

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 6, 2017**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME
Community Input Session (6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)
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. Non-Faculty Coaches
6. School Calendar for 2017-2018
7. FY18 Budget
8. Superintendent's Update
9. 2017 Summer Schedule for Central Services
10. Important Dates
11. Public Comment
12. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 6, 2017 in the Brevard High School media 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 50 guests, the following board members and staff were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:
Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Marty Griffin
Betty Scruggs McGaha
Alice Wellborn

BOARD ATTORNEY:
Chad Donnahoo

MEDIA:
John Lanier, *Transylvania Times*

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER:
Mark Ellenberger

STAFF:
Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer
Brian Weaver, Senior Director, Human Resources
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum & Instruction
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
April Gaydosh, Principal, BES
Tammy Bellefeuille, Principal, BHS
Jeff Bailey, Principal, BMS
Donna Wilde, Principal, DRS
Tonya Treadway, Principal, PFES
Melonie Harris, Assistant Principal, BES
Mick Galloway, Assistant Principal, BHS
Joe Russo, TCAE President

Community Input Session

Dr. McDaris gave a presentation on the school facilities plan and proposed construction and improvements. He reported that the master facilities study done in 2015 identified \$118 million in facility needs across the school district. The plan focused on infrastructure, safety and accessibility, and factored in increasing construction costs over time. Data shows that average construction costs are increasing at a rate of 12% per year, or \$75 per square foot. The facilities

study was revised in 2016 to \$93.5 million to account for lower contingency costs, a faster timeline, and projects completed to date. The study identified Brevard High School and Rosman High School as the schools most in need of repair/replacement. The board has conceptualized a three-phase budgeting plan to make the needed improvements. The two largest pieces of the plan are a new multi-story main building at Brevard High School and a new Rosman High School replacing the current Rosman Middle School. Other improvements and updates are targeted for each of the other schools, central office, and plant operations/transportation. Working with the county commissioners, the board would like to use limited obligation bonds to finance phase 1 and seek a traditional bond referendum for phases 2 and 3.

Dr. McDaris, Mr. Barger, and board members addressed questions and comments from guests:

- *Why did the board decide to rebuild BHS? Why not build a completely new high school?* It would be cheaper to rebuild portions of the existing high schools. To build a brand new high school would mean purchasing 70-80 acres of land before factoring in construction costs. Because much of the county's land is flood plain or national forest, it is unclear where a suitable site would be found or how the county could afford to buy it. The board is looking at keeping the BHS science wing, main gym, and CTE wing with renovations, then taking the rest down and building three stories back up. This would provide about 75% new school, more parking, more outdoor space, and eliminate 60-year old infrastructure. Classes would be temporarily relocated as needed during each phase of the construction.
- *What is the difference between a limited obligation bond and a regular bond?* A limited obligation bond (LOB) involves a smaller amount of money, putting up existing property as collateral, and can be issued without a public vote. Several neighboring counties have successfully used LOBs for their school construction projects.
- *What is the public's mood about voting for a bond and how can we campaign to support your efforts and the schools?* The last bond referendum for school improvements in 1998 passed overwhelmingly. Starting phase 1 with limited obligation bonds would reduce the amount of bond money needed for phases 2 and 3. Once the board has conceptual designs, it will set up steering committees to meet with community groups and local organizations to discuss the plans and build support.
- *Without plans to bring industry to the county, what do you foresee for student enrollment in 10 years?* We hope to get more young families living here as the Mills River and Asheville areas grow. The board commissioned a study from NC State University a few years ago to look at local populations and demographic trends. Our current enrollment is approximately 3400 students. The study forecast that by 2024-2025, enrollment would level out at 3200 students, assuming no economic development in the county.
- *Are you trying to build for more capacity or the same?* In some schools, we are at capacity, and we need more space in other areas. The older designs of some of our buildings no longer work well for today's educational needs. Reconfigurations of existing space at some schools can increase capacity and efficiency.
- *Is there a way to commit to provide contracts to local builders to help build support in the community?* We would certainly encourage local bidders, but state law prohibits setting aside contracts for local businesses. General contractors will many times sub-contract with local firms. We had a number of local contractors work on the last bond projects.

- *Why aren't our schools used after hours? We could make money and create more interest in community use.* Some groups do use our facilities after hours. Users must have site supervisors and meet other requirements. Other than our gyms, there are not a lot of requests to use our facilities. Our schools are not just a place for learning. We want our schools to be inviting to the public for all kinds of uses.
- *The political climate seems to be changing toward public education in this country. The reason for "school choice" is not always education. How would that affect your plans?* There is no better education in North Carolina than traditional public schools. Choice and competition are fine as long as there is a level playing field and the rules are the same for everyone. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Nevertheless, we believe we offer the best product, and quality wins out every time.

Chairman McCoy thanked everyone for their input and invited anyone with questions to contact the board and/or visit the "We Want Your Input" link on the TCS website. A second community input session will be held on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Rosman Elementary School.

The board took a fifteen minute recess and began the business meeting at 7:55 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting agenda for March 6, 2017 was approved as presented.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris thanked SRO Ellenberger for being in attendance and reported the following items:

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

March is recognized each year as Music in Our Schools Month. Sponsored by the National Association for Music Education, the event focuses the nation's attention on the need for and benefits of quality music education programs. Schools and community groups celebrate with creative activities and events based on the theme, "Music Inspires." Thanks go to all of our music educators for instilling an appreciation of music and inspiring young musicians and performers to pursue their dreams.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS' WEEK

The week of March 5-11, 2017 is celebrated as National School Social Workers' Week across the country. "Be the change you want to see in the world" is a quote that has been attributed to Mahatma Gandhi. We thank our dedicated and caring school social workers and student advocates who go above and beyond seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, to be positive agents of change in the lives of students and families in our community.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

March 6-10, 2017 is National School Breakfast Week. Launched in 1989 to raise awareness of the availability of the school breakfast program to all children, School Breakfast Week is an opportunity to celebrate the millions of breakfasts that are provided to hungry children every single school day. Our thanks go to the hard working men and women in the Transylvania County Schools Nutrition department for their work in preparing nutritious, affordable, and tasty meals for students.

UNITED WAY

Transylvania County Schools had another successful donation campaign for the United Way. For the 2016-2017 campaign, the school system was recognized with the Gold Award, the Highest Number of Donors Award, and the Workplace Heavy Lifters Award. Thanks to Scott Strickler, TCS United Way campaign chair, and everyone who participated.

RHS WOMEN'S STATE WRESTLING CHAMPS

Rosman High School's Madison Fisher and Shaylan Fisher competed in the first ever North Carolina Wrestling Association's Women's State Championship Tournament in February where they took first place in the 125 pound and 135 pound weight classes.

MEN'S STATE WRESTLING RESULTS

Rosman High School wrestlers Tanner Whitman and Cody Swangim each finished 2nd in the state in their respective weight classes at the recent State Wrestling Championship Tournament. Tanner finished his varsity career with 153 wins (second most in RHS history) and is the first Rosman wrestler to qualify and place at state in all four years. From Brevard High School, Logan Roth was state runner-up at 160 pounds, Daniel McJunkin finished in 6th place at 152 pounds, and Cole Galloway took 5th place at 126 pounds.

TIME SCIENCE STUDENTS REPRESENT NC AT AAAS CONFERENCE

Ingrid Findlay, Selina Brown, Chase Bishop and James Thompson, student scientists from Transylvania County's TIME 4 Real Science Program, recently traveled to Boston to present their research at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting. The AAAS seeks to "advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." While in Boston, the students toured an x-ray diffraction lab clean room, performed a lab at Novartis Pharmaceuticals, toured Northeastern University and constructed a winning earthquake-resistant structure, met honeybee expert Mae Barenbaum, and were inducted into the American Junior Academy of Science at a dinner held in the historic Boston Library.

NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Each year, National Read Across America Day is celebrated on March 2nd, the birthday of famed children's author, Dr. Seuss. In schools here and across the country, guest readers were invited into elementary classrooms to read to students and help them celebrate the joys of reading.

ALL-STATE BAND

Congratulations to the following BHS and BMS students who earned positions in the 2017 North Carolina All-State Band. Students were judged on scales, a prepared solo, and sight-reading. The All-State Band will perform in concert at UNC-Greensboro on May 7.

BHS

Sarah Megown, 8th chair clarinet
John Nguyen, 2nd chair bass clarinet
Ashlea Milligan, 7th chair French horn

BMS

Anna Reed, 4th chair flute
Clare Kennerly, 9th chair clarinet
Frank Parsons, 13th chair clarinet
Rebecca Milligan, 1st alternate trumpet

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. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the minutes of the February 6 and February 20, 2017 meetings and the following non-faculty coaches for spring sports 2017 were unanimously approved.

Brevard High School

Chuck Owenby, JV Baseball - A
Justin Cooper, Baseball - A
Ricky Lambert, Baseball - VA
Mack McKellar, Women's Soccer - A
David McNeil, Softball - H
Rodney Gilbert, JV Softball - A
Jeff Horrell, JV Softball - H
Hannah Sexton, JV Softball - VA
Mike Vandergrift, Men's Tennis - H
Josh Vandergrift, Men's Tennis - VA
Philip Latter, Men's Track - H
Jackie Witherspoon, Women's Track - H

Rosman High School

Kirk Dotson, Baseball - A
Scottie Ruff, JV Baseball - H
Kyle Reese, Softball - A
Anthony Guinn, JV Softball - A
Chris Galloway, Softball - A
Thomas Whittiker, Track - VA

Brevard Middle School

Jason Conley, Softball - A
Rivers Smith, Golf
Scott Wilson, Baseball - A
Kevin Spradlin, Boys' Track - H

Rosman Middle School

Eddie Lance, Baseball - A
Chris Daves, Softball - H
Ann Daves, Softball - A
Jeff Owen, Softball - A

A - Assistant; H - Head; VA - Volunteer Assistant

6. **School Calendar for 2017-2018**

Brian Weaver reported there had been no changes to the recommended school calendar for 2017-2018 since the last meeting. There was no discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the school calendar for the 2017-2018 year was unanimously approved.

7. **FY18 Budget**

Norris Barger reported there was no new budget information from the state. Mr. Kiviniemi recommended adding an additional item to the Fund 2 changes list to reflect the additional cost of meeting class size reductions if House Bill 13 is not approved. Dr. McDaris reported it is likely that the Senate will not have a resolution to the class size issue until school systems have completed their budgets for next year. Chairman McCoy directed the superintendent to inform the county manager about the revised numbers and expected shortfall for FY18. Dr. McDaris reported that he is working on scheduling joint meetings to discuss budget and facilities. Mr. Kiviniemi and Mrs. Scruggs expressed concern that the local funding formula does not include a growth factor, making it impossible for the board to expand programs or do more than meet the minimum status quo.

Mr. Griffin expressed concern that some legislators now seem to believe that LEAs

somehow misused allotments in hiring art, music and PE teachers. Mr. Barger reported that since the state did away with categorical funding, all LEAs have funded art, music and PE positions using allotment dollars. He explained that because LEAs get licensure exceptions if they pay any teacher out of the wrong budget code, and teacher licenses are issued by the state, he did not see how anyone could conclude that teachers were being paid incorrectly. Dr. McDaris noted that legislators may be trying to deflect attention from the problem they created with the class size reduction bill.

8. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- Governor Cooper has released his recommended budget for 2017-2019, which contains a strong focus on public education. The state budget director stated that the top policy priority is to make North Carolina a "top ten" educated state by 2025. The Governor's budget calls for pay increases for school-based administrators, teachers, and school personnel, and includes an aim to raise teacher pay by an average of 10% over the two-year period.
- The Governor's budget also proposes \$5 million to support digital learning professional development for teachers, plus \$1 million for DPI to procure, vet, and make available high-quality digital content and lesson plans for teachers in Home Base as part of the state's Digital Learning Plan (DLP) for public schools.
- House Bill 87, ESSA Plan Submission, would require the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction to use the latest possible date to submit the state's plan to the U.S. Department of Education. The House Education Committee amended the bill to allow for the plan to be submitted within the seven business days preceding the final deadline.
- House Bill 97, Arts Education Requirement, would require one credit in arts education to be completed by a public school student any time within grades 6-12 for high school graduation, beginning with students entering the sixth grade in 2020. The bill passed the House Education Committee and the full House, and will next be considered by the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.
- The federal budget is very uncertain at this time. It is operating on a continuing resolution through April 28 that essentially holds fiscal year 2017 spending levels at their fiscal 2016 amounts. President Trump recently released a broad outline of his spending priorities for fiscal year 2018 that includes a \$54 billion cut from domestic agencies, but it is not known how that 10% cut would impact federal funding. A continuing resolution would keep funding at current levels; however, Congress can adjust such a resolution through "anomalies." Anomalies inserted into a continuing resolution are typically done in the dark and in secret.

9. **2017 Summer Schedule for Central Services**

Dr. McDaris presented the 2017 summer schedule for central services and other administrative offices. Forty-hour work weeks consisting of four 10-hour days will begin on Monday, June 19 and end on Friday, August 11. Office hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Offices will be closed on Fridays. Offices also will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday. The regular five-day schedule will resume on Monday, August 14.

10. Important Dates

Mar 15	Early dismissal (students), 12:00 p.m.
Mar. 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 24-27	Teacher workdays (no students)
Apr. 3	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., TBD
Apr. 6	Kindergarten Rally, 4-7 p.m., Trans. Co. Recreation Department
Apr. 11, 12	Kindergarten Registration, 8-3, BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 13	Kindergarten Registration, 8-6, BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 14	Teacher workday (Good Friday)
Apr. 17-21	Spring break
May 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 2	Taste of Transylvania, 6:00 p.m., Lumberyard
May 9	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

11. Public Comment

Donna Patton asked how the state education lottery money is used. Dr. McDaris reported there are a number of restrictions on how the money can be used; the most common usage is capital improvement. Some lottery money is reportedly used for student scholarships, but that information is not made public. Only a small percentage of the total state lottery proceeds actually go to local school districts.

A guest asked which state and local legislators the public should contact regarding House Bill 13. Dr. McDaris recommended contacting North Carolina Senators Phil Berger and Chuck Edwards. Contact information for the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners is available on the county's website.

12. Other Items

Mrs. McGaha requested dates/times for awards banquets and other spring events in order to plan her calendar for the coming months. Dr. McDaris reported that some events have not yet been set; he will remind schools to pass along event details as soon as they are known.

Chairman McCoy reported that Representative Cody Henson has filed a bill that if approved, would return Transylvania County Board of Education elections to non-partisan. Last year, a bill was introduced that changed the school board elections from non-partisan to partisan. The board directed the superintendent to draft a resolution in support of Representative Henson's bill for consideration at the next meeting.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary