

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 7, 2011

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. Dropout Report
7. FY12 Budget
8. Important Dates
9. Other Items
10. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 7, 2011 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Desiree Abram, School Resource Officer; and approximately eight staff members and guests. Adam McCoy was the RHS student representative. Mrs. Petit gave the invocation and Mrs. Fox led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chair McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Mr. Whitmire was away on military orders.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting agenda for March 7, 2011 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Melissa McCall, parent, expressed concerns about alleged discrimination against a BHS baseball player by a coach. According to Mrs. McCall, the player's hairstyle was an issue last year, resulting in the student wearing a skullcap throughout the season (Mrs. McCall demonstrated the cap). Mrs. McCall stated that the student had endured racial slurs and that other incidents had occurred last year. After spring tryouts this year, the student was not selected for the baseball team. The coach has claimed that the student did not make the team due to a poor tryout. Mrs. McCall claimed that was unlikely based on the known caliber of this player and the reactions of his teammates to the coach's decision. She believes the coach has discriminated against the student for personal reasons, and would like the coach's decision to be examined and possibly overturned. Mrs. McCoy thanked Mrs. McCall for expressing her concerns and stated that Dr. McDaris was looking into the matter.

Sheila Galloway, parent, expressed concerns about a student incident at RHS. She reported that her daughter was involved in a fight in the RHS media center. Mrs. Galloway stated that her daughter was the victim of an attack by another student and had only defended herself. Mrs. Galloway reported that no adult was present in the media center at the time of the incident and there were no security cameras. She reported that both students received suspensions from school and will have to go to

court. Mrs. Galloway does not believe it is fair that her daughter received the same punishment as the other student, nor that she will have to pay attorney or mediation costs. She would like to have the matter handled outside of the court system and asked the Board for its assistance. Mrs. McCoy thanked her for her comments and stated that Dr. McDaris would look into the matter.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris introduced Rosman High School junior, Adam McCoy, to the Board. Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

NCCAT SCHOLARSHIP

Sheila Mooney, DRS guidance counselor, received a scholarship from the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) to attend a weeklong seminar titled, "Young Black Males in the 21st Century," on March 14-18. Full tuition, textbooks, lodging and meals will be provided. Topics of study will include the roots and magnitude of the crisis for black males in America, issues of guilt and responsibility for the crisis, and how educators can address the crisis in their classrooms and schools.

DRS CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

This spring, be sure to notice the abundance of azalea plants on the Davidson River School campus, thanks to a grant from "Make North Carolina Beautiful." Teacher assistants Penny Owen and Joanna Randolph took their personal time to pick up 50 azaleas in Raleigh, bring them back to DRS and work with the students to get them planted on the school grounds. The plants were offered as part of the "Azalea Celebration" with follow-up activities over the next three years, including an opportunity to obtain 100 more plants for school beautification.

GIRLS' CIRCLE

Davidson River School is sponsoring "Girls' Circle," a club for young women that aims to address topics pertinent to their lives. The project was initiated by Penny Owen and Joanna Randolph, assistants at DRS, who received grants from the TCS Education Foundation (\$454) and United Health Heroes, part of President Obama's "Let's Move Initiative" (\$500). Activities with the girls include yoga, exercise, weight counseling, diet analysis, and nutritional guidance sessions. DRS would also like to thank Earth Fare in Asheville for donating healthy snacks and filtered water bottles and for conducting nutrition programs for the girls.

TCSEF GRANTS AT DRS

Davidson River School teacher, Joe Russo, received a \$120 grant from the TCS Education Foundation for a Sesquicentennial project entitled, "Time Capsule," and \$280 for an 1861 Baseball Game project. The 1861 Baseball Game project will supplement one of the senior projects at DRS. English teacher, Jessica Levesque, is assisting Mr. Russo with these grants and also received funding from the Foundation for an oral history project in which students will interview senior community members about their experiences growing up in Transylvania County.

DRS TAIKO

The Davidson River School Taiko group has been invited to perform at several schools and colleges this year. They will perform at Mars Hill College on March 26 for the *NC State Day of Percussion* before an audience of high school and college musicians from across Western North Carolina. They will be performing at

Appalachian State University on April 6 and at the Lake Eden Festival in Black Mountain on May 14.

SCHOOL HEALTH COMMENDATION

A School Nurse Funding Initiative (SNFI) visit with school nurses April Owenby and Amy Parker was held on February 17. A follow-up report from Eileen Benson, Western Regional School Nurse Consultant, showed that Transylvania ranked 11th in the NCCAP Fall 2010 report of wellness indicators in counties from the school health point of view. Ms. Benson wrote, "Thanks to the efforts of your school nurses there are few children without necessary health care." Regarding the status of emergency plans for students, Ms. Benson noted that "April and Amy have assured that students with illnesses both life threatening and chronic have plans in place that level the educational playing field. Medication compliance is excellent." Regarding measurement and accountability of activities, Ms. Benson wrote, "Only when nurses can link improved health with improved academic performance can we say we make a difference. Transylvania's school health program has evolved to this level of maturity. Thank you for making this leap from doing to achieving."

SMILE DENTAL PROGRAM

On February 25, the Smile Dental Program, a mobile dentistry lab, came to Davidson River School. Twenty-one students received dental cleanings, x-rays (if needed), fluoride treatment, and sealants (if needed). Six of those 21 students were referred for further treatment. This was a great opportunity for our students because the health of a student, including dental health, can influence scholastic achievement. The program was offered to all students at DRS with parental permission. There are plans to offer the program again next year with more participation expected now that students have seen what the program is all about. The Smile Dental staffers were extremely complimentary of the students and staff of Davidson River School.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST SUCCESS STORIES

Studies show that students who eat breakfast are able to pay attention longer, demonstrate better behavior in the classroom, have improved attendance and less tardiness, and make fewer trips to the school nurse. Still, an alarming number of students do not consume a regular morning meal. Therefore, the NC Division of Public Health, Nutrition Education and Training (NET) Program has been asked to develop a school breakfast promotional kit. As part of the toolkit, NC NET plans to highlight the successful Transylvania County Schools Universal Breakfast program. On March 16, NC NET will conduct interviews, photos and videos with school administrators and staff, families and students at Rosman Middle and High Schools. The school breakfast video will be used for educational and training purposes across the state. Permission forms/releases will be required for all participants. The TCS Universal Breakfast program has been in operation for the past eight years.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The 2011 Transylvania County Relay for Life will be held on June 3-4, 2011 at Brevard College. Relay for Life is a nationwide event which raises money and awareness for cancer research and prevention and also celebrates the lives of those who have battled cancer. Sarah Justice reports that each of our schools has signed up a Relay for Life team this year, perhaps the first time that every school has had one.

NCARE AWARD & MCGINTY SCHOLARSHIP

David Sutton, Human Resources Director, was presented the Marvin Wyne Outstanding Student Paper Award for his doctoral research on superintendent

succession at the annual meeting of the NC Association for Research in Education held February 24-25 in Charlotte. Mr. Sutton was also elected as a K-12 representative to the NCARE Board of Directors. In addition, David has been selected as the recipient of the *Dixie L. and Miles S. McGinty Scholarship* by the College of Education and Allied Professions at Western Carolina University. An awards ceremony will be held on April 13, 2011 at WCU.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION CONTEST WINNERS

The following TCS students won awards in the 2011 Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation District's Poster, Speech and Essay Contest. This year's theme was *Water - The Cycle of Life*:

Third Grade Poster

1st Place - Kailyn McCall (BES)
 2nd Place - Dalton Messer (PFES)
 3rd Place - Brinley Horrell (BES)
 Honorable Mention - Taylor Creamer (BES)

Fourth Grade Poster

2nd Place - Cray McCall (TCH)
 3rd Place - Savanna Deiters (RES)
 Honorable Mention - Maggie Morris (BES)
 Honorable Mention - Jaclyn Neumann (BES)

Fifth Grade Poster

1st Place - Emilee Dodson (BES)
 2nd Place - Lucy Carpenter (BES)
 3rd Place - Abby Buchanan (RES)
 Honorable Mention - Madison Allen (RES)

Sixth Grade Poster

1st Place - Marissa Henson (RMS)
 2nd Place - Drey Owen (RMS)
 3rd Place - Monica Santiago (RMS)
 Honorable Mention - Alex Strickland (RMS)

Sixth Grade Essay

1st Place - Tanner Whitman (RMS)
 2nd Place - Lasha McKinney (RMS)
 3rd Place - Gage Clark (RMS)
 Honorable Mention - Destyne Galloway (RMS)

Seventh Grade Speech

2nd Place - Madison Holden (RMS)
 1st Place - Haley Parker (RMS)
Haley also won second place in the Area I competition in Waynesville.

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. Dr. McDaris reported that no new names had been added to the list. Additional names will be included as they are received.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the minutes of the February 21, 2011 and March 3, 2011 meetings and the personnel report for March 7, 2011 were unanimously approved. Dr. McDaris reported that Brevard Elementary School principal, Tammy Bellefeuille, is recovering well from surgery. Until Ms. Bellefeuille can return to work, retired administrator and former principal, Kathy Haehnel, will serve as interim principal at BES.

6. Dropout Report

Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the TCS dropout rate has decreased for the second year in a row. There were 44 dropouts in 2009-2010, compared to 52 dropouts in 2008-2009 and 65 in 2007-2008. The dropout rate has decreased to 3.62%, which is our lowest rate over the last 12 years. Dr. Elliott reviewed the trend data by school, grade level, gender and ethnicity. He observed that TCS continues to see a disproportionate number of students dropping out in the upper grades and at older ages compared to the state average, where more students drop out in grade 9. Dr. Elliott reported that the schools have observed that a student who has not earned enough credits in ninth grade to move on to a tenth grade homeroom is more likely to drop out. To help combat this, high school homerooms have been reorganized to prevent groupings by grade level. Dr. Elliott reported the most common reasons given for dropping out as lack of engagement, unstable home environment, interest in a GED, work, and not returning after a long-term suspension. The Board commended the work of Dr. Elliott and the graduation task force for dropout prevention strategies that are reaping results. Dr. McDaris noted that our student advocates also play an important role in keeping students in school. Unfortunately, FY12 funding for these positions is in peril from the state legislature.

7. FY12 Budget

Norris Barger presented a first look at FY12 anticipated budget changes:

1	Decrease in fines and forfeitures	\$0
2	Health insurance 10.0% increase (\$4,929/FTE to \$5,422/FTE)	42,628
3	Retirement increase (10.51% to 11.3%)	33,739
4	State discretionary reduction decrease*	(14,251)
8	Teacher assistant - 3.8 pos. Title 1 cut	100,276
9	ARRA funding - 14.64 teachers; 0.42 instructional support; 2.53 teacher assistants	891-152
15	State budget cuts	?
16	Edujobs funding - 14.73 teachers	(770,030)
18	Charter school legislation (Senate Bill 8)	42,000
	Total	\$325,514
	Necessary increase in county appropriation	3.5%
*	Items already passed in the current NC state biennial budget	
**	Items from FY11 planning allotments	
***	Federal mandate	
****	Federal cut	

Mr. Barger reported that the above list does not include any state budget cuts because it is not yet known what the state will do. Mr. Barger warned that the past two years of state cuts were mild compared to what is coming for FY12. He predicted severe cuts of at least 8%. He reported that on top of the budget cuts, approval of Senate Bill 8 would mean that charter schools could be entitled to portions of high school athletic gate

receipts, afterschool daycare revenues, and even booster club monies in certain circumstances. In addition, tort claims, school bus purchases, and workers' compensation claims could be passed down from the state to become the responsibility of county governments. Board members lamented that the state budget would be balanced on the backs of public schools. Mrs. Norman suggested a comparison of the cost to incarcerate a prisoner for a year versus the cost to educate a child for one year. Mrs. McCoy remarked that too many decisions in Raleigh are made based on the bigger eastern school districts without consideration of the impact to smaller western region districts. Mrs. Norman stated that she and others believe that certain legislators are doing whatever they can to actively destroy public education based on their own political and personal agendas.

There was some discussion regarding what to do with the list of capital outlay priorities that was generated at the last meeting. Mr. Barger asked for clarification on some items from the list. It was agreed that the list would be incorporated into the overall capital outlay plan. Mr. Barger reported that the current version of the plan reflects 50% cuts in furniture and equipment and technology across the board in anticipation of state cuts. He stated that the plan represents a third of what the schools were getting from the county three years ago. Mrs. McCoy asked how will the Board balance its facility needs with its need for teachers, and how will teachers continue to work with less and less?

Mr. Barger presented the latest draft of the RHS CTE renovation plan. He stated that he believes the plan represents the best overall configuration, meeting or exceeding state code requirements without going over the QSCB budget. He remarked that the current plan actually represents a better use of space than the original design for a new CTE building. All discussed the importance of providing up-to-date CTE laboratories in order to prepare students for real world jobs in an uncertain economy. Mr. Barger reviewed the proposed timeline for the CTE project:

May 3	Advertise for bids
May 25	Accept bids
May 30	Board of Education approves bids
June 17	Start construction
October 14	Complete renovations and occupy the existing portions of the building
December 19	Completion of all work

Mrs. Norman reported that she had heard that QSCB money could be taken by the state if not used by September. Mr. Barger stated that he did not think that could happen, but that regardless, the school system would have started spending its QSCB funds by that time.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding door placement and bathrooms. Members discussed that Mr. Whitmire had wanted gang toilets incorporated into the plans. Mr. Barger cautioned that changing the toilet configuration would require additional money, estimating another \$250 per square foot to add gang toilets. Mrs. McCoy asked if a decision on the plans could wait until the next meeting. Mr. Barger explained that would push the project timeline back by two weeks. Adam McCoy stated that as a Rosman High student, he did not see a need for gang toilets or feel that the distance to the bathrooms would be a problem for anyone. He predicted that the plans present such a vast improvement over the current CTE facility that no one would have any objections. Members were in general agreement that the addition of gang toilets would be too extravagant within the existing budget.

The Board took a five minute recess.

After the recess, ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Rosman High School CTE plan as presented contingent upon all funding sources being in place and all QSCB paperwork being correct based on the new plans, and upon everything that would have been anticipated within the original design being provided within the current design.

8. Important Dates

Mar. 24	Racial Equity Training, 8-12, MEC
Mar. 25	NCSBA "Understanding the Role of the School Board Chair", Raleigh, NC
Apr. 4	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 11	Kindergarten Registration, 5:00 p.m., BES, PFES, RES, TCHES
Apr. 14	TCAEOP Awards Banquet, 5:00 p.m., BMS
Apr. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 25-29	Spring Break
May 3	TCAE Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Glen Cannon
May 9	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 23	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 24	Scholars' Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS

Dr. McDaris reported that the second Racial Equity workshop that is scheduled for March 24 would be attended by assistant principals, counselors, and lead teachers. An initial presentation was held earlier in the year for principals and administrators. A possible third round for teachers may be scheduled at a later date. Dr. McDaris noted that it would be difficult to find a date when teachers could attend without needing to hire substitutes. Mrs. Norman stated that all head coaches should attend the training as well and asked if they could be required to attend the upcoming session. Dr. McDaris stated that would be difficult to arrange on such short notice.

9. Other Items

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Abram for being in attendance.

Adam McCoy remarked that the plans for the RHS CTE renovation are very exciting. He stated that he is proud to be a TCS student, and finds it hard to understand how lawmakers can take money away from public schools in favor of charter schools that are not held to the same high standards. He stated that public schools are the most important investment of any government, state or local. He stated that all children deserve the best education, which means supporting public schools.

Mrs. Petit commented on the deaths of two student athletes that were recently reported in the national news. She asked about the accessibility of defibrillators in the schools and whether coaches are qualified to use them. Dr. McDaris reported there are Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units in each school and the central office, and each school has a staff member trained in CPR. He will check into the exact number and location of AED units and the level of AED training among coaching staff. Mrs. Petit recommended that AED units be accessible for all athletic practices/games and that all assistant coaches and head coaches be CPR qualified. Dr. McDaris noted that the AED units are very expensive; fortunately, the Transylvania Red Cross is working with the school system to help expand some options. He agreed that having AED units in athletic field houses would be a good idea.

10. **Public Comment**

There was no further public comment.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
March 7, 2011**

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

Licensed Personnel

Jill Carpenter, Teacher, RMS, effective June 16, 2011

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Hilda Edwards, Interim Teacher, BMS, effective March 31, 2011

Kathy Haehnel, Interim Part-Time Administrator, TCS, effective March 7, 2011, through June 30, 2011

Classified Personnel

Lauren Case, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 8, 2011

Sonya Morris, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 8, 2011

Gene Casey Owen, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 8, 2011

- 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

Emilie Johnson

Sonya Morris

Nichole Nanney

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None