

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
March 4, 2019**

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
  - C. Designation of School Treasurer
6. School Calendar 2019-2020
7. Policy:
  - A. 4220, Student Insurance Program
8. Annual Financial Report 2017-2018
9. Offer to Purchase Right-of-Way
10. FY20 Budget
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Central Services Summer Schedule 2019
13. Important Dates
14. Public Comment
15. Other Items
16. Closed Session (*addition*)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 4, 2019 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 two 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:

Chris Campbell

MEDIA:

John Lanier, *Transylvania Times*

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent  
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services  
Alan Justice, Director, Transportation/Athletics/Safety  
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator  
Josh Tinsley, TCAE President  
Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer

PRESENTER:

Terry Andersen, Carland & Andersen, Inc.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman McCoy recommended adding a closed session at the end of the agenda to consult with the board attorney on a legal matter. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting agenda for March 4, 2019 was revised as recommended.

2. **Public Comment**

Mr. Richard Liston, citizen, stated that he has grave concerns about the state of our society. As a systems thinker, he has concluded that the most important changes must occur with local boards. He reported that he had submitted an application in January to be a tutor, and has not heard anything back other than an acknowledgement that the application was received. He reported that during the recent school facility tours, he had observed a student having trouble with math and learned that Davidson River School had just lost a tutor. He does not want see students fail for lack of available help, and would like to hear back on his application soon. Chairman McCoy thanked Mr. Liston for his comments and stated that the matter would be looked into.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*NCWIT RISING STAR AWARD*

Mia Hughes, Brevard High School ninth grader and North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) Stem Scholar, won the 2019 Rising Star Award for the NC Western Region from the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT). Charlotte Dungan, her NCSSM Computer Science Instructor, recommended Mia for this honor. The NCWIT Aspirations program opens the door to range of support and scholarship opportunities through a variety of programs. Mia will be presented her award at a ceremony in Charlotte on April 6.

*WESTERN REGION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR*

Congratulations to the following Brevard High School students for their success at the Western Region 2019 Science and Engineering Fair (\*) denotes qualification for state competition:

- \*John Nguyen and Nicole Rideout: 1st place, Biological Science A, Highlands Biological Station Award; and Best in Biology Award
- \*Isaiah Lefler: 2nd place Biological Science A and U.S. Navy Award
- \*Chase Bishop and Fritz Ruppert: 1st place Biological Science B
- \*Marli Cohen and Ada Weaver: 1st place Earth and Environmental Science
- Sabra Freeman and Jon Gibson: 3rd place Earth and Environmental Science
- \*Frank Parsons and Ben Caroway: 1st place Engineering

*NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK*

The week of March 4-8, 2019 is "National School Breakfast Week." This year's theme, "Start Your Engines with School Breakfast," is designed to show the benefits of fueling up for the day with a healthy school breakfast. We encourage everyone to show their thanks to our school nutrition staff who provide nutritious meals to hundreds of children every day. Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that the TCS School Nutrition Program ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 100 counties in the estimated percent of need met through the 2018 summer nutrition program.

*SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH*

The official theme for this year's Social Worker Month in March 2019 is "Social Workers: Elevate Social Work." School social workers confront increasingly challenging issues facing students, families, and communities. Their work in crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and behavior management helps children gain the social understanding needed to find academic success and positive strategies for life. We thank these dedicated professionals for helping equip children for the future and bringing good to our society.

*MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH*

March is “Music in Our Schools Month” nationwide. This month-long recognition is an opportunity to celebrate the many benefits that school music programs bring to students of all ages and the community. At a time when many school music programs are facing budget cuts, we continue to support our music and arts programs. Please join us in supporting music educators for all they do to enrich learning and bring music into our lives.

*NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY*

The National Education Association’s “Read Across America” is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children’s author Dr. Seuss. Every year, TCS educators and supporters are invited into elementary classrooms to read their favorite childhood books to students, an event that some describe as their favorite day of the year. As Dr. Seuss says, *“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child.”*

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Brevard Middle School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Stroup for attending 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. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 14, February 18, and February 22, 2019 meetings; the personnel report for March 4, 2019 (attached); and the appointment of Leigh Anne McJunkin as school treasurer for Davidson River School.

6. **School Calendar 2019-2020**

Dr. Brian Weaver presented the recommended calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. He reported that this year’s calendar committee included parents, teachers, and a high school student representative. Draft calendars were taken back to each school where feedback was gathered. The proposed calendar is similar in design to the current school calendar in regards to early release dates, a mid-week start for students, and teacher workday dispersal. Spring break will be aligned with the Blue Ridge Community College and Henderson County Public Schools breaks. Mr. Kiviniemi asked if elementary teachers were concerned about having only one workday in March. Dr. Weaver reported that teachers were okay with this because it occurs during the third quarter. Mr. Griffin expressed concern that the calendar could need to be revised if the General Assembly takes action on any of the calendar bills currently proposed. Mr. Kiviniemi noted that is unlikely to happen. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the school calendar for 2019-2020 was unanimously approved as presented.

7. **Policy**

Policy 4220, Student Insurance Program, was accepted as first-read information on February 18. The board was considering a proposed change from *requiring* insurance for students who participate in sports to *strongly recommending* insurance for students who participate in sports. Alan Justice reported that after the last meeting, he did additional research and found that if a parent does not have primary insurance, the low

option supplemental policy that covers student athletes would become the primary insurance. Mr. Justice therefore recommended that policy 4220 not be revised after all. The board agreed with the recommendation and no further action on the policy was taken.

**8. Annual Financial Report for 2017-2018**

Mr. Terry Andersen of Carland & Andersen, Inc., Certified Public Accountants, presented the Transylvania County Schools Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and the auditors' report of compliance to the board. Mr. Andersen reported that the board is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations and has exhibited good fiscal control for managing funds in all accounts. There were no findings in either operations or compliance, and the financial statements are an accurate representation of the board's financial standing. Mr. Andersen recommended that the board continue to build up its unrestricted fund balance as possible. Mr. Kiviniemi asked Mr. Andersen's opinion on the board's 4.1% fund balance. Mr. Andersen stated that although the state has no required minimum for local school boards, the 4.1% fund balance is below the average and should be higher. Chairman McCoy thanked Mr. Andersen for coming to present and for the work he and his staff do in conducting the annual audits. She also thanked Mr. Barger and all staff for their good stewardship of funds and fiscal control through the system.

**9. Offer to Purchase Right-of-Way**

On February 18, the board reviewed an offer by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to purchase a right-of-way at Brevard High School for a 10' wide concrete sidewalk connecting the current sidewalk in front of the new gym and the driveway closest to Gallimore Road. The amount of the offer is \$3,160 (the equivalent of \$40,000 per acre). The board had postponed action on the offer pending questions about adding lights and bollards and the potential impact of the project on bond construction. Norris Barger reported that the DOT engineers have indicated their budget would not extend to lights or bollards. Mr. Barger added that he met with the city planning director who may be able to provide help with the lighting issue, and recommended the board not take action on the offer until he has an answer back on that. Regarding the impact on bond construction, Mr. Barger reported that Clark Nexsen has given assurance that at this point in the concept phase there are no plans to change any exits or other items that would interfere with the right-of-way. They were in fact considering putting a sidewalk in the same location. If anything changes in the future, it would be a simple matter of obtaining another driveway permit. By consensus, action on the NCDOT offer was further postponed until the March 18 meeting.

On a related note, Mr. Barger reported that the route of the proposed bike pathway at Brevard High School may be changed somewhat. The City of Brevard has determined that the original path was going to be more problematic than expected, and has requested a new route located near the front of the soccer lot. Mr. Barger stated that he did not see any problems with the new pathway, and unless the board had objections, he would notify the City of the board's consent to the change. The board agreed by consensus to the new pathway route.

**10. FY20 Budget**

Norris Barger reported there is no new information on the state budget at this time. He presented a revised Fund 2 summary document showing the addition of an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher position. He informed the board that a potential decrease in ADM and the local funding formula should be discussed with county commissioners.

## 11. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- Education leaders in the North Carolina House of Representatives have introduced a \$1.9 billion school construction bond proposal to give more students 21st century classrooms across North Carolina. House Bill 241, Education Bond Act of 2019, would provide \$1.5 billion in capital funding to K-12 schools, \$200 million to community colleges, and \$200 million to the UNC system. House Speaker Tim Moore said there was a statewide consensus that a skilled workforce needs new and renovated classrooms, and that education is what matters most to families and businesses in North Carolina. "School construction funding is a cornerstone of the House's 2019-2020 education agenda," Moore said. "To train our workforce for the needs of tomorrow, we must meet the needs of their classrooms today."
- A bill with recommendations from the House Select Committee on School Safety – including threat assessment teams for each school and school resource officer training – moved successfully through the House K-12 Education Committee this week. The school safety committee was established after a mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, left 17 high school students and staff members dead in February 2018. The group met multiple times last year and visited schools to study how to improve the physical and mental well-being of students across the state. Dr. McDaris stated that although the bill is good news, he worries that Transylvania's proactive stance in already having SROs in all schools might cause our system to miss out on any potential funding.
- According to Pew Research, academics tops the list of pressures that teens face. Sixty-one percent of teens say they feel a lot of pressure to get good grades. By comparison, about 3 in 10 say they feel a lot of pressure to look good (29%) and to fit in socially (28%), while roughly 1 in 5 feel similarly pressured to be involved in extracurricular activities and to be good at sports (21% each). While about half of teens see drug addiction and alcohol consumption as major problems among people their age, fewer than 1 in 10 say they personally feel a lot of pressure to use drugs (4%) or to drink alcohol (6%). Fewer teens, though still substantial shares, voice concern over bullying, drug addiction and alcohol consumption. Dr. McDaris stated that he recently attended a local rural leaders conference where opioids and drug addiction were discussed as ongoing concerns. He added that our partnership with the Transylvania County Sheriff's department is invaluable in this area.

## 12. Central Services Summer Schedule 2019

Dr. McDaris presented the 2019 summer schedule for central services and other administrative offices. Forty-hour work weeks consisting of four 10-hour days will begin on Monday, June 17 and end on Friday, August 9. Offices will be open 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and closed on Fridays. Offices also will be closed on Thursday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday. The regular five-day work week will resume on Monday, August 12. Dr. McDaris noted that the four-day summer schedule provides energy cost savings each year.

## 13. Important Dates

Mar. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 22	Teacher workday
Apr. 5	Early release - students, 12:00 p.m.
Apr. 8	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 15-19	Spring break

May 6	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 7	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 27	Memorial Day holiday
June 3	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 6	Last day for students; early release 12:00 p.m.
June 6	DRS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., DRS
June 7	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
June 8	RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center

Dr. McDaris recommended that the board hold a special meeting in late April to approve the budget request for FY20. The budget request must be submitted to the county by May 1 each year. The board was in agreement and asked Ms. Hunter to poll members for available dates. Mrs. Wellborn reported that she would have to miss the May 6 board meeting. Mrs. Domokur reported that the TCS Educational Foundation "Taste of Transylvania" event is scheduled for May 7, which would conflict with the "Friends of Education" banquet. TCAE president Josh Tinsley indicated that he would look into an alternate date for the banquet.

**14. Public Comment**

Josh Tinsley spoke about how school resource officers are valued members of the faculty in each of our schools. Chairman McCoy reported that in her job with the local courts, she sees firsthand how SROs interact with kids and parents in many helpful ways.

**15. Other Items**

None

**16. Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board went into closed session at 7:47 p.m. pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the board attorney regarding attorney-client matters and to receive legal advice regarding the lawsuits of (a) *Betty Kendrick, administrator of the Estate of Gary Kendrick v. Lars Grothe, Tim Robinson, Transylvania County Board of Education, City of Brevard and Heart of Brevard*, and (b) *Tanne Trawick v. Lars Grothe, et al.* Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mrs. Domokur, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Wellborn, Dr. McDaris, Mr. Barger, and Mr. Campbell. No action was taken in the closed session, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board reconvened in open session at 8:13 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT**  
**March 4, 2019**

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Tren Alford, Part-Time After-School Program Worker, RES, effective March 8, 2019  
Alyssa Landreth, Custodian & Bus Driver, BMS, effective February 19, 2019  
Daniel Moore, Groundskeeper, Plant Operations, effective March 29, 2019  
Robert Pedersen, Maintenance Technician, Plant Operations, effective May 31, 2019

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

Licensed Personnel

Sarah Hjelm, Teacher, BES-based, effective April 29, 2019

Classified Personnel

Jawaun Ervin, Part-Time After-School Program Worker, RES, effective March 8, 2019  
Lora McIntosh, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective March 7, 2019

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

- IV. APPROVE THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Janna Laughridge  
Kayla Powell

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None