

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
April 1, 2010**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Closed Session
3. Public Comment
4. Budget Issues
5. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on April 1, 2010 at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to 1) discuss a personnel matter in closed session, 2) offer opportunity for public comment, and 3) discuss budget issues. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chairman; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Dr. Scott Elliott, Director of 9-12 Curriculum; Dr. Kim Elliott, Director of K-8 Curriculum; Brian Weaver, RHS Principal; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Larry Goodhue; Jim Roubion; Mal Johnson; Tim Petit; Greg Frisbee and approximately 10 guests. Mrs. McCoy gave the invocation and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire called the meeting to order. Mr. Whitmire explained the purpose of the meeting and reviewed the procedures for public comment.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting agenda for April 1, 2010 was approved as presented.

2. **Closed Session**

Chairman Whitmire explained to the assembly that the Board would be going into a lengthy closed session and offered to text message guests with an alert as the session neared its conclusion. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board went into closed session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and 115C-319 through 321. Present in the closed session were Mr. Whitmire, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Petit, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Weaver. No action was taken. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board reconvened into open session at 8:50 p.m.

3. **Public Comment**

Mr. Jim Roubion spoke on behalf of the committee for synthetic turf for the BHS football field and asked the Board for their support of the project. He stated that the committee understands the Board's dilemma due to budget constraints, and made clear that their intent is not to take funds away from educational programs. He said the committee's goal is to provide a safe, permanent and quality fix for the field that would serve youth, high school, and college athletic programs for years to come. He reported that construction would need to start in late May or early June in order to have the field ready for play by August. The committee believes that the turf solution is feasible and doable. He urged the Board to request funding for the project from the commissioners.

**4. Budget Issues**

Dr. McDaris reviewed the latest list of FY11 anticipated budget changes:

1*	Decrease in fines and forfeitures	\$40,000
2*	Health insurance 8.9% increase (\$4,527/FTE to \$4,929/FTE)	33,379
3*	Retirement increase (8.75% to 10.53%)	72,621
4*	State discretionary reduction increase	201,301
5	Governor's plan to restore FY09 0.5% pay cut	14,074
6	Supplement increase necessary with step increase	0
7	State budget cuts	?
8	OCS core course teacher (to meet state requirements)	52,587
9	Child Nutrition subsidy	?
	Total	\$413,962
	Necessary increase in county appropriation	4.7%
	*Items already passed in NC biennial budget	

Dr. McDaris reported that ADM is down for FY11, which could result in the loss of one classroom teacher position, one instructional support position, and cuts to teacher assistant and school building administration funding. Each student equates to approximately \$5,000 in ADM funding. State reversions add up to approximately \$777,000. Along with cuts to Department of Social Services funding, special education funds, and AIG and LEP funds, the school system is facing the possibility of approximately \$945,213 less in state funding for next year. Dr. McDaris emphasized that no one wants to have to lay off staff. Principals have indicated they would be willing to give up supplies/materials money if necessary to save jobs. Dr. McDaris pointed out that teachers cannot be expected to do their jobs without the necessary tools. He stated, "This horse is rapidly galloping toward the edge of a cliff. This county has the ability to step up and help the school system and it is time to do so. The most important resource in this county is our children. They deserve our investment."

Vice Chairman McCoy recommended plugging any positions that are not going to be handled elsewhere in the budget into the list of local budget needs. Mr. Barger calculated that the addition of the above-mentioned state items (with the exception of the two reversions) would change the necessary increase in county appropriation to 6.7%.

Dr. McDaris shared a report from the recent superintendents' meeting in Raleigh. Associate State Superintendent Philip Price reported that state revenues are currently about \$45 million below expected. The latest prediction is for a \$100 million shortfall by the end of the fiscal year. The Department of Education has been directed to develop potential budgets reflecting 3%, 5% and 7% cuts.

RHS CTE Building

Dr. McDaris reported that construction bids were opened earlier in the week for the Rosman High School CTE building. All of the eight bids received came in well over budget. The lowest bid including contingency and fees was \$2,226,738. The budget for the project, including FY09 QSCB allocation and FY10 QSCB availability, is \$1,566,540. Norris Barger stated that he was shocked that the bids were so high and could not account for the reason other than some unknown factors associated with the site itself. Soil stabilization was included in the plans. Bids in other parts of the state have been coming in below budget. Mr. Barger presented the following options for the Board's consideration:

- 1) Change from two-story site-built building to one-story site-built building.
- 2) Change from site-built to General Steel building. Keep same two-story design as bid.
- 3) Change to one-story steel building.
- 4) Reduce square footage of three classrooms with steel building.
- 5) Postpone construction until additional funding can be secured.

Board members expressed disappointment that the bids were so much higher than expected. Members brainstormed and debated possible solutions, weighing pros and cons for each option. The group discussed whether the county might be prevailed upon for additional funding; the consensus was doubtful. Mr. Barger reported that QSCB regulations require evidence of a project starting within six months of the closing date unless an extension is requested. The Board directed Mr. Barger to meet with the CTE teachers at RHS to discuss options and report back to the Board. Mr. Barger recommended that the Board reject all bids as exceeding budget. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously rejected all bids for the CTE building at Rosman High and Middle Schools.

#### Capital Outlay Priorities List

The Board conducted a line-by-line review of the 31 items currently listed on the capital outlay priority sheet. The group discussed each item extensively. A few possible changes in order were discussed. Considerable talk centered on Item 26, the Brevard Memorial Stadium field. Mr. Barger reported that the \$700,000 estimate for renovation of the field would provide synthetic turf, space for a track (increasing the profile of the field by expanding the sidelines from 14 to 20 feet), and moving the visitors stands back. It would also provide a regulation size soccer field. The \$700,000 would cost the Board approximately \$95,000 for eight years. Larry Goodhue clarified some of the cost breakdowns and answered questions from the Board. Members asked about other possible solutions rather than synthetic turf. The Cambridge drainage system was discussed. Mr. Goodhue pointed out that the Cambridge system would not address the issue of usage; activities would still need to be limited to protect the field. Mr. Goodhue sees turf as the only solution to continued heavy usage. The lifespan of synthetic turf was estimated at 12-15 years. No figures were given for the Cambridge system. After 12-15 years, the turf would need resurfacing, which was estimated to cost about half of the initial installation price. Mrs. Fox quoted an article that outlined high maintenance costs for special grooming equipment. Board members expressed concerns about the extra costs associated with long-term maintenance. Mr. Goodhue and Mr. Roubion pointed out that it costs approximately \$700 to repaint the lines on the field after every game. BHS currently spends about \$10,000 per year on repainting. This cost would be eliminated with turf. Mrs. Petit asked whether replacement of the turf would be considered as hazardous waste. Mr. Roubion stated that he would check into this with the Solid Waste department. He noted that the turf is treated with an antibiotic measure to help prevent infections. No decisions on the field or turf were reached. The Board agreed to continue discussion of the turf issue and the capital outlay priority list at the April 5 meeting.

#### 5. Public Comment

Larry Goodhue reported that the turf committee feels that the County would be open to any and all negotiations regarding funding for the project. He reported there is significant concern that the Brevard College football program may relocate its games to Buncombe County, which could result in a loss of revenue for Transylvania.

Greg Frisbee, youth football coach, stated that the commissioners need to hear from the community that turf is needed and wanted. He believes that if the County has the money to pay for turf, they should do so for the kids.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 midnight.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary