

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 4, 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
6. Policy:
 - A. 3460, "Graduation Requirements"
7. Summer School Programs
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 April 4, 2016 at the Morris Education Center. Cindy Petit led in a moment of silence and Marty Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to four guests, the following individuals were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum & Instruction
Brian Weaver, Director, 6-12 Curriculum & Instruction
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator
Joe Russo, TCAE President
Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for April 4, 2016 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported that Brevard High School threw a surprise celebration for Mr. Frank Patton during its faculty meeting on March 21. Band members played "Happy Birthday" and the school presented a hand-crafted bench made by students in Mr. Case's and Mr. Sanders' classes. The bench was created with wood from the old BHS bleachers, giving

Mr. Patton a literal part of Brevard High School. Dr. McDaris and the board extended belated happy birthday wishes to Mr. Patton, who was in attendance.

Dr. McDaris thanked SRO Stroup for being in attendance.

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. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the minutes of the March 21, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. Policy

Brian Weaver presented revisions to policy 3460, Graduation Requirements. The revisions include new language regarding a differentiated diploma option that replaces the previously eliminated alternative diploma option. Mr. Weaver reported that a committee of teachers and others had developed the revised section. He explained that the differentiated diploma option is not intended as “fast-track” program. It is intended for the student who is behind academically and has a barrier to completing the normal course work toward graduation. It sets a minimum of 22 credits as compared to the normal 28, and requires recommendation by the principal, review by a district-level committee, and approval by the superintendent or designee for eligibility. The option does not eliminate any required core courses, but does allow fewer elective credits.

Mrs. Scruggs reported that after attending the committee meetings and upon further reflection, she had changed her mind on this issue. She feels that the policy as revised gives more options for the students who need them and help address the board’s concerns about at-risk students and potential dropouts. She commended everyone who worked on the policy. Mrs. Petit echoed Mrs. Scruggs’ comments, saying that Davidson River is a great school, but it is not for everyone.

Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he was pleased with the policy as revised, and requested that the board revisit the policy after the administrative regulations have been reviewed. Mr. Weaver reported that the regulations would be ready soon for the superintendent’s review and approval. There was no further discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the board unanimously waived a second reading and approved policy 3460, Graduation Requirements, as submitted.

7. Summer School Programs

Brian Weaver and Audrey Reneau gave an update on the 2016 summer school programs. An eight-day middle school program is scheduled for June 14-23. Students will receive four hours of remediation per day, and lunch will be provided. Mr. Weaver reported that an additional 60 students passed the EOGs last year as a result of attending summer school. Davidson River School will have a 20-day summer program for six hours per day. Bus transportation and lunch will be provided. Each elementary school will operate a 12-day summer school program on June 15-30. Students will receive six hours of remediation per day, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Fourth and fifth graders will be retested at the end for improved proficiency. Mrs. Reneau reported that the summer school program costs the school district approximately \$130,000 for meals, buses, and teacher salaries. The state only funds 40% of those

costs. Mr. Kiviniemi noted that this is another example of how the state pushes costs down to the local districts.

Chairman McCoy relayed praise from a parent regarding the elementary schools' handling of a specific student situation. She commended the schools for striving to put students first.

8. FY17 Budget

As requested at the last meeting, Norris Barger presented a revised list of anticipated fund 2 budget changes showing that it would cost \$124,189 to increase the local teacher supplement by half a percent (from 8.5% to 9.0%) for next year. He reported that this would increase the local current expense deficit to approximately \$210,000. Mr. Donnahoo reported that state revenues appear to be coming in below what was projected. Chairman McCoy reported that a budget committee meeting with the county manager is scheduled for Wednesday morning and gave a reminder that the board is required to submit its FY17 budget request to the commissioners by May 1. Mr. Barger reviewed changes to the capital outlay priority list. He noted that the list could change dramatically based on the amount of capital outlay allotment provided by the county.

9. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The NC General Assembly convenes the 2016 short session in three weeks. Some committee meetings are already occurring.
- David Gentry, head football coach and athletic director at Murphy High School, has drafted a letter to the NCHSAA expressing concerns about the growing inequity between traditional and non-traditional schools in high school athletic competitions. Dr. McDaris read excerpts from the letter which cited the increasing dominance of non-traditional schools in the 1A conference and the reasons behind that, chiefly that charters and other non-traditional schools are allowed to recruit players from large areas while traditional schools cannot recruit. Mr. Gentry suggests that the NCHSAA consider a multi-tiered approach that would split the 1A conference into traditional and non-traditional conferences for volleyball, soccer, cross country, basketball, track & field, baseball and softball. Dr. McDaris stated that he shares Mr. Gentry's concerns and plans to attend the annual NCHSAA meeting on May 5 in Chapel Hill.
- All TCS sports teams have seen excellent play so far this spring, with the Rosman High School baseball team currently ranked 5th in the state among 1A teams.
- Updates from Denmark indicate that the Brevard High School student exchange trip is going well. The group is scheduled to return home on Wednesday.
- Rosman High School seniors have returned from their senior trip and report having a great time. The Brevard High School and Davidson River School senior trips are coming up soon.
- Survey results on next year's magnet program at T. C. Henderson Elementary School are still coming in from BES, PFES, and RES parents. Requests for transfer will be distributed next week.

10. Important Dates

- 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
May 20	“Teacher of the Year” Luncheon, time/location to be determined

11. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

12. **Other Items**

No other items were discussed.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary