

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 16, 2009

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Public Comment
2. Good News Report
3. Former Students in the Military
4. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Memorial Report
 - B. Minutes
 - C. Personnel Report
5. Non-Faculty Coaches
6. Policy:
 - A. GCPA "Reduction in Force"
7. District Data Notebook Update
8. Student Services Update
9. FY10 Budget
10. Important Dates
11. Other Items
12. Public Comment
13. Closed Session (1. Personnel; 2. Legal Matter)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 16, 2009 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Mike Rogers, Chairman; Chris Whitmire, Vice Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Sonna Lyda, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; and approximately 12 staff members, guests, and media. Chairman Rogers gave the invocation and Mrs. Petit led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Rogers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. Good News Report

Dr. Lyda introduced BHS student representative, Kayla Kreigsman, to the Board, recognized student artwork from Brevard High School that was on display in the boardroom, and reported the following item:

- RHS teacher Billie Wilson received a \$500 grant from the North Carolina Hospitality Education Foundation. Also, she and Rosman High School are listed in the latest edition of *Food for Today*. This is the textbook that most schools, including Transylvania County, use in Foods I classes. Mrs. Wilson is listed as a reviewer for the four chapters on baking.

3. Former Students in the Military

The Board recognized former TCS students who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Military. The list is read aloud in its entirety twice a year. It contains 165 names to date. Chairman Rogers expressed the Board's appreciation to all of the individuals and their families for their dedication and sacrifice.

4. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the following items were approved:

- A \$25 donation to the Education Foundation in memory of Lynwood Hall, father of Cindy Petit. Mrs. Petit is a member of the Board of Education.
- Minutes from the March 2, 2009 meeting
- Personnel report (see attached)

5. Non-Faculty Coaches

No new names were submitted.

6. Policy

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, revised Policy GCPA (Reduction in Force) was approved as presented. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, Policy GCPA-R was rescinded.

7. District Data Notebook Update

David Sutton presented the following strategic indicator updates for the district data notebooks.

- *Annual School Crime & Violence Incident Rates* - In 2007-2008, TCS had a total of 64 incidents (23 possessions of a weapon; 37 possessions of a controlled substance; 3 possessions of alcohol; and one assault on school personnel.) The previous year's total was 35 incidents. The TCS rate was 9.4 (per 1,000 students), compared to the average NC rate of 7.0. Board members commended the accuracy and thoroughness in reporting from school officials and SROs. Rates vary widely among districts due to inconsistency in reporting methods. All data is self-reported by LEAs.
- *Random Drug Testing Results* - This is a new indicator. Test results have been predominantly negative since the student drug testing policy was implemented:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (to date)
Total Positive	5	4	3	10	8
Total Negative	277	238	373	416	243
Rate Positive (per 100)	1.8	1.7	0.8	2.3	3.2

- *Annual Dropout Rate* - The TCS dropout rate rose from 4.76% in 2006-2007 to 5.04% in 2007-2008. The NC rate for 2007-2008 was 4.97%; the benchmark rate was 1.53%; and the WNC average was 5.58%. Mr. Sutton reported that the dropout formula had changed this year in order to align with the state's new reporting model. Previously the formula included grades 7-12. The new model includes grades 9-12 only.

- *Cohort Graduation Rate.* This new indicator measures the percentage of students who graduate within four years after entering ninth grade. Results can be impacted by the number of students who participate in the 21+ program and by others who take longer than four years to complete high school. In 2007-2008, the TCS cohort graduation rate was 73.0%; the WNC average was 72.6%, and the state rate was 70.3%.

8. Student Services Update

Dr. Scott Elliott gave an update on dropout reporting and graduation efforts.

What is a dropout? A dropout is a student who is enrolled for at least one day who is not enrolled on the 20th day, and who did not graduate, transfer to another district, or is not deceased.

A student can be counted as a dropout more than once, depending on their re-enrollment status. Transylvania has had 41 dropouts so far this year, compared with 45 dropouts at this time last year. Although this represents a slight improvement, Dr. Elliott noted there are long-term frustrations as student advocates and school counselors try to determine what additional support might be missing from current dropout prevention efforts. Regular contacts, early interventions, safety nets, schedule adjustments, tutors, help with transportation or after-school jobs, and changes of schools are just some of the initiatives in place. Dr. Elliott emphasized that *everything* may be considered as a dropout prevention/graduation initiative because all programs are interconnected. Dropout prevention is not just a high school issue. Early intervention and success in the elementary grades are critical. A graduation task force has been formed to address the dropout issue. Dr. Elliott will present a report from the task force later this spring.

Dr. Elliott stated that he would also like to re-tool and possibly expand the New Century Scholars program. The ultimate goal would be to provide two-year community college scholarships for every high school graduate. This would require a significant financial investment. The NCS program currently provides scholarships to identified at-risk students.

Mr. Whitmire expressed appreciation for Davidson River School and all that it does to help at-risk youngsters. He asked the administration to keep the Board informed on DRS needs and encouraged the Board to focus on protecting classrooms as much as possible during budget decisions. He urged everyone to be mindful of the loss of self-esteem that can result from academic frustration and failure. He disagreed with the notion that not every child is college material and believes that many useful and practical post-high school opportunities are available to enable all students to be successful.

Chairman Rogers observed that a child learns to quit at an early age. He believes that a child who is allowed to give up when faced with challenges will be more likely to stop persevering. He urged parents and community partners to help keep children from giving up on school by encouraging them to stick with sports or other activities when things get hard.

Chairman Rogers invited Kayla Kreigsman to share her comments or concerns. Miss Kreigsman expressed her appreciation for Dr. Elliott's work, noting that he is very visible in the schools. She reported that course scheduling is going well at the high school. She added that she and her fellow students would be overwhelmingly in favor of a school

calendar that allows EOCs before Christmas. The Board thanked Miss Kreigsmann for her comments.

9. FY10 Budget

Dr. Lyda presented the latest list of FY10 local budget needs. The list reflects changes from the last meeting. Dr. Lyda stated that any further reductions or changes would be rolled into funding for teachers and teacher assistants. She clarified that the SRO item is not shown due to the assumption that SROs will not receive salary increases next year. The SRO position has not been eliminated.

<u>FY10 Budget Needs DRAFT as of 3/12/09</u>	<u>Current Expense</u>
1 Teacher and teacher assistant positions (state reduction)	\$263,668
2 Teacher supplements COLA	24,219
3 Local COLA increase (2% certified; 0% non-certified)	29,522
4 Health insurance 25% increase	92,465
5 Retirement increase (8.14% to 8.35%)	9,202
6 Child Nutrition	<u>100,000</u>
	\$519,096

FY10 Capital Outlay Priorities

The Board reviewed the initial FY10 capital outlay board priority list as drafted by Dr. Lyda and Mr. Barger. Board members made the following recommendations/comments:

- Keep BHS restroom renovation as a priority.
- Move BMS locker room renovations higher on the list.
- Don't overlook the BES bathroom tile replacement. The is currently grouped together with RES and TCH for economy of scale. Members agreed that conditions at BES seem more critical than those at RES or TCH.
- Move PFES exterior brick repair down on the list. This was considered to be more cosmetic rather than safety-related. It was suggested as a possible project for high school masonry classes. Mr. Rogers suggested veneer as a possible option and offered to provide his professional opinion as a contractor in consultation with Principal Bailey, Dr. Jeff McDaris, and teacher Norm Allison.
- Mrs. Petit asked about the \$68,000 for additional parking at RHS. Mr. Barger reported that this item would provide approximately 62 spaces on the three-acre property that was purchased from the Ihme family.
- Mr. Whitmire recommended keeping the RHS gym sound panels as is. Matching funds from the community have been received for this project.
- DRS outdoor lighting. Is there a way to do some if not all? Mr. Barger explained that the problem is damaged underground wiring, which will require trenching and replacement of underground lines. Mr. Rogers suggested having an electrician look at installing lights on the building in order to illuminate the parking lot near the modular unit. Board members also suggested checking into leasing exterior lights from Duke Energy.
- Mrs. Petit expressed admiration for the good upkeep of school buildings. She asked whether the trim painting at RES/RMS could be moved down on the list or possibly be done by custodians. Mr. Barger explained that this is a more extensive job than it appears and would likely be beyond the scope of a few extra custodial hours. Mr. Rogers stated that the RES trim needs to be done.
- Mr. Rogers suggested the possibility of two-tone interior paint jobs, observing that the areas most in need of paint are from shoulder-height down.

- Mrs. Norman feels that the bathrooms at BES are a priority safety issue.
- Mrs. Petit asked about the special education roof at RHS and the \$2,000 wiring for the TCH sign. Mr. Whitmire reported that community members had donated the sign and the wiring has been requested for two years in a row. He recommended moving this item up in priority.
- Mrs. Norman asked that the TCH front entrance security system be a priority. Mrs. McCoy observed that for a little more money, the Board could purchase a video rather than audio system. Mr. Barger estimated \$3,000 for the video system.
- Mr. Rogers asked that the RHS roof item be removed from next year as this will be addressed in the forthcoming facilities master plan. He stated that he could not see putting money into a new roof if there are plans to renovate the CTE wing. He suggested this be discussed at the joint meeting. Mr. Barger hopes to give the Board its first look at the new master plan in May.
- Mr. Rogers suggested moving additional RHS parking/paving down on the list until we get a master plan. He asked about a lease agreement with Zion Baptist Church for everyday parking. This lot is used for the school's special event parking. Dr. Lyda reported that the RHS principal had decided not to use this lot during the school day due to supervision issues. She stated that she was unaware of any problems with adequate parking for students during the school day. Mr. Whitmire did not want to give up on RHS parking. Mr. Rogers agreed to leave the parking item as is on the list for now.
- Mr. Rogers suggested reducing the 66-passenger activity bus request in order to pay half this year and half next year. Mr. Barger explained that this would not be possible under state bus purchasing guidelines, unless we use fund balance. He gave a reminder that we are in dire need of activity buses.
- Mr. Barger reported that the figure given for the new BMS science labs is incorrect; it would actually cost \$360,000 to do two labs. Mr. Rogers recommended including this item in the facilities master plan and moving it into next year.
- Mr. Rogers recommended that the BHS baseball/softball concession project be split over the next two years (\$70,000 per year). He further recommended moving the first half up the list next to the RHS additional parking. He stated that the concession stand would provide a resource for revenue and ADA restrooms. Mr. Whitmire questioned that although this would be a nice item to have, is it critical? He observed that \$140,000 equates to three teacher positions. Mr. Rogers replied that it is an extracurricular and worth as much as parking. He noted that the concession stand has been on the list for a while and keeps getting bumped down. Mr. Whitmire did not think that the amount of revenue that could be generated from the concession stand would justify the cost. Mr. Rogers stated that the restrooms would be available for Agriculture classes in addition to baseball/softball teams and fans.
- Mrs. McCoy suggested moving educational and safety- based items above parking.

Dr. Lyda stated that she and Mr. Barger would incorporate the Board's changes and provide a restructured list for the joint meeting with the commissioners, with the understanding that this is still a work in progress. Mr. Rogers suggested inserting a new column in order to allow for the re-numbering of items. The capital outlay priority list will be discussed again in April.

Soils Engineer Report on RHS Greenhouse Parking Lot

Mr. Barger presented a report from Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc., on soil conditions for drainage of the proposed greenhouse parking area at RHS. He presented options and contractors:

- Option 1: Moore and Son = \$74,040; Brian Shelton = \$79,534.
- Option 2: Moore and Son = \$107,940; Brian Shelton = \$124,779
- Option 3: Moore and Son = \$119,280; Brian Shelton = \$136,000

Board members were in agreement that Option 1 was the best. Chairman Rogers recommended obtaining a documented unit price in case of unforeseen difficulties. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously selected Option 1 with contractors Moore and Son in the amount of \$74,040 for the project.

10. Important Dates

Mar. 19	JOINT MEETING	7:00 p.m.	Trans. Co. Library
Mar. 23	Teacher Workday		
Mar. 24	SPECIAL MEETING	5:30 p.m.	MEC
<i>Mar. 25-26</i>	<i>NCSBA School Law Academy</i>		<i>Hickory, NC</i>
Mar. 25	Elected Officials' Breakfast	8:00 a.m.	Hospital
Mar. 28	Western Region Career Club Competitions	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	RMS
TBA	"The Butler Did It, Singing" RHS Musical	TBA	RHS Auditorium
Apr. 2	Kindergarten Orientation	6:00 p.m.	BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 6	Technology Showcase	4 - 7 p.m.	TC Library
Apr. 6	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Apr. 10	Holiday (Good Friday)		
Apr. 13-17	Spring Break		
Apr. 20-24	SPECIAL MEETINGS	TBA	TBA
Apr. 25	SPECIAL MEETING	8:30 a.m.	TBA
Apr. 28	Superintendent's Communication Council	3:45 p.m.	MEC

Apr. 29	Parent Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
May 1	Student Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
May 4	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
May 7	Visual Arts Opening Reception	6:00 p.m.	BHS Lobby
May 7-22	Visual Arts Exhibit		BHS Lobby
May 15, 16	"West Side Story" BHS Musical	7:30 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
May 18	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
May 19	RHS Senior Projects	2:00 p.m.	RHS
May 21	DRS Senior Projects	3:30 p.m.	DRS
May 22	BMS Spring Band & Chorus Concert	7:00 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
May 26	Scholars' Recognition Evening	5:30 p.m.	BHS
May 28	BHS Spring Band & Chorus Concert	7:00 p.m.	BHS Auditorium
May 30	BHS Prom	8:00 p.m.	Broadmoor

Make-up Days

December 1 will be made up on June 9.
 January 21 was made up on February 16.
 March 2 will be made up on June 10.

11. Other Items

Chairman Rogers presented a resolution in support of House Bill 547. Introduced by Representative David Guice, House Bill 547 is designed to provide more flexibility for school calendars in the Henderson, Polk and Transylvania County School units. The resolution states that school would not start before the second Monday of August and would close not more than 42 weeks later. This would allow EOCs to be scheduled before Christmas.

Mr. Rogers stated that he would not propose making any changes to the 2009-2010 calendar. Should the legislation pass, early dialogue would be needed with stakeholders and camp owners to prepare for the change. He noted that over 80% of school stakeholders had been in favor of the flex calendar option. Mrs. Petit stated that mountain counties greatly need this legislation to pass. She applauded Representative Guice for his support, noting that he has taken criticism for his stand in the calendar debate. She encouraged everyone to e-mail their state representatives and communicate their support of HB 547.

ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board unanimously adopted the attached resolution in support of House Bill 547 "School Calendar Flexibility."

12. Public Comment

Dolly Rogers, parent, spoke in support of more ADA-accessible bathrooms and doors, better front office security measures for T.C. Henderson, and increased parking areas at TCH and RHS.

13. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board went into closed session at 9:55 p.m. to 1) discuss information that is not a public record (applications for superintendent); and 2) consult with the board attorney regarding a legal matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), 143-318.11(a)(3), and 115C-319. Present in the closed session were Mike Rogers, Tawny McCoy, Shelia Norman, Cindy Petit, Chris Whitmire, and Attorney Dean Shatley. Dr. Lyda and Mr. Barger were present for the legal matter. No action was taken in the closed session. ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the Board reconvened in open session at 11:05 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
March 16, 2009

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

Licensed Personnel

Carol Anne Green, Teacher, RMS, effective April 3, 2009

Classified Personnel

Monica Moore, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 6, 2009

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

Licensed Personnel

Angela Sherman, Interim Teacher, RMS, effective March 23, 2009

Classified Personnel

Larry Clayton, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 17, 2009

Alice Dodson, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 17, 2009

Howard Clifton Landreth, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 17, 2009

J. Eric Smith, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 17, 2009

- 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

Michelle Hogsed, Teacher, BHS, Family Leave under local BOE policy GCBDB effective April 2, 2009, through June 30, 2009

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Alice Dodson

Kerry Sher

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 547
SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY**

WHEREAS, the well-being and education of our children is always our first priority; and

WHEREAS, local control is essential to the success of our public school system; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the importance of the summer camp industry to the economic stability of Transylvania County; and

WHEREAS, communication is important throughout the public policy process; and

WHEREAS, compromise is essential when resolving issues to best meet the needs of all stakeholders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board of Education supports House Bill 547, which seeks to give more flexibility to this school system in the creation of a school calendar; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board of Education supports and applauds the efforts of Representative W. David Guice to increase the awareness of this issue and for his sponsorship of House Bill 547; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board of Education calls upon the other member of the Transylvania County delegation in the North Carolina General Assembly to support House Bill 547; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board of Education is committed to an open and honest dialogue with all stakeholders to reach a mutually acceptable conclusion to this issue.

Approved by majority vote this the 16th day of March 2009.

Michael J. Rogers
Chairman, Transylvania County Board of Education