

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 7, 2014**

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. Artificial Turf
7. Local Options for NC Final Exams
8. Child Nutrition Procurement Plan
9. FY15 Budget
10. BHS Auditorium Stage Lighting Project
11. Bond Referendum
12. Superintendent's Update
13. Important Dates
14. Public Comment
15. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on April 7, 2014 at the Morris Education Center. Sue Fox led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately nine guests, the following board members, staff, and media representatives were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS: Tawny McCoy, Chair; Cindy Petit, Vice Chair, Sue Fox; Ron Kiviniemi and Mike Rogers

STAFF: Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Scott Elliott, Assistant Superintendent; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Jeremy Gibbs, Director of Human Resources; Audrey Reneau, Director of K-8 Curriculum & Instruction; Carolyn Barton, Director of Child Nutrition; Tammy Bellefeuil, Director of Student Services; Meredith Licht, TCAE; Principal Jason Ormsby; Assistant Principal John Hart; Coach Jason Lippard; and School Resource Officer Desiree Abram

MEDIA: Park Baker, *Transylvania Times*

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for April 7, 2014 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

CAMP GREENVILLE

Davidson River School recently hosted a day of activities presented by Camp Greenville staff. This incentive program for DRS students began with a session of critical thinking and team building activities. Later, small group activities that emphasize character education skills such as communication, diversity, and collaboration will be held at the school. Finally, students who have met their academic, attendance and behavior goals will participate in the end of the year incentive trip for a day of activities and zip-lining at Camp Greenville. Thanks to Camp Greenville and the Transylvania Youth Association for partnering with DRS.

NC JUNIOR SCIENCE & HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM

Congratulations to Nicole Miller, Justin Coye, Joe Roberts and Indya Thompson who represented Brevard High School at the North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium on March 17. Joe Roberts was awarded third place in the poster competition and will represent North Carolina at the national competition in Washington, DC with his project, *Screening for VOC Producing Endophytes in an Effort to Target Biofuel Producing Fungi*.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Congratulations to Cody Lupo, Rosman High School, for being selected for the 2014 session of the North Carolina Governor's School. Cody's area of study is Natural Science. The five and one-half week program begins June 15 and ends July 23 with a break from July 3-6.

DRS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Davidson River School offers after-school tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday for students to earn credits, complete credit recovery or make up time. Data from the first semester shows that 59 students participated in 92 after-school sessions totaling more than 449.5 hours and secured a total of 39 credits. Seventy percent of the students that participated earned at least one credit. Thanks to the dedicated DRS staff who worked with the students after school and the Transportation Department for helping to coordinate bus transportation for the program.

BHS TEACHER'S ARTICLE IS PUBLISHED

Brevard High School teacher Meredith Licht's recent article for the *Transylvania Times*, "[Controlled Chaos: Project Based Learning](#)," was picked up by [SmartBrief](#), a news organization that collects top news stories in a variety of industries, and published in three of its daily education briefs. It has also been chosen as an article to be featured in *Education Digest*, a journal that selects articles from various print and online publications and organizations and publishes in a format that provides teachers and administrators with educational news in a condensed format for quick reading.

NC STATE SCIENCE COMPETITION

Students in Jennifer Williams' TIME Science program at Brevard High School did very well in the NC State Science Competition:

Abby Williams and Carly Onnink: Olfactometer and GC/MS evidence for (E)-2-Hexenal as a semiochemical in the defensive secretions of the kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*:

- 3rd Place, Advanced Behavioral Science, NC Student Academy of Science

- 1st Place, Biological Science A, NC Science and Engineering Fair
- USDA Agricultural Research Service Special Award, NC Science and Engineering Fair
- Bronze Medal, US Army Award, NC Science and Engineering Fair
- Grand Award: All expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, CA](#)

Joe Roberts, Eliza Witherspoon and Lauren Tooley: Screening for VOC producing endophytes in an effort to target biofuel producing fungi:

- 3rd Place, Poster Session, NC Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- Grand Award: All expenses paid trip to represent NC at [National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Washington, DC](#)
- 2nd Place, Advanced Biological Sciences, NC Student Academy of Science
- 2nd Place, Biological Science B, NC Science and Engineering Fair
- Grand Award: All expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [International Sustainable World \(Energy, Engineering, Environment\) Project Olympiad in Houston, Texas](#)

Lianne Duscio and Garland Joseph: Antioxidant and anti-tumor effects of the berries from *Elaeagnus umbellata* and *Lindera benzoin*:

- 1st Place, Biological Sciences, NC Student Academy of Science
- Grand Award: Some expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [American Academy for the Advancement of Science Meeting in San Jose, California](#)

Justin Coye: Isolation and identification of endophytes from Chinese chestnut trees and their inhibitory effect on the blight fungus:

- Western NC Representative, NC Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- 2nd Place, Advanced Biotechnology, NC Student Academy of Science
- 1st Alternate: All expenses paid trip to represent NC in the [BioGENIUS Challenge in San Diego, CA](#)

Elizabeth Johnson, Erin Smith and Cameron McCathern: A comparison of the anticancer potential of extracts from *Trifolium pratense*, *Pueraria lobata* and *Plantago major*:

- 3rd Place, Chemistry, NC Student Academy of Science
- Bronze Medal, US Army Award, NC Science and Engineering Fair

Emma Moore and Nicole Miller: Medicinal properties of the Cherokee medicinal plants *Sanguinaria canadensis* and *Vaccinium corymbosum*:

- Western NC Representative, NC Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- 2nd Place, Biological Sciences, NC Student Academy of Science

Samuel Kicklighter and Damien LaForenza: Development and evaluation of solar collectors constructed from recycled materials:

- 3rd place, Engineering and Technology, NC Student Academy of Science
- Western NC Representative, NC Science and Engineering Fair

Benton Tynch, Samuel Farrar and Noah Graham: Evaluation of oils for the production of biodiesel:

- Western NC Representative, NC Student Academy of Science
- Western NC Representative, NC Science and Engineering Fair

Cade Brinkley: Basis for bidirectional transmission of data and energy between inductive coils:

- Western NC Representative, NC Science and Engineering Fair

Indya Thompson: Comparison of Methods Used To Prepare Freshwater Diatoms For Identification Using Optical Microscopy:

- Western NC Representative, NC Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

MASONRY COMPETITION

Over Spring Break, fifteen BHS students competed in the Land of Sky Masonry Competition. Congratulations to the following top ten winners in Masonry I:

First Place - Isaac Rogers
Fourth Place - Colby Thompson
Fifth Place - Michael Najera
Tenth Place - Justin Bryant

FBLA COMPETITION

The following BHS students were top ten winners in the recent FBLA competition:

Andy McCall - Agribusiness
Grace Williams - Business Procedures
John Harris - Intro to Parliamentary procedure
Meredith Barton - Public Speaking I

RHS SENIOR SIGNS HISTORIC LETTER OF INTENT

Rosman High School senior, Candace Petit, has signed to play in the first-ever lacrosse program at North Greenville University next year. Candace is a top volleyball and basketball player at RHS.

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. FOX, the minutes from the March 17, 2014 meeting and the personnel report for April 7, 2014 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. Artificial Turf

At the March 17 meeting, the Board studied costs and heard from a number of supporters of blue turf for the Brevard High stadium. It has since been learned that Boise State University will not grant permission for a blue field. Norris Barger reviewed

costs for the project. Funding required from the Board for a green turf playing field with blue end zones would be \$119,875. An additional requirement of \$5,000 for new fence posts, visitor ramp and platform, and stair relocation to the interior of bleachers would bring the total commitment to \$124,875. Mr. Barger proposed that the \$8,900 in additional needs (tennis court fencing, science wing fencing and new scoreboard) be funded with donations. Mr. Kiviniemi asked about the cost to put blue turf along the sidelines. Mr. Barger estimated that would cost another \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Chairman McCoy shared Mr. Frank Patton's vision that the new field would be the first of many exciting developments for the county. She expressed the Board's thanks to the Pattons, everyone who spoke about the field, and for all that the community was willing to do in support of the project. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously approved a budget of \$124,875 to fund the artificial turf project for Brevard High School. Mr. Barger reported that a live webcam would be set up to allow viewers to watch the field's progress via the BHS website.

7. Local Options for NC Final Exams

Dr. Scott Elliott followed up on an option that would give local school districts the flexibility to use school-wide growth data to determine Standard 6 ratings for specific types of teachers. Dr. Elliott reported that after talking with teachers, it was decided that the stakes were too high for individual teachers to accept school-wide growth data for their individual evaluations; therefore, the option would not be used. It is hoped that the State Board will reconsider the volume of state tests and the way that teachers are evaluated using those tests.

Dr. Elliott gave an update on the 25% mandate and teacher contracts. In March, the central office staff established pool(s) of eligible teachers with rankings according to the approved selection methodology. Opt-in/out notification letters were sent to all eligible teachers and meetings were held with each school staff to provide information and answer questions. Opt-in/out letters are due to school principals on April 14. During April 15-25, central office staff will determine the 25% of eligible teachers based on indicated intent to opt-in to the selection process. On April 28, teachers selected for contract offers will be notified in writing of their inclusion in the list of teachers to be sent to the Board of Education for approval. The Board will vote to extend contracts to selected teachers on May 5. Dr. Elliott reported that many teachers are struggling with the decision to accept or not accept the contract offer and it has become the divisive issue that it was predicted to be. Dr. Elliott reported that teachers are appreciative of the Board's resolution opposing the 25% mandate and for allowing them the time to make this important decision without feeling rushed.

8. Child Nutrition Procurement Plan

Child Nutrition Director Carolyn Barton presented a procurement plan and procedures for the 2014-2015 school year. She reported that the procurement plan is a new governmental requirement that sets forth in writing the method by which the Child Nutrition (CN) department solicits bids for food, supplies and services needed for the operation of its child feeding programs and regulations applicable to the procurement process. Mrs. Barton reported that CN programs across the state and the nation are losing money. The federal government reimburses school lunch programs at \$3.01 per plate while the actual cost per plate is \$3.36, resulting in a loss of 35 cents for every meal. The costs of food, gas, employee benefits, etc., have increased significantly since 2007, particularly in the western region. Food costs alone at the institutional level have increased by 11.4%. At the same time, a depressed local economy has resulted in very

high free and reduced lunch numbers, and less disposable income for families means fewer supplemental sales to make up the difference. Even districts that have experimented with privatization of child nutrition programs have not fared any better financially as they must adhere to the same federal requirements as all others. New dietary guidelines for next year will have a further impact on costs by requiring more whole grains and fresh fruit.

The county commissioners provide \$100,000 in recurring local funding in order to help with operational costs for the CN program. Universal breakfast and summer feeding help bring in some revenue. Mrs. Barton stated that she hopes to obtain additional federal funding to bridge the gap, but any federal increase typically takes 1-2 years to take effect. In the meantime, the new dietary guidelines could increase costs next year by \$50,000 to \$100,000. Mrs. Barton projected that the Child Nutrition program would need between \$250,000 and \$300,000 over and above what it already receives to break even. Raising lunch prices by 25 cents would not raise enough revenue to make up the difference. She predicted that if the federal government does not provide help soon, it eventually may be necessary to restructure the Child Nutrition program altogether. Mr. Rogers recommended that that a resolution outlining these concerns be drafted and sent to Representative Meadows and other elected officials. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, the Transylvania County Schools Child Nutrition procurement plan for 2014-2015 was unanimously approved as presented.

9. FY15 Budget

Norris Barger presented the latest budget information and draft documents. He reported that planning allotments have been received. The latest projections for local funding needs (see below) would call for a 7.9% increase in county appropriation. He noted a recommendation from Chairman McCoy for \$545,361 to partially restore appropriated fund balance.

| | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1* | Health insurance increase (\$5,332 to \$5,435) state mandate | \$11,124 |
| 2* | Retirement rate increase (14.69% to 14.91%) | 9,252 |
| 3* | 3% COLA for all employees | 127,579 |
| 4 | Teacher supplement from 8.0% to 8.5% | 86,706 |
| 5 | State cuts not absorbed | ? |
| 6 | Appropriated fund balance (partially restore previous cuts) | <u>545,361</u> |
| | | \$780,022 |
| | Necessary increase in county appropriation | 7.9% |
| | *mandated | |

Mr. Kiviniemi requested a refresher on budget codes. Mr. Barger stated that he would provide a detailed budget code guide to all members. Mr. Kiviniemi asked about funding for instructional supplies. Mr. Barger reported that the planning allotments for FY15 show a slight increase. Mr. Barger reported that there is talk of a 3% cost of living increase for employees; however, it is not known how the state would pay for it. Some state agencies are being asked to freeze discretionary spending from now until end of year due to social service and health service costs. The Board agreed with Chairman McCoy's recommendation for an additional to offset appropriated fund balance. Members agreed that the local request should include an increase for Child Nutrition as well. Other potential needs may include one or more social studies positions due to legislative action to expand U.S. History. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he continues to be

concerned about the level of AIG funding and would like to see this addressed in this or future budgets.

Mr. Rogers asked about previous increases in support and development of approximately \$400,000. Dr. McDaris and Mr. Barger provided a breakdown showing that approximately \$300,000 of that increase was from state fuel allotments. Another \$100,000 was due to increased transportation costs. Dr. McDaris explained that transportation funds may not be used for any other purpose or to supplant local funds. Mr. Rogers requested a report on increased expenditures of \$2.3 million that have occurred over the last two years. Dr. McDaris provided a report tracking expenditures from FY05 to the current year. He reported that the Board is spending less now in local expenditures than in FY09. Mr. Barger reported that the majority of those \$2.3 million expenditures occurred due to the state teacher pay raise, health insurance increases, retirement contribution increases, increases in charter school funding, and Title I increase, all of which were state or federal mandates. Mr. Barger will send a copy of the report to board members.

Mrs. Petit commended the administration for the job they have done to preserve needed positions, especially in not laying off teacher assistants as some systems have done. Mr. Kiviniemi, Mrs. Fox and Mrs. McCoy concurred. Chairman McCoy gave a reminder that the Board continues to struggle with the large budget hole that the state created several years ago and would face significant state cuts again this year.

The Board reviewed the capital outlay priority list. Mr. Barger reported that list is based on an assumption of \$1.6 million in county appropriation and possible bond funds. He noted that if the bond does not take place, the appropriation would need to be increased significantly to address ongoing facility needs. The Board discussed that they would like to finalize the budget FY15 requests at the next meeting on April 21.

10. BHS Auditorium Stage Lighting Project

Pursuant to Board Policy DJ-R, Norris Barger requested approval of a stage lighting project in the BHS auditorium to be paid for solely from Brevard High School funds. The project includes replacement of the current antiquated stage lighting system with a new and improved system, replacement/repositioning/addition of certain stage curtains, and replacement of existing stage lighting controls with new and improved controls. Mr. Barger reported that the project has been on the Board's master plan for several years. With the receipt of a generous \$20,000 donation from a former student, Brevard High School proposes to use funds already raised by the drama department plus the donation to complete the project. No appropriated funds would be used for the project. Additional electrical work will be required that will also be funded solely through drama department funds. Bids have been received from two vendors, one of which was for a project much larger in scope. Mr. Barger and Dr. McDaris recommended that the Board approve the project and the low bid. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously approved the Brevard High School auditorium stage lighting project and a \$62,342 bid from MainStage Theatrical Supply as submitted.

11. Bond Referendum

Norris Barger reported that he has received a number of inquiries from firms interested in submitting proposals for a comprehensive facilities study for the Transylvania County Schools. He reported that at least 12 companies from all over the state have responded to the Requests for Proposals ads, postings, and blog. Based on the inquiries, Mr.

Barger expects to receive between 8 and 10 proposals. The deadline for submissions is April 17.

12. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave a reminder of the possible annexation of a portion of the Brevard High School property by the City of Brevard in order to facilitate the Community Land Trust project and an extension of the city bike/walking path.

Dr. McDaris read an excerpt from, "The Ever Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools," by Jamie Vollner that outlined all the things that have been added to the public school curriculum over the years. He remarked that our teachers do a fantastic job even as they are asked to do more and more every year.

13. Important Dates

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|-----------|---|
| Apr. 8 | Kindergarten Registration, 8:30 am-2:30 pm, BES, PFES, RES, TCH |
| Apr. 9 | Early Dismissal |
| Apr. 10 | Education Forum, 6:30 p.m., Rogow Room |
| Apr. 10 | Kindergarten Registration, 8:30 am-2:30 pm and 3:30-5:30 pm; BES, PFES, RES, TCH |
| Apr. 18 | Holiday - Good Friday |
| Apr. 21 | Make-up day for Jan. 30 |
| Apr. 21 | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC |
| May 1 | TCAEOP Awards Banquet, 5:00 p.m., BMS Media Center |
| May 5 | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC |
| May 6 | NCSBA Video: Open Meetings Law, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. |
| May 6 | TCSEF "Taste of Transylvania," 6:00 p.m., Brevard Lumber Yard |
| May 7-8 | NCSBA School Law Conference, Raleigh |
| May 9, 10 | BHS Musical, "Les Miserables," 7:30 p.m., BHS Auditorium |
| May 15 | Scholars Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS Auditorium |
| May 19 | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC |
| May 29 | TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room |
| June 2 | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC |
| June 4 | DRS Graduation, 11:00 a.m., DRS Lawn |
| June 6 | BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center |
| June 7 | RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center |
| June 16 | REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC |

DAYS MISSED

1. January 6, 2014 - made up on January 10
2. January 29, 2014 - made up on February 17
3. January 30, 2014 - to be made up on April 21
4. January 31, 2014 - to be made up on June 2
5. February 11, 2014 - to be made up on June 3
6. February 12, 2014 - to be made up on June 4
7. February 13, 2014 - *absorbed*
8. February 14, 2014 - *absorbed*

14. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

15. Other Items

No other items were discussed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

DRAFT

**PERSONNEL REPORT
April 7, 2014**

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

Licensed Personnel

Kathy Bailey, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2014
Coleen Byrd, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2014
Sally Germanaro, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2014
Amanda Heinitsh, Teacher, PFES, effective June 10, 2014
Trudy Wetli, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2014

Classified Personnel

Jerry Fletcher, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective May 31, 2014

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Larry Miller, Substitute Bus Driver, TCS, effective April 8, 2014
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator, MEC, effective April 8, 2014
Elizabeth Wilkinson, Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective April 8, 2014

- 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

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Lisa Medley
Andrew West

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None