

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 20, 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. Personnel Report
6. Policy:
 - A. 6000 Series (Part C): Purchasing, Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
7. Resolution in Support of Nonpartisan School Board Elections
8. FY18 Budget
9. Superintendent's Update
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 20, 2017 in the Rosman Elementary School media center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Alice Wellborn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately 15 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*

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Brian Weaver, Senior Director, Human Resources
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Leca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
Scott Strickler, Principal, RES
Greg Carter, Principal, RMS
Jason Ormsby, Principal, RHS
Joe Russo, TCAE President
Scott Thomas, School Resource Officer

Community Input Session

Chairman McCoy introduced board members and staff. Dr. McDaris gave a presentation on the proposed improvements to school facilities. Dr. McDaris, Mr. Barger, Mr. Donnahoo, and board members addressed questions and comments from guests:

- *What is the scope of what would be done to the buildings?* They would be brought up to the state of brand new. It would be cheaper to build new at BHS and RHS.

- *Having been in many schools across the state, our school buildings cannot compete. We fall through the cracks on getting the extra funding from the state that other school systems get. Is there any chance of getting funding help?* There is no indication that is on the state's target list right now.
- *There are concerns that the state is diverting public school money to charter and private schools. If our facilities were better, it would be easier to compete.* That is correct. Curb appeal matters. People like new things and what they offer.
- *We have to keep up with technology to prepare students for whenever we get industry in this county.* Excellent observation.
- *Please talk about the timeline for phases 1, 2, and 3.* We are looking at 18-24 months between phases, with a total project completion in six years. We hope to finance phase 1 with limited obligation bonds in order to save escalation costs, with a bond issue in 2018 for phases 2 and 3. The sooner we can begin, the more money we can save.
- *At what point would we be able to see conceptual drawings for the new construction?* The first part of the process for the board is holding community input sessions to see if the public supports the plan. We had good support at the last meeting at BHS. The next step will be to obtain architectural drawings and take them to smaller group meetings to build support. For the high schools, we envision building up, with new construction that has the look of the classic high school buildings, but with modern features inside. The elementary and middle schools would look essentially the same. Much of the work we need to do is upgrading plumbing, electrical, technical wiring, and HVAC systems that are essential, but not glamorous. We want to do things at every school to make them safe, up to date, and attractive. Good quality public schools are integral to economic development. Companies always look at the quality of public schools when deciding where to locate. Investment in our schools is an investment for the community as a whole.
- *Do you have any data showing what happens if a district puts money into its schools in terms of enrollment at a charter school?* We have anecdotal data. A number of charter school students return to us each year. However, funding for those students does not return to us when the students return; the funding stays with the charter school for long time.
- *I am more concerned about quality of materials rather than façade.* If we had it do over again, we would not have built the open classrooms at BMS, BES, etc. That design was the latest thing in education at the time those schools were built.
- *At what point will you have detailed drawings to present to a lending organization to get the limited obligation bonds?* The Local Government Commission (LGC) determines what is needed for a limited obligation bond (LOB). The LGC does not need conceptual drawings; it needs to know how much money is being requested, architect plans, and the county's bonding capacity. Transylvania County should be able to qualify for \$40 million given the value of schools as collateral. Burke, Buncombe, Henderson, Yancey and other counties have all done or are doing LOBs to build new schools. In some cases, they grouped school construction projects with county construction projects in order to get a better deal. Limited obligation bonds are a common way to build schools in NC.
- *Each year it seems the county has trouble giving money to the school board. Will this impact that? After the project is completed, would the yearly budget request to the commissioners go up or down?* The county provides two types of funding for the school

system, local current expense and capital outlay. Replacing outdated facilities and systems should lower the capital request for a while (with reduced energy costs and other efficiencies), but it will not eliminate it. For example, the capital request always includes technology. We will continue to have to ask for that money each year as technology is an ever-changing replacement item. Other items, such as CTE equipment, have to stay current in order to provide students with up-to-date skills for the workplace. Recurring costs such as furniture replacement, parking lot repaving, refinishing gym floors, etc., are about \$1 million per year and will continue to be a need.

- *Please expound on how the actual construction will affect students and classrooms. Will teachers have to yell over hammering?* Our architects are experienced in school construction and will find ways to minimize disruption as much as possible. Major portions of the work would be done in the summer or after students have been moved temporarily into other areas.
- *If all the upgrades are done, what would be the lifespan of facilities after upgrades?* We anticipate at least 50 years, possibly longer with good maintenance and upkeep.
- *Would construction close down any roads in Rosman?* We would strive to minimize any inconvenience to the community.
- *If these repairs are not done, what do our schools look like in 20 or 30 years?* Many areas would be in bad shape. Our custodians do a great job making things look good; they can put a spit shine on an Edsel, but it is still an Edsel. Underneath, things are falling apart. We can no longer find parts for some of our HVAC systems because they are so old. Old air systems can negatively affect students and staff who have allergies and asthma. Leaking roofs can lead to mold. Safety issues will become emergency issues. Capital requests would double and triple.
- *Do you have square footage estimates for the new construction?* Not fully. We are looking at legislative class size mandates that may be factored in.
- *If the bond did not pass, how long would it be before the cost of bond would be spent in repairs?* We estimate a 12% increase every year.
- *When this all gets approved, would you be using multiple contractors?* There would be a bid process for phases 1, 2 and 3. It is likely that the large firm would win the overall bid and then hire subcontractors. All of the numbers assume a construction manager at risk who would work with the architect to value engineer and control costs.
- *When the consulting firm looked at needs, did they look at projected enrollment?* Yes, we looked at ADM projections and the NCSU study of local demographics and population trends. We want to use our existing high school campuses. Otherwise, we would be faced with trying to find approximately 80 buildable acres somewhere.

Mrs. Scruggs stated that she feels encouraged about working with the commissioners and communities on this project. Mr. Kiviniemi noted that the last bond referendum for schools passed overwhelmingly. Mr. Griffin stated that the commissioners are doing a good job, and they get a lot of problems passed down to them from Raleigh. He added, "The schools need this. We have to do the job locally. The state is not going to help us. We are not asking for a Cadillac, just a Chevrolet that will do the job." 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. The board took a fifteen minute recess and began the business meeting at 8:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting agenda for March 20, 2017 was approved as presented.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

SKILLS USA COMPETITION

Congratulations to automotive students at Blue Ridge Community College, Transylvania County campus. Four automotive students competed in the recent "Skills USA" Regional Competition and were awarded \$10,000 in combined scholarships. Eight different counties and 23 students competed. William Partin, RHS, took 1st place; Colton Holbrook, RHS, took 2nd place; and Christian Larkin, DRS, took 3rd place. These three students will represent Blue Ridge Community College at the state competition in April.

REJECT SCREENING

Davidson River School's Project Rebound program and Brevard College's Teacher Education program have partnered to co-host a community screening of the documentary film, REJECT, on April 4. The goal in bringing REJECT to Transylvania County is to increase awareness of the consequences of interpersonal rejection and promote discussion of solutions the community can develop to foster acceptance, tolerance, and inclusion of all students.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for next year is just around the corner on April 11-13 at each of our four elementary schools. The Kindergarten Readiness Rally on April 6 is the perfect way for every family to get what they need to prepare for "big school" this fall. All children turning 5 on or before August 31, 2017 will be looking to start kindergarten. Visit tcsnc.org/kinder for forms and details.

NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The 2017 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Bobbie Cavnar, will speak at Brevard College on Tuesday, March 21, to address the importance of experiential teaching and learning in the 21st century. Cavnar teaches Advanced Placement Literature and chairs the English Department at South Point High School in Gaston County. His platform includes public education as a civic good, public education and the promise of equal opportunity, the need to re-professionalize the occupation of education, recruitment and retention of teachers, the role of humanities in public schools, measuring growth in English, the negative outcomes of standardization in education, and the re-segregating effects of the "school choice" movement. The free event begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Porter Center and is open to the public.

MCJROTC OPENS WNC MILITARY HISTORY EXHIBIT

Cadets from Brevard and Rosman High Schools Marine Corps JROTC assisted with a Color Guard to help launch an exhibit of the WNC Military History Museum at the Transylvania Heritage Museum. Cadets joined veterans and citizens, led by collector and curator Emmett Casciato, to open the "Wars of the 20th Century" display at the

museum on March 4. They were featured on WLOS TV Channel 13. The ten-week exhibit runs through May 13.

RHS FFA Ready for Harvest

Heather McNeely’s FFA students are preparing for the first lettuce harvest of 2017 from the Rosman High School greenhouse. Other items include spinach, collards, Brussels sprouts, kale and Swiss chard. Annuals and perennials, as well as herbs and vegetable starts, are also available. To order, email hmcneely@tcsnc.org or visit the Rosman FFA Chapter on Facebook. You may also visit their booth at the Farmers’ Market on Saturday mornings from the end of April through June or until they sell out.

BHS SHOOTING TEAM

Brevard High School had a very good day at the recent district shooting competition, hosted at the Polk County Gun Club in Columbus. With over 150 competitors involved, the Blue Devils took 8th place overall and 2nd place in team shotgun. Top individual finishers were Cameron Wilson and Samuel Kicklighter at 2nd and 3rd in shotgun (each with a perfect score of 200), and Cody Brown at 5th in archery (also with a perfect 200 score). Congratulations to Coach Thad Sanders and these students learning gun safety and marksmanship.

PFE SCULPTURE GARDEN FEATURES FOUR LOCAL ARTISTS

Thanks to the Pisgah Forest Elementary School Improvement Team in partnership with Brevard College, four new sculptures have been installed on the front lawn of the school. The sculptures are the work of Professor Kyle Van Lusk, Mark Connelley, Brian Glaze, and Brevard native Aaron Alderman. New pieces will be rotated in periodically to keep the sculpture garden engaging and interesting for students, staff, and the community. Congratulations to PFES for this great new addition to their campus.

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. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting and the personnel report for March 20, 2017 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. Policy

Brian Weaver presented 19 new policies from the 6000 Series, Part C (Purchasing, Equipment, Materials and Supplies) for approval and 8 old policies for rescission. He reported there had been one minor correction to policy 6430 and no other changes since the first reads on February 20. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously adopted the 19 new policies from the 6000 series and rescinded the 9 old policies as listed below.

6000 Series (Part C): Purchasing, Equipment, Materials, and Supplies			
ADOPTED		RESCINDED	
6400	Goals of the Purchasing Function		
6401	Ethics and the Purchasing Function		
6402	Participation by Historically	DJCA	Contracting and Purchasing

	Underutilized Businesses		Procedures
6410	Organization of the Purchasing Function		
6421	Pre-Audit Certification		
6425	Continuing Contracts		
6430	State Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies	DJ; DJ-R	Purchasing Requirements
6440	Local Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies		
6442	Vendor Lists		
6450	Purchase of Services		
6500	Goals of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies Services	GC/EDBA	Allocation of Personnel and Supplies
6520	Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies	IAD	Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
6521	Personal Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies		
6522	Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies by Non-School Groups		
6525	Instructional Materials Services		
6530	Resource Conservation		
6540	Hazardous Materials		
6550	Vandalism		
6560	Disposal of Surplus Property	DN; DN-R; IAAA	Disposition of School Property; Disposition of Old Textbooks

7. FY18 Budget

Norris Barger presented the latest budget documents and FY18 initial planning allotments. Dr. McDaris reviewed highlights of Governor Cooper’s recommended budget. Mr. Griffin asked if any students from Transylvania County had received scholarships from state education lottery money. Dr. McDaris reported that some students had, but the state never makes the names public. He noted that the school system only receives about \$240,000 a year from state lottery proceeds. Dr. McDaris reported there is no news yet on House Bill 13. Mr. Barger reported that he would have capital outlay updates at a future meeting.

8. Resolution in Support of Nonpartisan School Board Elections

At its last meeting, the board directed the superintendent to draft a resolution in support of Representative Cody Henson’s bill (HB 127) that if approved, would return Transylvania County Board of Education elections to nonpartisan. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board unanimously adopted the resolution in support of House Bill 127 as presented (see attached).

9. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- The Trump administration seeks to cut 13.5% of the U.S. Education Department’s budget. That equates to about \$9.2 billion. In addition to the overall decrease, the administration proposes to shift \$1.4 billion to charter schools and private school vouchers.
- “An Act to Reestablish the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program” is the title of Senate Bill 252 & House Bill 339. The bill has a strong showing of bipartisan support. The purpose of the new bill is to recruit, prepare, and support students

residing in or attending institutions of higher education in North Carolina for preparation as STEM or special education teachers in North Carolina public schools. In the bill, public schools are defined as traditional public schools, charter schools, regional public schools, and UNC lab schools. Only five institutions of higher education can be selected under the bill.

- House lawmakers are moving ahead with several bills aimed at testing and requirements for teachers in North Carolina, including a proposal to eliminate statewide final exams. House Bill 322, which passed the House K-12 Education Committee last week, would change the formula used to calculate school letter grades to a 50-50 split on proficiency and growth. The split is currently 80 percent proficiency on standardized tests and 20 percent on student growth.
- Senate Bill 75, approved by the Senate last week, calls for a constitutional amendment to lower North Carolina's constitutional income tax rate cap from 10% to 5.5%. The legislation has some problems. For example, it has the potential to limit the state's ability to raise revenue to keep up with growing student populations across the state, thereby passing along more costs to local government to make up the revenue difference. Also, because certain sectors of the budget grow automatically, such as Medicaid and corrections, cuts could be made to education to compensate for the difference. Legislatures in the future could be limited in their ability to respond to unexpected fiscal and economic circumstances. Some lawmakers argue if they need additional revenue they can turn to sales taxes, but this historically has been a volatile issue. If approved in each chamber of the General Assembly, the proposed amendment would be considered at the statewide general election in November 2018. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

10. Important Dates

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
May 22	"Teacher of the Year" Awards Reception, 5:30 p.m., Rogow Room
May 29	Annual leave day (no students)
May 18	TC Scholars' Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS
June 5	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 9	Last pupil day - 12 noon dismissal
June 9	Davidson River School Graduation, 10:30 a.m., DRS Lawn
June 9	Brevard High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Music Center
June 10	Rosman High School Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Music Center
June 12-16	Teacher workdays
June 19	4-day summer schedule begins
June 10	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

Dr. McDaris reported that a joint meeting with commissioners might be scheduled for April 24. The board discussed holding an early morning work session during the last week of April to discuss the FY18 budget request before the May 1 meeting.

11. **Public Comment**

Arluca Chapman reported that she would be in meetings with state legislators next week and offered to relay any questions or concerns from board members.

12. **Other Items**

Chairman McCoy encouraged everyone to attend a fundraiser BBQ & Bonfire at T. C. Henderson on Friday, March 31, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to the TCH School of Science and Technology. The event is being sponsored by Hawg Wild BBQ, Hickory Hollow, and the TCH PTO.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
March 20, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Christine Miller, Teacher, BES, effective June 30, 2017
Sheila Mooney, School Counselor, DRS, effective June 16, 2017
Reneé Pagano, Teacher, BMS, effective June 14, 2017
James Michael Shotwell, Teacher, BMS, effective June 30, 2017
Alexandra Wilbourne, Teacher, RES, effective June 16, 2017

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Matthew Stack, Head Football Coach & Teacher, RHS, effective April 24, 2017

Classified Personnel

John Matthew Mason, Custodian, BMS, effective April 3, 2017
Megan Owen, After School Worker, TCHES, effective March 21, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Audrey Reneau, from Director, Elementary Education/AIG/Title I, MEC, to Principal, TCHES, effective June 26, 2017

Classified Personnel

Kimberly Nanney, from 10-month Office Support Professional I, BHS, to 12-month Office Support Professional III, BHS, effective June 19, 2017

- 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

Cagney Guest
David E. Owen
Roger Skillman

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Wendy Barnwell
Tammy Galloway

Resolution in Support of House Bill 127

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly in 2016 enacted a bill to change the longstanding process for Transylvania County School Board candidate elections from nonpartisan to partisan elections; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of board of education members in the United States and in North Carolina are currently elected in a nonpartisan manner; and

WHEREAS, members of the Transylvania County Board of Education have been elected on a nonpartisan basis since 1993 as a result of legislation and in response to the desires and preferences of the Transylvania community; and

WHEREAS, school board members, unlike other elected officials, must bear responsibility to the students and parents they serve and not leaders or platforms of specific political parties; and

WHEREAS, injecting party politics into school board elections would shift the focus away from candidates who are singularly committed to the education of Transylvania County students; and

WHEREAS, school boards have the primary responsibility for setting school policy and hiring school teachers and administrators and that neither of these responsibilities should be influenced by political party affiliation; and

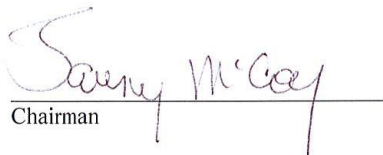
WHEREAS, educational issues decided by school boards are nonpartisan issues and the boards' judicial and personnel functions must be nonpartisan; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Schools Board of Education has functioned well over many past years with nonpartisan elections, affording respectful interaction and appropriate focus on a school board's singular mission, the education of the students of our county; and

WHEREAS, focused civil discourse and cooperative spirit exercised by all school board members for the greater good of our community would be harmed by partisan school board elections;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in order to best serve the citizens and students of Transylvania County, the Transylvania County Board of Education hereby respectfully requests that the General Assembly and Transylvania County's locally-elected representatives in the General Assembly support a repeal of House Bill 1133 enacted in 2016, and fully support House Bill 127 sponsored by Representative Cody Henson for reinstatement of nonpartisan elections of members to the Transylvania County School Board.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of March 2017.


Chairman


Secretary