

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 4, 2011**

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. Policy:
 - A. GCN/AFC-R "Professional Educator Evaluation Process"
 - B. JI "Wireless Communication and Electronic Devices"
7. FY12 Budget
8. Central Office 2011 Summer Schedule
9. Important Dates
10. Other Items
11. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on April 4, 2011 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Mark Ellenberger, School Resource Officer; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Dr. Bo Williams, Policy Coordinator; and six guests. Chaz West, RHS, was the student representative. Mr. Whitmire gave the invocation and Mrs. McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He reported that Mrs. Norman could not attend as she was under the weather.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting agenda for April 4, 2011 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Jeremy Skidmore, parent, presented a prototype for a bus stop flag idea. He would like to provide small, brightly-colored flags that could be planted at a child's bus stop each morning to indicate pickup to the school bus driver, while allowing the child to wait indoors until the bus pulls up. Mr. Skidmore stated that the flags would not only permit children to remain indoors during bad weather, but also would improve safety by eliminating the need to stand next to busy roadways. Mr. Skidmore reported receiving some interest from merchants and parents regarding the flags (price is \$2.00 per flag). Mr. Skidmore explained that he was not trying to sell the flags to the school system, but simply making the Board aware and seeking approval of his intent to offer them to parents. He reported that he had discussed the flag idea with TCS Transportation Director, Alan Justice. Mr. Skidmore invited the Board to visit his website at www.busflag.com for more information. Chairman Whitmire thanked Mr. Skidmore for his presentation.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris introduced RHS student representative, Chaz West, to the Board. He recognized new student artwork that was on display in the board room, and welcomed SRO Ellenberger to the meeting. Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

PFES FIRST GRADE SERVICE PROJECTS

First graders in Ms. Fields' and Mrs. Estep's classes at Pisgah Forest Elementary School raised \$171.58 for the Transylvania County Sheriff's Department K-9 unit. Ms. Mackey's and Mrs. Hamilton's first graders raised \$66.91 for the Sharing House. All first grade classes collected spare change during the month of February for the annual service project.

ALL-COUNTY CHORUS

On April 7, the choirs from T. C. Henderson, Rosman Elementary, Rosman Middle, Rosman High, Brevard Middle, Brevard High, Pisgah Forest Elementary and Brevard Elementary Schools will join together at Brevard High School for the 2011 All-County Chorus. The performance will give special attention to Transylvania County's Sesquicentennial. Each chorus will perform alone under the direction of their respective music directors, followed by a combination finale which will include the traditional tune, *Cripple Creek*, and a special new arrangement of *Fare You Well* by Brevard High School student, Jennie Moser. Local musicians will also join the various choirs on stage to celebrate the rich musical heritage of the county. More than 300 students will participate in this year's event, which will be the eighth annual all-county chorus. The concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the BHS auditorium. Admission is \$2/adults, \$1/students, and \$5/family. CD's of the concert will be available for order/purchase.

CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE

The 25th North Carolina Infantry, Inc., visited fifth graders at Pisgah Forest Elementary School on March 24. Mr. Ted M. Opreah, III took students back to the Civil War era with clothing, gear, and artillery. Students gained a better understanding of what life was like as a North Carolina soldier by exploring essential items that soldiers used on a daily basis and learning about events that occurred here in Transylvania County. Mr. Opreah told the students the history of the Allison-Deaver House and its connection with the Civil War. The 25th NC Infantry is a non-profit educational and historical program dedicated to preserving American Heritage.

TCHES SESQUICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

In honor of the Sesquicentennial Celebration, T. C. Henderson students are participating in the school's daily Walking Club. The goal is for each student to walk the equivalent of 150 miles by the end of the school year. Walking takes place during the morning intramural times. Coach Galloway is supervising the club and tracking how far each student walks. Daily updates are posted on the tracking chart in the gym. The walking club also helps with the district's focus on healthy students, healthy lifestyles, and combating childhood obesity. Students are excited about this challenge, and are all working diligently to meet their goal.

Ms. Hughes' class is studying the history of transportation in Transylvania County over the past 150 years. Students are conducting research, writing reports, and designing and creating trains. The culmination of this unit will be a trip to the North Carolina Train Museum in Spencer, NC. Students are very excited and motivated by

this opportunity. Part of the unit is supported by a grant from the Sesquicentennial Education Committee.

TCHES COMMUNITY SERVICE

T.C. Henderson just completed its "Coins for A Cause" coin drive and raised \$533.89 for the American Red Cross. Amanda Chapman's fourth grade class won the free movie tickets and concessions by raising the most money. The school also just completed "Jump Rope for Heart" and "Hoops for Hearts," raising over \$600 for the American Heart Association. TCHES is now in the midst of the Feinstein Challenge, a food drive to help support the Transylvania County "Meals On Wheels" program. The school's goal is to collect at least 750 cans of food. They are well on the way, having collected nearly 400 cans at the time of this writing. T.C. Henderson is a little school that makes a big difference!

NC STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Two Brevard Elementary School students took prizes at the NC State Science and Engineering Fair held on March 26. Sarah Branagan won the "EPA Award for Promoting Sustainability" for her project, *Should Your Greenhouse Be Painted Green?* The EPA award is described as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Matthew Sharpsteen won first place in the "NC American Water Works Association Award" category. He was also awarded an Honorable Mention in the overall award categories. Out of eight special awards in the elementary division, BES brought home two of the eight.

Two Brevard Middle School students, Abby Williams and Katlyn Galloway, also competed at the science and engineering fair. They were awarded "Most Outstanding Project in Materials Science" for their project, *SunStopper-Convection Roof Shade*.

FCCLA STATE CONFERENCE

Rosman High School students did well at the state FCCLA conference. Congratulations to Morgan Sisk, Bethany Green and Kayla Holbrook. Morgan won a gold medal and the state trophy for her Recycle / Reuse project—a book bag made from recycled coffee bean sacks. Bethany won a silver medal and the state trophy for her Teach and Train project with the second graders at RES. Kayla won a silver medal for her Chapter Service Project Display showing her work with the second graders at RES on nutrition and wellness during National School Breakfast Week. All three girls are now eligible to compete at the National FCCLA Conference in Anaheim, CA this summer. Billie Wilson is the RHS Family and Consumer Science Teacher.

"COINS FOR A CAUSE" FINAL TALLY

The final tally from the two-week "Coins for a Cause" drive was \$5,025.05. The Red Cross of Transylvania County appreciates all of the students and staff who made this possible. Each of the winning classes per school will receive free movie tickets, popcorn and drink from the Co-Ed Cinema of Brevard. Each teacher whose class collected at least \$100 will receive a Red Cross coffee mug. The overall winner for the school system was Jayme Case's class at Brevard Middle School. In addition to the movie prize, the class will receive an ice cream party and dinner for two for the teacher.

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. Dr. McDaris reported that no new names had been added to the list. Other names will be included as they are received.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the minutes from the March 21, 2011 meeting and the personnel report for April 4, 2011 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Policy**

Dr. Bo Williams presented revisions to Policy GCN/AFC-R, *Professional Educator Evaluation Process*, as first-read information. He explained that the deadline for completing second-round teacher observations had been changed from January 15 to January 31 due to the number of weather-related delays and closures that typically occur during the month of January. Board members were in agreement that the recommended change is very practical. Approval of the revised policy will be requested at the next regular meeting.

Dr. Williams presented revisions to Policy JI, *Wireless Communication and Electronic Devices*, as first-read information. He reported that the policy was revisited due to concerns from principals that the policy was too stringent. The revisions are an attempt to control the possession and use of devices without stifling the creativity of teachers or students. Major changes include allowing middle school students to have devices with the permission of their principal; changing the mandatory suspension to a disciplinary action at the discretion of the principal; and allowing principals to approve usage during the school day for specific instructional activities. Dr. Williams reported that principals were in favor of the recommended changes. Board members had no questions or concerns. Approval of the revised policy will be requested at the next regular meeting.

7. **FY12 Budget**

The Board continued its review and discussion of the FY12 budget. Dr. McDaris gave a report from a conference he had attended in Raleigh last week. He stated that the feeling there is to expect a 9% cut. Mr. Barger gave a report from a finance officers' meeting that he had attended earlier in the day. He stated that cuts to the university system are not expected to be of the same magnitude as the cuts to K-12 education. The state health plan may no longer provide free employee-only benefits. Employees could have to pay between \$11-22 per month for basic health insurance. This essentially would equate to a pay cut for all state employees as there will be no salary raises to offset the deduction. This will be the third straight year for state employees without a cost-of-living increase. Dr. McDaris stated that by opening this door, the state would be breaking a hundred-year promise to provide free health insurance to its employees.

Chairman Whitmire reported that Senate Bill 8 (charter school legislation) is currently stuck in committee because they are beginning to realize the litigation minefield this bill could create. He stated that the collective efforts of the local boards that passed resolutions opposing the bill seem to have helped. He reported that the bill giving tax credits to home schools seems to be stalled.

Dr. McDaris reported that a bill has been proposed to move the Department of Child Nutrition from DPI to the Department of Agriculture. If approved, this could potentially cost 66 of the smaller school systems money. In addition, the potential transfer of student data from DPI to the Department of Agriculture could be a violation of federal privacy laws.

Dr. McDaris reported that a bill to allow home school and private school students to participate in high school sports without having to enroll in a single class is making the rounds. Dr. McDaris believes this would be a bad idea—there would be no accountability, no way to ensure athletic eligibility, and it would be unfair to full-time students. The NCHSAA is strongly opposed to the bill. Transylvania County Schools' dual enrollment policy, a model for many districts across the state, requires students to be enrolled for at least half a day in order to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Mr. Whitmire invited Chaz West to share his comments or concerns. Mr. West stated that he had no questions at this time and thanked the Board for the experience.

Dr. McDaris reported that there has been some talk of cutting low wealth and small schools funding. He noted there are some districts with bigger enrollments than Transylvania County that are currently receiving small schools funding based on the timing of the formula's inception. He believes that now would be a good time to push for a re-evaluation of these funding formulas.

Discussion turned to the capital outlay priority list. Mr. Barger presented four scenarios:

- Option 1 - 50% cut to technology, furniture and equipment
- Option 2 - 100% funding for technology; 50% cut to furniture and equipment
- Option 3 - 100% funding for technology, furniture and equipment
- Option 4 - 50% cut to all categories; funding only for critical/safety needs

Board members requested clarification on some items. There was discussion about using City of Brevard cameras again to investigate more drainage problems. The cameras have already revealed some blockages at the BHS stadium field. Other discussion centered around obtaining right-of-ways for alternate exits/access at RES and TCH.

The Board selected Option 2 due to the fact that technology is critical to student achievement and preparation to compete in a global economy. Members debated moving a number of other items up or down on the priority list. It was agreed to move safety fencing at RES and PFES and DRS cameras above the BHS old gym drainage. Mr. Barger will prepare a revised list for review at the next meeting.

8. Central Office 2011 Summer Schedule

Dr. McDaris presented as information the 2011 summer schedule for the central office and other administrative offices. Four-day weeks (four ten-hour days) will begin on Monday, June 20, 2011, and run through Friday, August 5, 2011. Office hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Offices will be closed on Fridays. The regular five-day schedule will resume on Monday, August 8, 2011. Dr. McDaris reported that the four-day summer schedule helps the system realize energy savings each summer. He gave a reminder that there will be no summer school this year.

9. Important Dates

Apr. 7 All-County Chorus, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
 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 12 RMHS Chorus Concert, 6:30 p.m., RHS Auditorium
 May 23 BHS Senior Projects, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., BHS
 May 23 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
 May 24 Scholars' Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS
 May 26 RHS Senior Projects, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., RHS
 May 27 BHS Spring Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
 June 6 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
 June 10 BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
 June 11 RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center
 June 20 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., TBA

10. Other Items

Dr. McDaris expressed appreciation to Board members for all that they do. He stated that he hears horror stories from his colleagues around the state about infighting and unprofessional conduct among their boards. Mrs. Petit echoed that sentiment, noting that she had recently attended a school board training workshop in Raleigh, where she talked with other attendees whose boards fight and argue all the time. She stated that Transylvania is very fortunate to have a board that works together as a team.

Vice Chairman McCoy expressed regret at Lenora Carver's resignation as the school board reporter for the *Transylvania Times*. Mrs. Carver has accepted a new position with the Transylvania Regional Hospital. Chairman Whitmire conveyed the Board's best wishes and gratitude for the quality news coverage that Mrs. Carver has provided.

Chairman Whitmire reported that military duties may delay his attendance at the April 18 meeting, as he will be driving up from Atlanta that evening.

11. Public Comment

Mr. Norm Bossert expressed appreciation for the great teachers here in Transylvania County.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 Chairman

 Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
4/04/11**

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

Licensed Personnel

Benjamin Briggs, Teacher, BMS, effective March 30, 2011
Porsha Smith, Speech-Language Pathologist, BES, effective July 1, 2011

Classified Personnel

Stephanie Breedlove, Bus Driver, TCS, effective March 25, 2011
Anne Talley, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective July 1, 2011

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

Licensed Personnel

Rick Ricketts, Interim Teacher, BMS, effective April 4, 2011, through June 16, 2011

Classified Personnel

Stephanie Breedlove, Substitute Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 5, 2011
Albert Evans, Temporary Part-time Instructional Coach, PFES, effective April 5, 2011, through May 27, 2011
Melissa Golden, Temporary Part-time Instructional Coach, PFES, effective April 5, 2011, through May 27, 2011
Jean Holland, Temporary Part-time Instructional Coach, PFES, effective April 5, 2011, through May 27, 2011
Natasha McCall, Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 5, 2011
Ted Alan Reems, Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 5, 2011
Mary Ellen Whittle, Temporary Part-time Instructional Coach, PFES, effective April 5, 2011, through May 27, 2011

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Vesta Hogsed, from Custodian, RHS, to Bus Driver, RHS, effective March 28, 2011

- 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

None

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None