school and added four continuous yrs to determine projected enrollment. ie, We know that enrollment at BHS is 721 students this yr. To figure next years enrollment, you deduct the senior class (-160) and add BMS 8th grade numbers (+189). When you get to the elementary grade levels, you simply add BES and PFES to accumulate the projected BHS numbers. For RHS projected enrollment simply use RES and TCH data. You continue this process all the way down to Kindergarten.
2. You then deduct avg enrollment at DRS from that total sum of students. DRS has averaged 149 students the past two years so the 125 I've deducted is a conservative figure for estimating. This year, I did not deduct any students for DRS from either high school as the enrollments numbers are set. For the next three yrs, the DRS numbers must be prorated at 31.25 (125 /4) students per grade level being deducted from BHS/RHS in order to determine the number of students. I requested and received from Dr. McDaris, the DRS make-up of students over the past two years which show 20% of DRS is made up from Rosman and 80% from the Brevard communities. (If you'd like that data sheet, I can send it to you) Some things it doesn't project; a. drop outs. b. transfers from Charter schools after K-8. c. Students who are enrolled at BHS and travel to RHS and BRCC for courses not offered at their school and vice versa from BHS to RHS and BRCC.

**Do you have any other concerns with this issue?**

Absolutely. First of all, lets talk about the educational impact on our students. How can we offer as many different classes to a smaller broad range of students ranging from AP courses, IEP students, fine arts, sciences and CTE programs as well as potential military programs such ROTC. We need to broaden our capabilities for providing the best courses for all students to be College and Career Ready upon graduation. Whether they attend Duke, Brevard College or BRCC what can we do to to have a diverse number prepared? Whether they go to work at Genie Products, Smith Systems, Keir Manufacturing, Appalachian Construction or Rogers Masonry can we better, efficiently provide workers for their place of business? This is a broad subject which needs much input from the community. If we have a CTE, fine arts, AP classes with less than ten students at two schools how do we justify those positions? Can we offer a broader more robust range of classes to our future leaders in hopes that upon graduation from high school and college they can stay/relocate and raise their families in our wonderful county.

Secondly, lets talk about the fiscal responsibility. With declining enrollment, our cost per student has increased and will continue to do so exponentially with a decline in student enrollment. According to NC DPI numbers, TC local funding per student has increased 67% over the past 10 yrs and 25% or \$587 per student over the past three years while at the same time NO TEACHER RAISES IN SIX YRS using these figures. (At the prodding of the Board, an internal .5% was given to teachers this current fiscal yr). According to a comparison of financial audits, our expenditures have increased by \$1,634,091 in three yrs and again with no teacher, teacher assistant nor classified personnel raises in over six years! Again, according to NC DPI, we have text books as old as 17 yrs old. Our support and development costs escalated \$421,522 in FY12-13. Can we reform our structure to provide better and more learning opportunities for our students while reducing staff costs through attrition and put those dollars back in our employees pockets whom we say we appreciate so much without a tax increase?

Thirdly, we need to discuss the impact on our athletics. In the next 6-10 yrs, RHS will be reduced to a very small 1A school, the size of Andrews. BHS will be a 1A school in three yrs. What does this do,

especially to RHS and some of their athletic capabilities? This year alone we had at least four RHS students transfer to BHS to play football. With a school size of 284 students the ability to field a competitive football program becomes much more challenging. Great athletes at both schools but in a smaller school, singled out makes it much more difficult to draw college and university attention for scholarships. The athletes miss the opportunity for better competition to improve their personal and team skills. Not if but when BHS moves to a 1A school, under the current structure, we'll have two county schools in the same conference traveling regularly 2-3 hrs one way to locations that RHS has had to woefully endure for yrs.

Fourthly, lets talk about a vision for our education system. Lets start having a community discussion and potential study, based upon facts, regarding reforming our structure. Here's an example: Davidson River to BMS where it has better facilities such as a real cafeteria where they can at least eat with silverware rather than use plastic products. A gymnasium which they currently don't have the privilege of using and some CTE capability. Move Central Office Services to BMS with better accommodating features for staff, which currently include staff working in a basement without windows. Stop spending money on the current Rosenwald bldg and give the bldg back to the African American community. Move BMS to BHS where it has better CTE facilities and its own athletic facilities. Restructure RES, TCH and RMS giving RMS it's own athletic facilities. Look at turning TCH into a STEM or magnet school. Build a state of the art facility for BHS/RHS in the Catheys Creek Community that will be attractive as well high performing for students, staff, parents and community that builds a stronger pride of who we are and what we want to become!

This is an issue thats been danced around and for years and years. Lets not look at the negativity of what is indeed the inevitable but be proactive and ready to accomplish what no one ever imagined for the continued success and betterment of children in Transylvania County. Dream, what can we offer our students in the future? Imagine what they can become!

I equate the obvious impeding issue to the lack of jobs in the county. Even if jobs are added as a result of the Goldsmith report through the EDAB, Chamber and the newly developed Task Force Committee will it provide jobs for newcomers into the county or simply for the workers who are currently unemployed who already have students in the schools? Additionally, how long will it take to add these jobs?