

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
March 21, 2011**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Closed Session (Legal Matter)
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Personnel Report
7. FY12 Budget
8. Important Dates
9. Other Items
10. Public Comment
11. Closed Session (Student Matter)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 21, 2011 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Dean Shatley, Board Attorney; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Brian Weaver, RHS Principal; Meredith Licht, TCAE President; and five guests. Mrs. Fox gave the invocation and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the agenda for March 21, 2011 was amended to move public comment before the first closed session.

**2. Public Comment**

Jurline Cantrell, grandmother, expressed concerns about the treatment of special needs students. She stated that students should be treated with patience, not yelling, and should not be bullied. She spoke about specific concerns regarding her grandson.

Edna Woody, great aunt, stated that her nephew was being called names and that she had been given permission by the principal to go into his classroom and observe "who starts what" in order to "get to the bottom of it." Dr. McDaris recommended that Mrs. Woody contact the school to confirm the date(s) of her visit(s).

Marie Gillespie, neighbor, said that teachers cannot always watch everything that goes on in their classroom, and suggested that cameras be installed in each room in order to record footage that could be viewed at the end of each day. Chairman Whitmire thanked Mrs. Gillespie for her suggestion, but noted that this would be cost prohibitive within the district's budget.

Loretha Knox, parent, asked why there are not enough special needs programs for children with mental problems. She stated that one program does not fit every child.

She also feels that special needs students are too often suspended from school for their behavior. She remarked that certain children may be bigger and heavier due to medications and therefore more likely to unintentionally hurt other children. Mrs. Knox reported that she has been frustrated in getting the services she wants for her child based on the student's test scores being too high. Chairman Whitmire suggested that Mrs. Knox schedule a meeting to discuss her concerns with the superintendent. Dr. McDaris informed Mrs. Knox that Cathy Childress, Exceptional Children's Program Director, would be the best person to talk with regarding specific services for an individual child. He briefly explained the difference between an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and a 504 plan.

Diane Moore, grandmother, recalled an incident that had occurred a year ago when her great, great granddaughter, whom she is raising, was in kindergarten. She reported that her granddaughter had been accused of cursing on the school bus by another student, and that school administrators had taken the word of that child over her granddaughter's. Dr. McDaris asked Mrs. Moore if, after her meeting with him last year, the incident had been resolved to her satisfaction. She stated that it had been. Mrs. Moore went on to express concerns that first graders were being given too much homework.

Chairman Whitmire thanked all of the speakers for sharing their concerns and encouraged continued communication with the schools.

Mrs. Moore stated that she still wanted an answer as to why the school had taken the word of another student over her granddaughter's. She stated that she had a concern about report cards. Dr. McDaris recommended that she talk with Dr. Kim Elliott, Director of K-8 Curriculum and Instruction, regarding her concerns. He assured Mrs. Moore that Dr. Elliott would answer all of her questions. Chairman Whitmire thanked everyone again.

**3. Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board went into closed session at 7:05 p.m. to consult with the board attorney regarding a legal matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). Present in the closed session were Mr. Whitmire, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Petit, Dr. McDaris, Mr. Shatley and Mr. Barger. No action was taken. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board reconvened into open session at 8:12 p.m.

**4. Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*DISTRICT NEWSLETTER*

Starting this month, TCS will publish a monthly district newsletter designed to strengthen the connection between the school system and the community. The goal is to share upcoming events, news and discussions occurring at the district level in order to help keep everyone up-to-date on important issues and current happenings. We encourage everyone to sign up and share this information with students, families, and friends. We currently share school news and events through our district home page, local news media, and Facebook. To avoid being repetitive with school news, the newsletter will be reserved for district issues and discussions from administrators and school board members.

*TITLE II MONITORING VISIT*

A Title II monitoring visit was held on March 7-9, 2011, at the Morris Education Center. During the exit interview, the monitoring team shared the following findings (the district will receive an official report from DPI within the next 30 days):

Commendations (*not common, according to the team!*)

- Our locally-developed online system that integrates participant evaluations of professional development activities and a single process for requests, documentation, and tracking of individual CEU requests.
- Our commitment to district-level observation and support of all teachers, both beginning and veteran.

Corrective Actions

- Individual Growth Plans (IGPs), required both by state law and State Board policy, were not completed for every beginning teacher in the school district.
- A signed request for the assignment of extracurricular duties, required by state law and both local and State Board policies, was not completed by every beginning teacher who reported involvement in extracurricular duties.

Thanks to David Sutton for preparing everyone for the visit and for making sure all administrative processes were in place for TCS to be in compliance.

*MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH*

To help celebrate Red Cross Month, TCS has joined forces with the Transylvania County Chapter of the American Red Cross to host "Coins for a Cause." Beginning March 14 and running through March 29, students and staff at all nine schools will be collecting coins to support the local Red Cross. The class at each school that collects the most money will be awarded free movie tickets, popcorn and soda by the Co-Ed Cinema in Brevard. The Transylvania Red Cross wants to thank all TCS students, teachers and staff for their continued support. Both high school health occupations classes already host blood drives each year. The Red Cross mission is to help prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

*OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE*

Sixth graders at Brevard Middle School have worked hard on community service projects this year. Teams of students did several service projects in December and January. The Bingle/Case/Kleppe/Shotwell team adopted three families from the Sharing House, made and distributed Christmas cookies to children in the hospital, and worked six nights at Bread of Life. The Collins/Hammond/Khare/Matson/Pagano team did a service project in which each child worked six hours for a non-profit, neighbor, or person in need. Each student prepared a tri-fold board highlighting their work, and presented the boards at a showcase event in the BMS media center on March 14. Over 200 parents, relatives, friends and neighbors came to see the displays and share in the celebration.

*TRANSYLVANIA TO THE WORLD*

Most of Transylvania County was established by immigrants from Great Britain in the late 1800's. Today, its residents have lived and traveled all over the world. On April 1, 2011, Rosman Middle and High Schools will celebrate that diversity with a

special event called "Transylvania to the World." The sixth grade will present family genealogies, answering the question: *Where did we come from?* The RHS Club of International Languages will present a wide array of cultural information, answering the question: *Where are we now?* Featured performers will be the DRS Taiko drummers (Japan), the Western Carolina Gamelan ensemble (Java), and Sin Fronteras (Latin America folkloric dance). Guest speakers will share their experiences from Africa, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, and Iceland. Speakers will also answer questions live via Skype from Haiti. Food from around the world will be available for sample. Other activities will include bingo, a cake walk and hotdog supper. Funds from the event will go toward purchasing a mobile computer lab with 25 netbooks for RHS. The evening will be sponsored in part by the Transylvania Youth Association (funded by the United Way) and a grant from the Sesquicentennial committee. The event will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Rosman High School. There is a suggested donation of \$1 per person.

#### *GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL*

Jennifer Badger, BHS, has been selected to attend the 2011 session of the North Carolina Governor's School. Her selected area is English. Congratulations, Jennifer!

#### *MOREHEAD SCHOLAR*

Marielle DeJong, BHS, has been named as the recipient of a Morehead Scholarship. Marielle is the daughter of Jeanne DeJong at BES. Congratulations, Marielle!

#### *NC QUEST GRANT*

Dr. Kim Elliott has learned that TCS has been awarded a NC QUEST grant in the amount of \$150,000. The grant will be used to provide professional development in Rtl and Essential Standards.

#### *JUMP ROPE FOR HEARTS*

As part of the annual Jump Rope for Hearts event, students at Pisgah Forest Elementary School once again exceeded their goal and raised \$8,576.76 for the American Heart Association. Kylie Evans was the top fund raiser, bringing in \$408.04. The top fund raisers from each grade level enjoyed lunch courtesy of Subway, one of the event sponsors. In addition, the PFES physical education department will receive \$500 in gift certificates to purchase new PE equipment. Students will also receive gifts for their fund raising efforts. Thanks to all the students, parents and community members for helping with another successful event.

#### *IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION*

In support of NCAE's campaign to "Wear Red in Support of Education," the staff of PFES wore red on Tuesday, March 15 for a group photo. NCAE will send the photo to North Carolina legislators to show support for an education-friendly budget. Last week, members of TCAE attended the state NCAE conference and marched in downtown Raleigh in support of public education.

#### *CAREER CLUB WINNERS*

The following middle school students brought home awards from the Career Club competition held on Saturday, March 19. Tammy Hall is the RMS sponsor.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners

Hannah Sanders - Excellence in Business Technologies  
Casey Mesaeh - Public Speaking

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winners

Claudia Stubblefield - Career Research  
Jacey Voris, Anna Cobb, Rachel Cobb, Chesney Reid and Lexieanna Owen -  
Career Skit  
Falyn McDonald and Makenna Mann - Decision Making  
Ashleigh Jamerson - Excellence in Keyboarding

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners

Amanda Rumble - Creed  
Kimberly Holliday - Excellence in Keyboarding  
Aly Pagano - Performing Arts  
Annie Winston - Public Speaking

**5. 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 three new names, Will Baynard, Jake Dodson, and Cody Henson, had been added to the list. Other names will be included as they are received.

**6. Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting and the personnel report for March 21, 2011 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

**7. FY12 Budget**

The Board continued its discussion of the FY12 budget. Norris Barger reviewed the latest budget scenarios:

<b>State Budget Cuts (net of economic stabilization transfer)</b>	
ADM reduction	\$217,295
Legislative Option A	2,587,044
Legislative Option B	2,743,228
Legislative Option C	3,129,622
Governor's Proposed	1,059,586
DPI Proposed 5%	1,150,920
DPI Proposed 10%	1,888,218

Mr. Barger noted that the ADM reduction for next year is a given. On top of that, any of the other state options listed above (or some combination) are possibilities at this time. He gave a reminder that the governor's proposal includes a number of taxes that will sunset, further reducing state revenue. He stated that a 13-15% cut seems likely, in his opinion. Dr. McDaris explained what the "one size fits all" cuts would mean for small systems like Transylvania that have no fat to cut. Every cut will impact the classroom. For example, one of the proposals is to cut building level administration. None of the TCS elementary schools have assistant principals now, so what will be cut in its place? Cuts that result in fewer positions could mean larger class sizes with fewer teacher

assistants—a very real possibility at the elementary level. Mr. Whitmire noted that some of the legislative options propose cutting funding for teacher assistants all together.

There was some discussion about the likelihood of workers' compensation becoming the responsibility of the local school districts. If approved, workers' compensation would have to be administered by the LEA, with no additional manpower allotment.

Mr. Barger pointed out that cuts to transportation, which already operates at 100% efficiency in Transylvania, would mean fewer buses, fewer bus drivers, fewer bus stops, and longer rides for students.

Mrs. Petit noted that cutting positions could undo all of the good work that has been done so far in lowering the dropout rate.

Board members discussed the dire nature of the proposed budget scenarios and the importance of warning parents and the community about what is to come. Dr. McDaris stated that he does not think the reality of the situation has crystallized yet with the public. He emphasized that the most pain is going to be felt by the small, rural communities. He predicted that the proposed cuts will devastate rural western NC districts and have a very ugly impact on education. Chairman Whitmire discussed the importance of communicating with legislators in Raleigh, especially our state senator. He stated that shortchanging education today will shortchange the future of our nation, and warned that eroding education too far will be non-recoverable.

Members discussed what the focus of their presentation to the commissioners on March 29 should be. All agreed that with so many unknowns attached to the state budget, it will be very difficult to discuss local funding needs with any degree of certainty. Mrs. McCoy recommended highlighting the number of positions that could be lost under each of the proposed state scenarios. Dr. McDaris remarked that the average salary of a NC teacher is not very high—NC teacher salaries rank 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Mr. Barger gave some good news, saying that the Board is in as good a financial position as possible given the last two difficult years, and so is the County. Neither board has empty pockets, which gives Transylvania a few more options than other districts. He cautioned, however, that the pockets are not deep enough to make up the whole expected shortfall.

Mrs. McCoy asked whether the Board should present its capital needs on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Dr. McDaris stated it is his understanding that capital may be funded at the same level as last year. Mr. Barger gave a reminder that this would still represent a 50% cut in furniture, equipment and technology. Mrs. McCoy suggested that Mr. Barger develop a list showing the technology added back (before the 50% reduction) in order to make it clear that cuts to capital are being made. There was considerable discussion of technology needs.

Dr. McDaris reported that he has talked with Sheriff Mahoney and County Health Director, Steve Smith, regarding the need for continued county funding of school resource officers and school nurses. He stated that these positions are invaluable to our schools, and that he plans to fight just as hard for them as he will for everything else. Chairman Whitmire concurred.

Norris Barger gave an update on the Rosman High School CTE project. He reported that DPI has approved the change in scope for the project, and plans are underway to re-survey the new area. Once the bank has the new survey, they can proceed with the next step. The architect is ready to proceed. Bids are planned for mid-May, with construction to begin on June 17. The Board commended Mr. Barger for his recent presentation to the county commissioners on the CTE project.

Dr. McDaris and Mr. Barger stated they would have first draft presentation materials ready for review later in the week.

**8. Important Dates**

Mar. 24	Racial Equity Training, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., MEC
Mar. 24	NCAE Forum with Heath Shuler (rescheduled), 5:00 p.m., Tuscola High School
Mar. 25	NCSBA "Understanding the Role of the School Board Chair," Raleigh
Mar. 29	JOINT MEETING, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
Apr. 1	Teacher Workday
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., Rogow Room.
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

Meredith Licht invited anyone interested in carpooling to the Heath Shuler forum to contact her to make arrangements.

**9. Other Items**

Mrs. McCoy reported that the Transylvania County department heads would be presenting their FY12 budget requests to the County Commissioners on March 22 in the Rogow Room.

Dr. McDaris reported that he will be in Raleigh next week for the NCASA conference. While there, he plans to attend some of the legislative sessions.

Chairman Whitmire expressed appreciation to everyone for all that they do.

**10. Public Comment**

There was no other public comment.

**11. Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board went into closed session at 9:43 p.m. to discuss information that is not a public record (student records), pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and 115C-402. Present in the closed session were Mr. Whitmire, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Petit, Dr. McDaris, Mr. Weaver and Mr. Stroup. No action was taken. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board reconvened in open session at 11:15 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary



**PERSONNEL REPORT  
3/21/11**

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

Licensed Personnel

Doug Odom, Principal, BHS, effective June 30, 2011

James "Bo" Williams, Testing Coordinator, TCS, effective June 30, 2011

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Helen Claire Robinson, WIA Student Worker, effective March 22, 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

Erin Creasman, Teacher, PFES, GCBDB Family Leave, effective March 18, 2011,  
through June 16, 2011

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Thad Sanders

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Crysta Clayton

John Hamilton

Faye Stephenson