

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 21, 2016

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. BHS Giving Closet
7. 2016 Summer Schedule
8. FY17 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 21, 2016 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence. The Marine Corps JROTC presented the colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and National Anthem. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to two guests, the following individuals were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Marty Griffin
Cindy Petit
Betty Scruggs

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Leca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator
Joe Russo, TCAE President
Jennifer Anderson, Principal, BHS
Debbie Siniard, Office Support, BHS
Sgt. Major Thomas Hall, JROTC Instructor
Andrew Shook, School Resource Officer

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for March 21, 2016 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Company Commander Damien LaForenza spoke about the skills he and his fellow cadets have learned in this first year of the JROTC program. Jennifer Anderson reported that Commander LaForenza has been invited to attend a summer leadership program at the U.S. Naval Academy. The JROTC program currently has 60 members from both high schools. Board members thanked the other cadets for an impressive

presentation and shook hands with each color guard member and Sergeant Major Thomas Hall, JROTC instructor.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

2016 GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Two students from Brevard High School have been selected to attend the 2016 North Carolina Governor's School. Lauren N. DuBreuil has been accepted in the area of Natural Science, and Samuel C. Farrar has been selected in the area of Social Science.

BEGINNING TEACHER PROGRAM AUDIT

An evaluation of the Transylvania County Schools Beginning Teacher (BT) program was conducted recently. Our system received "Accomplished" or "Distinguished" on every standard. Notable commendations included mentor pay, putting mentors in leadership roles, action research projects, and advanced degree payments. The only recommendation for improvement was to find more ways to investigate the impact of the program (i.e., exit interviews with BT3's). Congratulations to Carrie Norris, Beginning Teacher Coordinator.

MOREHEAD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Carly Onnink, Brevard High School, has been awarded a Morehead-Cain Scholarship from UNC-Chapel Hill. This prestigious scholarship covers all expenses for four years of undergraduate study at UNC-CH. In addition, it features a distinctive program of summer enrichment opportunities including outdoor leadership courses, public service in the U.S. or abroad, research at sites around the world, and experience in private enterprise. Selection criteria for the Morehead-Cain are leadership, academic achievement, moral force of character, and physical vigor. Morehead-Cain recipients are chosen solely on the basis of merit and accomplishment.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

The National Association for Music Education celebrates March as "Music in Our Schools Month" nationwide. Dr. McDaris read aloud a resolution endorsing the observance of Music in Our Schools Month and supporting music education in Transylvania County Schools. He also recognized Susan Chambers with the Brevard Philharmonic who was in attendance. ON A MOTION BY MRS. SCRUGGS, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Music in Our Schools resolution was unanimously approved (see attached).

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

All four elementary schools competed in the district Battle of the Books competition on March 15. T. C. Henderson was the first place winner and will progress to the regional competition in Asheville on April 22. In the middle school competition held on March 2, the Brevard Middle School team took first place. They will compete at the regional competition in Murphy on April 19.

BHS BLOOD DRIVE

At the recent Red Cross blood drive held at Brevard High School, 63 donors participated for a total collection of 57 units. Twenty people were first time donors.

Sponsor Tammy Moman reported that the Red Cross was very complimentary of our students, faculty, and facility.

Dr. McDaris thanked SRO Shook for being in attendance and recognized the student artwork from RMS that was on display in the board room.

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. PETIT, the minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting and the personnel report for March 21, 2016 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. BHS Giving Closet

Principal Jennifer Anderson and Debbie Siniard gave a presentation on the ways in which Brevard High School helps students in need. Ms. Anderson reported that the school recognizes there are factors beyond its control, outside of school doors, that impact students. Instead of focusing on what students don't have, they focus on coordinating resources to address academic and nonacademic needs. Two of their most successful programs are the Giving Closet and the "Tell Me" videos. The Giving Closet provides clothing, shoes, toiletries, and food to students in hardship. The "Tell Me" videos encourage students to tell someone--a teacher, another student, or any adult at the school--what they need. Mrs. Siniard reported that the Giving Closet is managed by high school students who organize and administer the donated items. Mrs. Siniard reported that all food donations come from Anchor Baptist Church Ministries, and clothing and other donations come from school clubs, students, and school social workers. Ms. Anderson emphasized that the BHS staff is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to help students to bridge the gap from despair to hope. Board members were very impressed with the program. Leca Chapman reported that the board will be hearing about similar programs at other schools at future meetings.

7. 2016 Summer Schedule

Dr. McDaris presented the Transylvania County Schools summer schedule for the central office and other administrative offices. Forty-hour weeks consisting of four 10-hour days will begin on Monday, June 13 and end on Friday, August 19. Office hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Offices will be closed on Fridays and on Monday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

8. FY17 Budget

Norris Barger reported an addition to the list of anticipated Fund 2 budget changes for FY17. Effective March 1, 2016, all contracted service will be subject to state sales tax per the North Carolina General Assembly. This adds approximately \$17,500 to the local request. Mr. Kiviniemi requested a report on what it would cost to increase the local teacher supplement from the current 8.5% to 9.0% for next year. He also requested a report on what it would cost to have at least one full time guidance counselor at every school. He stated that the stagnant local economy has increased the need for services for our students. Mr. Kiviniemi asked whether the funding formula that was recently approved by the county commissioners would be sufficient to cover the 2.4% increase in

local funding that is currently projected. Mr. Barger calculated that the funding formula as written would result in a funding deficit of approximately \$85,500.

Mr. Kiviniemi gave a report from a conference he recently attended on board finance. He talked with a consultant there who reported that while funding formulas can help reduce conflicts between school boards and county commissioners, in order to be effective there must be a built-in growth factor based on county revenue that is targeted toward the school system. If there is no provision for the school system to share in revenue growth, the percentage of funding can only decline each year. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he believes the board should take the commissioners up on their offer to provide what the school system needs when the funding formula falls short. Mrs. Scruggs stated that the only increases in local current expense request at this time are state mandates, sales tax and required charter school funding, with nothing for growth or improvement. Mr. Barger reported the total deficit in local current expense last year was \$533,000.

Mr. Griffin asked what the school system has already lost and what will be lost in the future due to funding cuts. Dr. McDaris reported that teacher assistant hours and days have already been reduced, and vacancies due to retirements, relocations, or other attrition are not being filled. The highest paid teachers are moved into state budget codes whenever possible. He stated that it is not known at this time what may happen with the non-recurring items in the state budget.

The board discussed an expected decrease in Title I money and other types of federal funding for next year. Dr. McDaris reported that two of the biggest federal programs for education are the school lunch program and IDEA (special education). Neither program is fully funded. The federal per plate reimbursement is well below actual costs, which means that school nutrition programs lose money on every plate of food. When IDEA was adopted, the bill was intended to be funded at 40%; it is currently funded at 16% of actual costs. These shortfalls in federal funding are passed down to the state, which in turn passes them down to local government.

Dr. McDaris also reported that E-rate funding for technology has changed in a manner that takes money away from school systems such as Transylvania that planned ahead and gives more money to the school systems that did nothing in terms of technology preparedness.

Mr. Griffin asked about funding for STEM programs. Dr. McDaris reported that existing funds would be used for STEM.

Ms. Chapman offered to meet with board members individually or as a group to answer specific questions about counselor staffing levels. She reported that contracted counseling services are a big help in bridging the gap. She also reported a need for more social workers. Mr. Kiviniemi asked for a report on this at a future meeting.

Mr. Barger reported that the capital plan has been revised and loosely prioritized. He pointed out a large increase in projected county appropriations for FY17 and FY18 based on (1) needs, and (2) the fact that the county's debt service on the last school bond will decrease significantly in FY17. He hopes that freeing up that money will allow the county to address other capital needs in the schools. Chairman McCoy directed the superintendent to arrange a 2 on 2 committee meeting between the board and the

county commissioners as soon as possible to discuss capital needs.

9. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The General Assembly is scheduled to return on April 25. Several things will bear watching, such as charter school funding litigation and/or legislation and non-recurring budget items. April tax returns could have an effect on funding issues.
- The State Board recently approved its budget request highlighting the need for improved teacher pay, more assistant principals, educator professional development, stronger general support for classrooms, and additional support for digital learning and classroom technology.
- The annual Teacher Working Conditions survey is underway across the state. Transylvania County currently ranks 6th highest in response rate among the western school systems.
- The U.S. Department of Justice is offering some opportunities to support student peer mediation, collaboration among students and the community, and respect. The materials and training are free.
- Superintendents have concerns about the Analysis of Student Work instrument. The state pilots have not worked well and DPI is soliciting input on ways to improve implementation, validity, and reliability.
- Three big school construction projects are underway in Buncombe County with a combined price tag of \$90 million. Henderson County voters will be considering a local sales tax option to pay for school construction there, and Jackson County recently approved a large increase in capital outlay for its schools.
- A survey of T. C. Henderson parents shows 100% support of the magnet school. There is a separate survey for parents from the other three elementary attendance zones. Data from the surveys will help determine the potential need for extra bus service to the magnet school, the application process for out-of-district students, and what types of magnet programs parents would like to see in the future.

10. Important Dates

Mar. 24	Student makeup day
Mar. 25	Teacher workday
Mar. 28–Apr. 1	Spring break
Apr. 4	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 7	Kindergarten Rally, 4-7 p.m., Trans. Co. Recreation Dept.
Apr. 12, 13	Kindergarten Registration, 8:30–3:00, BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 14	Kindergarten Registration, 8:30-3:00 & 4-6 pm, BES, PFES, RES, TCH
Apr. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 2	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 3	Taste of Transylvania, 6-9 p.m., Brevard Lumberyard
May 16	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 17	TCAE Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 19	Transylvania Scholars Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS

11. Public Comment

There was no other public comment.

12. Other Items

Mr. Griffin asked for an update on virtual days. Dr. McDaris reported that feedback from parents and students has been overwhelmingly positive. The few negative reviews were related to concerns about wireless access, parents' fears about inability to help children with the assignments, and confusion about the downloadable modules. He reported that several neighboring school systems are exploring the virtual day option for next year. Mr. Griffin observed that this is one more example of Transylvania leading the way in innovation. Mrs. Scruggs gave a big commendation to teachers and staff for the hard work and planning that went into making the virtual days a success. She also thanked parents and students for their cooperation and the technology staff for all of their hard work.

Chairman McCoy echoed the comments. She also expressed thanks to her fellow board members for their cooperation and willingness to work together to resolve differences in a professional and respectful manner.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**Resolution in Support of
Music In Our Schools**

WHEREAS, the study of music contributes to young people's development through heightened skills in listening, reading, self-expression, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, music education in the schools includes a broad range of types of music and active musical experiences; and

WHEREAS, music and the other arts significantly enhance the morale and quality of the school environment; and

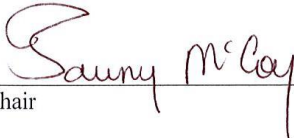
WHEREAS, it is the state objective of the public schools to prepare children for a productive role in our society; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for Music Education has designated March as Music in Our Schools Month, focusing on the theme;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board of Education (the "board") endorses the observance of Music in Our Schools Month as an opportunity to support the purposes and practices of music education and encourages teachers, parents, students and all citizens to participate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board, for its own part, rededicates itself to the maintenance of a music education program that will be relevant to the needs of the children placed in its care and will reach and positively influence each child.

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE this the 21st day of March 2016.



Chair



Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
March 21, 2016

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

Licensed Personnel

Lynda Jayne, Teacher, BMS, effective June 30, 2016
Karen Kreigsman, Teacher, BES, effective June 30, 2016
Laura Leatherwood, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2016

Classified Personnel

Gaynelle Owen, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective June 30, 2016
Patty Smith, Office Support, RHS, effective June 30, 2016

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Paul Benjamin Powell, Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 4, 2016
Brooklyn Wilson, School Health Assistant, BMS, effective April 4, 2016

- 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 SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES:

Substitute Teachers

Jessica Funderburk
Laurie Klein
Jean O'Dea
Lauren Reneau

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None