

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 15, 2024**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Personnel Report
5. CTE Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment 2024-2026
6. Pre-K Program
7. GEAR UP Grant
8. Budget Update
9. Important Dates
10. Other Items
11. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on April 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chairman Jackson led in a moment of silence and Tanya Dalton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 18 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kimsey Jackson, Chair
Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair
Tawny McCoy
Bryan O'Neill
Chris Wiener (joined late)

STAFF:

Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent/HR
Kerry Putnam, Director, Facilities; CTE
Audrey Reneau, Director, Federal Programs
Gabi Juba, Chief Finance Officer
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
David Wright, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chris Campbell, Campbell Shatley

MEDIA:

Laura Denon, Transylvania Times
Dan DeWitt, Brevard NewsBeat

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. MR. O'NEILL, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting agenda for April 15, 2024 was unanimously approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
Chairman Jackson reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Maureen Keate – I am here to comment on the recent proposed school budget, specifically as it relates to PreK funding. Although many people say this, it is not a given that PreK improves student achievement over the long run. There are a variety of reasons that most states do not require PreK, North Carolina being one of them. There are no empirical studies showing that PreK has any long-term benefits to the educational achievement of these students as compared

to control groups. However, there are numerous studies that find PreK has no beneficial impact on long-term student achievement. A 2012 study found that many of the positive impacts of its own HeadStart program had faded by the end of first grade, and by the third grade there were no significant positive impacts on math skills, pre-writing, promotion or teachers' reports of children's school accomplishments. A 2018 Brookings Institute study states that under the most favorable scenario, increasing PreK enrollment has no influence on test scores. It also states that unabashed enthusiasts for increasing investments in state PreK need to confront the evidence that it does not enhance student achievement meaningfully if at all. A 2020 Manhattan Institute study finds that the most representative and rigorous research on early childhood intervention does not suggest that initial investment would yield great benefits. Indeed, it provides a good reason to believe that the opposite is true. Additional investment may come at a substantial cost to the next generation. In fact, a study published in 2022 by the NIH states that children randomly assigned to attend PreK had lower state achievement test scores in third through sixth grades than in control groups. Most importantly, from the board of education's standpoint, there is an obligation to demonstrate the link between taxpayer funded PreK and any long-term increased student achievement of these children as compared to a control group. Especially because PreK funding is not mandated by the State of NC. It will call upon all Transylvania County taxpayers to fund what some have described as daycare, childcare, means of drawing women's' participation in the labor force, and supporting family income attainment. These are not in the purview of the Transylvania County Schools. Nor should all the taxpayers be forced to subsidize these wants. Secondly, when asked by the commissioners about the availability of personnel and facilities to support the number of children in and waiting for these programs, the answer was that these have not been found up to now, but if the commissioners approve the funding, then we'll look into finding the facilities and personnel. This is backwards and should be a moot point given that the Transylvania County taxpayers will be required to fund many infrastructure projects in the near future.

Yesica Miranda – I am the Executive Director of El Centro in Brevard. I am here to talk on behalf of the Hispanic and ML students on an urgent issue that affects Brevard High School. Our multilingual students are not receiving the support that they desperately need. These students find themselves at a significant disadvantage, not by any fault of their own, but because our system has not yet risen to meet their unique challenges. Educational equity is not just a goal, it is a necessity to ensure that every student has the tools, resources and supports that they need to succeed regardless of background. Yet as we speak, numerous ML students are walking the halls of BHS feeling isolated, misunderstood, and unsupported. Today I had to go to BHS and translate for a student who wanted to drop out. When I tried to convince her to stay in school, she said to me, "Why would I stay? If I go into a class where I don't have a ML teacher to support me, and I come to school every day and I'm lost because I don't have anyone that I can talk to?" This is an issue that's been going on for a while. I don't know if there is no funding or what is going on. Our last ML teacher at Brevard High School resigned about a month ago. When I went on the webpage, that job is not posted. I know it's almost the end of the school year, but that should be something that happens immediately after an ML teacher resigns. We have a lot of kids. This should be filled immediately. Almost once a month we have someone going to different schools in Transylvania County enrolling their student who does not speak the language. We need to do something about it. These kids matter. I have about four students that came to me and told me they are going to be dropping out at the end of the school year. When I asked them why they gave me the same answer that student today gave me, "Why would I go to school if I feel that I'm not being educated? If I'm not understanding what they are teaching? If they are giving me papers that I do not understand?" We need to do something about it. It's time. I don't want those four kids to drop out. I tried to convince them to stay, but I see what they are going through. I see the barriers. We are failing them. It has been a month. They have no one there. It's not fair.

Jeff Brewer – I thought it would be of value regarding the bond referendum to do a quick review of the timeline. This comes from the board of education meeting minutes over the last several years: On November 6, 2018, voters approved the bond referendum. Six informational sessions at the high schools and six board of education work sessions open to the public were held

between November 2017 and June 2020 to decide on the bond and the scope of the work at each school. I'll be honest, I had forgotten about those 12 meetings that ended in June 2020. Architect and construction manager at-risk contracts and project budgets were approved by the county commissioners on January 13, 2020. In March 2020, all North Carolina public schools closed for in-person instruction due to COVID. Due to pandemic-related price increases and supply chain issues, construction bids exceeded funds available to perform the full scope of work. The architect and construction manager proposed alternatives. On January 24, 2022, the board of education approved alternative scope Option 1 and voted to approve contract amendments. At the time Option 1 was proposed, the project architect proposed cost increases of at least 35% between December 2020 and December 2022. At a joint meeting between the two boards on January 31, 2022, Mr. Kiviniemi said the board of education is strongly committed to Option 1 at both schools and asked for a re-vote of the commissioners. On June 20, 2022, the county commissioners approved funding based on the full scope of Option 1. On August 2, 2022, Brian Walker, Vannoy Construction, reported that price escalations have not slowed down and supply chain lead times are getting worse. Pricing cannot be guaranteed more than a week out. Chairman McCoy reported that there had been some discussion about forming a joint facilities committee to move forward on the bond projects and other long-term facility needs. Finally, September 19, 2022, the school board authorized the superintendent to work with the Transylvania County manager to designate an advisory group. At a joint meeting on March 4, 2024, the education capital work group presented its comprehensive 10-year plan to repair Transylvania County Schools. I thought there was some benefit in going through that timeline so we actually know the facts of what happened.

David Borman – Last fall when we were talking about the parents' bill of rights, and specifically policy 3210 and parent challenges to materials in the schools, comment from the public centered around a few issues. One was that the public ought to be notified if curriculum was being challenged or if materials in libraries were being challenged. The second was that we ought to accommodate teachers better for what burden might come upon them. And the third was that we ought to make sure that the process works so that it doesn't come back up again—meaning that you can't just serially challenge a book. In the end the board resolved on a kind of compromise. The policy was fine; the procedure maybe could use some tweaking if the situation warranted. In October when this discussion happened, there had been two challenges to materials in six years. In the last five weeks that has nearly tripled. This is exactly what people who wanted advocacy from you had asked you to do. What's happening right now is that extremists in our community are following a national political playbook. They are challenging books *en masse* because they can. And we are left to pick up the pieces. We are seeing the first part of this, and I do not think our schools need to be part of a national political mess. I think we need to stand up and we need to figure out a way to change the procedure to be right for the teacher and the librarians here. What you are seeing, five books challenged in five weeks, is something that has happened in states all across the country. Next, you will probably see the next part of the playbook, which is to read parts of the book aloud to you, in public, as some sort of "shock" factor. It might happen sometime soon, it might happen sometime later. I think that what we need to do now is ask Dr. Fletcher and her staff to really look at the procedure that's involved with a parent challenge and to seriously ask questions of the staff that regarding how this can work so that we are not overburdening hardworking librarians and hardworking teachers in what they do every day.

Jami Reese – It is terribly disappointing to be standing here having to address this tonight. I had hoped for better. I don't know who appoints the Media and Technology Advisory Committee as it is vaguely written in your policy, but I'm assuming it's you guys. It's a matter of public record who sits on public committees, so we the parents are requesting that information to ensure fairer representation. I will be reading excerpts to you from a book that that committee deemed appropriate for school shelves. I think it's interesting that you've added a little caveat that said no sexually explicit content could be read from here tonight. So, I will try not to do that. But I want you to know that this content is available to 10, 11, 12 year-olds on the shelves of the library in this county. This book has been removed from less conservative counties in this state and the country. So, it's a pretty darn shame that you guys can't do better than this. And I'd like for you to appreciate the hypocrisy of the comment that Mr. Kimsey said tonight knowing full well what

my intentions were and how much I have struggled with the fact that I do not say these words. I don't speak like this. I think it is bonkers that I'm having to do this. And I will be replacing some of these words with the word "bonkers," because that's what this is:

"Are you going to eat her bonkers? Yeah, Earl, I'm going to eat her bonkers. Heh, yeah, do you even know how to eat bonkers? Not really. Papa Gaines never sat you down, said, Son one day you're going to have to eat the bonkers. No, but he did teach me how to eat a butthole. God bless that man. Yep, I would teach you some bonkers-eating technique but it's a little complicated. Son, I don't have time for that. I got like twenty bonkers over here that I need to eat. I'm on a bonkers-eating deadline. You've got twenty vaginas all lined up in a row? Aw, well what the bonkers. What the bonkers. No one's talking about vaginas. Greg, what the hell is wrong with you? Man, that's nasty. I'm talking about bonkers. I got a little honey mustard over here, a little Heinz 57, and a whole lotta bonkers."

This is from *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*. This book has the a-word 57 times, the b-word 8 times---*Chairman Jackson announced that Mrs. Reese's time was up. She continued speaking over Mr. Jackson. Chairman Jackson directed Mrs. Reese her to leave the podium or be escorted out. She continued speaking. Chairman Jackson called for the School Resource Officer to remove Mrs. Reese.*

Jayne Mallwitz – The first four words of Article 9, Section 1 of the North Carolina Constitution covering education are religion, morality and knowledge. I struggle to understand how exposing children to graphic, explicit sexual content aligns with the North Carolina Constitution. There is a movement to use sex education for social change to fundamentally change the American society. Exposure to explicit sexual content in children is part of the [Sikhist?] agenda which promotes CSE and the thinking that children are fully sexual beings. In fact, it's part of the [Sikhist?] logo. Sex ed for social change. There are numerous resources that support my statement such as social reproduction theory, the Kinsey Institute, the children of Table 34, experiments placing foster children with pedophiles, to name just a few. This has absolutely nothing to do with banning books, but rather with providing children with age-appropriate materials. Just as there are age restrictions on a number of activities and movies, there should be age restrictions for books having explicit sexual content. From personal experience, I know how dangerous and harmful it is to expose children to explicit sexual content. We can all agree, regardless of political affiliation, that children should not be sexualized. I thank you for your support in protecting the innocence of childhood.

David Trowbridge – The Inaugural Ghost Wrestling Challenge was held at BHS on April 13 to great success. There were 405 wrestlers competing during 1,812 matches from 81 wrestling clubs across the Southeast. Estimates of 1,225 attendees including parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends were all cheering on their favorite wrestlers. Transylvania County wrestlers performed exceptionally well with 5 first place finishes, 6 second place finishes, and 6 third place finishes, so 17 trophies or medals went to Transylvania County wrestlers. Remarkable results, and congratulations to the boys and ladies for competing. There were 7 state champions wrestling for North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and South Carolina. Of the 81 wrestling clubs competing in 96 weight classes in different divisions, there were 225 medals and trophies awarded to wrestlers from Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The event created significant economic impact for our restaurants, hotels, gas stations, retail shops and grocery stores in downtown Brevard and throughout Transylvania County. A big thank-you to the board of education members, the mayor, and the county commissioners who were able to attend and those who helped to publicize this largest ever school-age sporting event ever held in Transylvania County. Thank you to the honorary coaches, Mayor Maureen; commissioners Jason and Emmett; board of education members Tanya, Chris, and Tawny; and board of education candidates Ricky, Greg, Ruth, and Dave. Thank you very much for coming and also to Diane Ayers who was our sports announcer. We appreciate that she knew how to speak into the microphone so that everybody could hear. The head lunatic and director is here, David Owen, the founder of the Ghost Wrestling Club. We

want to thank him for the hours and hours of work that he put in and the probably 3,000 questions that he had during the event. You started this adventure about four months ago. Good to hear that you still have your job and you are still married. Lastly, my personal thanks to Jackson and Colt who did the embarrassing job of putting on the sumo suits and doing the death match which is now all over TikTok. Fellas, you can collect that case of beer I owe you as soon as you turn 21.

Dave Owen – I wanted to give you a list of the in-county businesses that sponsored us: Whiskey Throttle Customs, Suburban Propane, McNeely's Store & Rental, Theron McCall Grading Service, Rootpass Welding, Randy Owen Moving Services, Blue Devils Club, Sav-Mor Grocery Store, Ingles, Jenny's Doughnut Bus, Water Oak Dental, O.P. Taylor's, White Squirrel Shoppe, and Blue Ridge Bakery. I also want to thank the athletic directors and principals who allowed us to use the facilities and wrestling mats. Thank you to Josh Galloway, Mick Galloway, Mr. Ormsby, and Ms. McCall. Our coaches who volunteer all their time to make this happen: Chad Laney, Nathan Turner, Mark Bumgarner, Jeff Rice, James Diaz, Corey Jones, Justin Maxwell, Tristan Praytor, Chad Banner and myself. This was a huge thing, and you have to understand what it means to wrestling families and their kids who drove six hours or so to get their chance to win at a one-day tournament. We will strive to schedule another event in the fall, but if not, we will do another one next year. *He presented medals to honorary coaches Tawny McCoy and Tanya Dalton.* We probably gave away between \$7,000-\$8,000 in awards to make sure it would be a success. Our next practice will be Thursday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the BHS old gym.

Susan Lefler – On March 18, school board member Chris Wiener read a long quote attributed to Patrick Henry as an invitation to a moment of silence. Given that the room was filled with Transylvania County school students being honored for their achievements in sport, music and academics, it seemed a strange choice to make. Henry made the 1775 speech urging Virginia to send troops for the Revolutionary War effort. No notes of the speech were made at the time. Years later, the final phrase was recalled, "Give me liberty or give me death." Fortunately for the future of our country, most of the founders recognized that risking their lives and the lives of other colonists in the effort to break free from the colonial domination of England and its powerful army had to be about something much more lasting and profound than death. We have their words recorded in our Declaration of Independence: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* I hope that the students present on March 18 were able to recall those words during their moment of silence. Fortunately, it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which ends "with liberty and justice for all." This country began with a declaration of the right of every human being to be free, to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. Many people who lived in our fledgling nation at the time—women, indigenous people, enslaved people—did not have those rights. But our Constitution included the possibility for amendments, which corrected some of that injustice. We nearly lost our democracy when the Southern states seceded from the Union, rather than risk being forced to free their slaves and suffer the economic consequences. But the Union survived, and it has survived because of the give and take necessary to make room for a huge variety of people and their choices. It has survived because a majority of Americans have continued to strive toward a more perfect union, and toward figuring out how we can work together for our common good. The words of the founders of our Republic speak strongly about how to continue to grow stronger as a democracy. Public education, a free press, freedom of religion, and free public libraries were among the elements that people like Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Madison considered absolutely necessities in addition to unbiased courts and the rule of law. I hope we will always choose to emphasize for our young people the hope and compassion necessary for us to enjoy both our liberty and our life together.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. Fletcher recognized the student artwork from Brevard Middle School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer David Wright for securing the meeting. She shared the following good news:

Community Meetings with Dr. Fletcher

Superintendent Fletcher has begun hosting community “chat” meetings in each school community beginning this month. On April 9 she met at T.C. Henderson and on April 11 she met at Pisgah Forest Elementary. Parents and community members are invited to come and chat with Dr. Fletcher when she visits their child’s school.

2024 STEAM Expo on April 29

Join us for an evening of fun and discovery and see what students in grades PK-12 are learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics at the 2024 TCS STEAM Expo on Monday, April 29, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Transylvania County Parks and Recreation Activity Center, located at 1078 Ecusta Road, Brevard. The STEAM Expo is part of the North Carolina Science Festival. We are very excited to have all of our schools participating in the Expo. This is wonderful opportunity for the community to come out, interact, and experience hands-on activities for all ages.

BHS Archery & Shooting Team

Congratulations to Brevard High Senior Peyton Bentley for signing a scholarship to Montreat College on their Clay Target Team. Also, a big shout-out to the BHS Shooting & Archery Team, led by Colby Guice. The North Carolina Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission awarded them a GO Grant of \$19,266 for new targets and archery/shooting equipment.

RHS FBLA State Competition

Congratulations to the members of the Rosman High School FBLA team who competed in the NC State Future Business Leaders of America Conference in Greensboro. Two of the students placed in the top ten in the entire state in their competition, Introduction to Event Planning.

STEM Summer Camp Open to Rising 7, 8, & 9th Graders

Transylvania County Schools is hosting a free STEM summer camp for rising seventh, eighth, and ninth graders during the weeks of June 17-20 and June 24-27 from 8am-2pm at Brevard High School. Registration is available via the link on our website.

Apprenticeship Program Open to Seniors at BHS, DRS, and RHS

High school students can gain experience and jobs in manufacturing through the Work Local Apprenticeship Program at Blue Ridge Community College. Eligible high school graduates and adult learners can earn while they learn in the classroom and on the job. The apprenticeship program is a collaborative effort of Work Local Transylvania, Transylvania County Schools, Homeschool Association, Blue Ridge Community College, the Transylvania Economic Alliance, and local industries working together to support the workforce of today and tomorrow. Application information is listed below. The application deadline is Friday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m. For more information visit blueridge.edu/programs-courses/apprenticeships/work-local-transylvania/.

- Applicants must be at least 18 years old by August 19, 2024
- Applicants must be a graduating high school senior, high school graduate, or have obtained a GED
- Applicants must provide a copy of their high school transcript
- Applicants may be subject to background, credit, or DMV checks per the employer
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional documents or references as applicable

TCSEF Experiential Learning Scholarship Open to TCS High School Students

The Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation (TCSEF) Experiential Learning Scholarship is a \$1700 scholarship open to any DRS, BHS, or RHS student to attend an experiential learning opportunity of their choice. Formerly the Washington DC Close Up Scholarship, this scholarship has been expanded to include any learning opportunity that allows a high school student in TCS to explore a career or field of study that they are interested in. The possibilities are endless! Visit tcsef.org/programs/scholarships/ to apply.

4. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the personnel report for April 15, 2024 was approved by unanimous consent (see attached).

5. CTE Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment

Director Kerry Putman presented the Career and Technical Education Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 years as first-read information. He reported that TCS students earned 1,884 individual credentials in 2022-2023 which ranks our district 6th in the state. The TCS goal is to increase the number of CTE concentrators that have obtained a quality recognized credential upon graduation by 0.5% for the next two years. With the workforce and labor market diversifying, students who graduate with an industry-recognized credential are more employable in the current economy.

Chris Wiener joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Putnam discussed expanding CTE offerings into HVAC and electrical in the future. Mrs. McCoy commended the impressive number of credentials earned by our students. Mr. Putnam reported that we currently have six TCS applicants for the apprenticeship program at BRCC. He will request board approval of the two-year CTE Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment at the May 6 meeting.

6. Pre-K Program

Dr. Lisa Fletcher requested direction from the board regarding whether to keep the number of PK classrooms at 6 or reduce the number to 4. The board awaits a decision from the county commission regarding its request to increase funding to support 9 classrooms. Dr. Fletcher also requested direction from the board on the level of private pay for next year in order to offset some of the annual net loss in operating costs. Private pay is currently \$600 per month.

Director Audrey Reneau gave a summary of the specialized certification requirements for PK teachers and teacher assistants, space requirements, and other federally mandated requirements for PK classrooms.

Chairman Jackson reported that the board had previously used ESSER funds to increase the number of PK classrooms from 4 to 6. Now the ESSER funds have expired. There is a huge need for childcare (daycare and preschool) in our county. Our county's poverty rate is high. Research shows many positives in later years for PK students and the community. Kindergarten teachers can see a difference in students entering kindergarten who have attended PK versus those who have not. Mr. O'Neill asked about space and personnel. Dr. Fletcher reported that we currently have the staff to maintain four or six PK classrooms. If we return to four, we would be able to absorb the other two positions—it would not be a loss of employment for anyone. There is a

concern about recruiting for additional positions due to the specialized certification requirements. There was considerable discussion and questions that were addressed by Mrs. Reneau and Dr. Fletcher.

Mr. Wiener expressed strong support of the PK program and the benefits it provides to young children, single mothers, and families living below the poverty line. He stated that no child should be punished for a situation not of their making. Calling Pre-K a “gamechanger” for building a quality education, he expressed confidence that the board could get enough resources for 8 classrooms. He expressed concerns about “handing kids over to the state for education any younger than we already do and the whole slew of elements that comes with earlier opportunities for indoctrination.” He added that as a Christian, he would love to see churches step up and create more preschools and daycares. He feels that the board should shoot for the moon, ask for nine classrooms, get eight, staff them, and enroll the kids.

Mrs. McCoy stated that she supports PK, but she cannot support the loss from fund balance that would be borne by adding more PK classrooms, especially with all of the district’s other needs. She also cannot support adding to a program that already operates at a loss. Vice Chairman Dalton seconded Mrs. McCoy’s comments.

Chairman Jackson asked if there is enough childcare available in the county for everyone who wants it. Director Reneau reported there is not. Costs among the various options vary widely and the types of education provided vary widely as well. The TCS PreK program is the most cost-effective alternative available.

Members discussed if it would be possible to find space for three more PK classrooms. Dr. Fletcher and Mrs. Reneau discussed options. All would involve spending money and displacing current staff or students or both. Mr. O’Neill stated that this is a definite need for kids and he is in support of fulfilling this need.

Mrs. McCoy stated that the board has no guarantee of receiving any additional funding. Even if the board increases private pay to \$1100, the program would not be self-sufficient. By committing to extra PK classrooms, the board will have set itself up to take money out of fund balance over the next several years. The board has other needs to fund. She thinks it is too much and too big a deficit to support.

Mrs. Dalton asked what increasing private pay to \$1100 would mean specifically. Director Reneau explained that income from private pay and other funding streams (e.g., NC PreK) is not sufficient to cover salaries and operating costs. The program still operates in the red. She predicted that increasing private pay to \$1100 could cause some parents to drop out. Mr. O’Neill asked Ms. Juba to review funding for charter schools and SROs.

MR. WIENER MADE A MOTION to approve nine Pre-K classrooms. The motion died for lack of a second. Dr. Fletcher recommended that the board commit to four PreK classrooms since we are losing the ESSER funding. ON A MOTION BY O’NEILL, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board unanimously committed to at least four PreK classrooms on a roll call vote.

ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MR. O’NEILL, the board voted 4:1 to increase private pay for the Transylvania County Schools PreK program from \$600

per month to \$750 per month effective with the 2024-2025 school year (FOR: Dalton, Jackson, McCoy, O'Neill; AGAINST: Wiener).

7. GEAR UP Grant

Dr. Lisa Fletcher requested authorization to apply for an FY24 GEAR UP grant to equip students with the college and career readiness skills to help them succeed once they graduate high school. GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded program designed to increase families' and students' knowledge and awareness of postsecondary opportunities by providing direct access to college campus visits, summer programs, virtual tutoring, STEM camps, professional development for educators, family and community engagement programs (including support for multilingual learners and their families), student leadership programs, ACT and other academic test preparation services), etc. If funded, the grant would be administered for a minimum of seven years from 2024 to 2031 in Brevard Middle, Rosman Middle, Brevard High, and Rosman High. Dr. Fletcher reported that there would be a school system match and the match could be in-kind. The in-kind contribution could be the salaries of staff who work on the program. Board members were supportive of the potential benefits of the GEAR UP program. ON A MOTION BY MR. O'NEILL, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board unanimously authorized the superintendent to apply for an FY24 GEAR UP grant.

8. Budget Update

Finance Officer Gabi Juba gave a follow-up response to a question that was raised at the April 8 board of commissioners' meeting. A question was asked about the school system requesting money from the county in FY21-22 to "make payroll for a month." Ms. Juba reported the following:

- In February 2022, the board of education asked the county commissioners to match the state mandated raises for locally funded staff that came out late that school year and SRO increases.
- The county had set aside \$104,543 on July 1, 2021 in anticipation of state raises coming out later in the year, and the school system received \$104,543 as an additional allotment. This amount did not fully cover the SRO increases and state mandated raises.
- The email chain to document this can be provided.

Ms. Juba gave a breakdown of the deficits in small county money received versus the amounts needed over the last two years:

Fiscal Year	Amount needed for salaries and benefits	Amount needed for SROs and school nurses	Amount needed for charter schools based on ADM	Total Amount Needed	Amount Received	Deficit
2022-23	289,426.00	140,739.00	12,956.60	443,121.60	129,556.00	(313,555.60)
2023-24	589,474.00	174,256.61	26,172.30	789,902.91	261,723.00	(528,179.91)
2-YR TOTAL						(841,735.51)

Ms. Juba presented an expenditure report showing that spending is on target for the year with approximately three-quarters of state, local, federal, capital, and restricted grants funds spent to date.

Ms. Juba presented three budget amendments for FY24. State funding increased by \$341,221 due to additional allotments. Local current expense was amended to reflect actual expenditures (no overall change). Federal grants gained an additional \$52,047 due to additional allotments. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, Budget Amendment 3 for the State Public School Fund, Budget Amendment No. 2 for the Local Current Expense Fund, and Budget Amendment No. 3 for the Federal Grants Fund were unanimously approved as presented (see attached).

Ms. Juba presented a project amendment to show budget transfers reallocating old projects that will be taken care of with the bond and cannot be completed now with funds available, and projects shifting to BES and BMS HVAC projects that will be finished this summer. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the project amendment was unanimously approved as presented (see attached).

9. Important Dates

Apr. 23	RHS National Technical Honor Society Awards	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	RHS
Apr. 23	"Of the Year" Awards Program	5:30 p.m.	Mary C. Jenkins Community Center
Apr. 25	BHS National Technical Honor Society Awards	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	BHS
Apr. 29	STEAM Expo/Duke Energy Science Night	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Transylvania Co. Parks & Recreation
May 3	Students dismissed at noon		
May 6	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
May 16	TC Scholars Recognition Evening	Dinner 5pm; Program 6:30 pm	BHS
May 20	WORK SESSION	6:00 p.m.	MEC
May 27	Memorial Day holiday		
June 3	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
June 6	DRS Graduation	10:00 a.m.	Brevard Music Center
June 7	Last student day; noon dismissal		
June 7	BHS Graduation	6:00 p.m.	Brevard Music Center
June 8	RHS Graduation	10:00 a.m.	Brevard Music Center
June 10-14	Teacher workdays		
June 17	Four-day summer schedule begins		
June 17	WORK SESSION	6:00 p.m.	MEC

10. Other Items

Mr. Wiener objected to the National Technical Honor Society Awards programs being scheduled during the day, reporting that some parents have told him they would prefer the programs to be held in the evening. He added that in his opinion the NTHS events are as big a deal, if not bigger, than TC Scholars, athletics awards, and other recognition programs that are scheduled in the evenings.

11. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. O'NEILL, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-318.11 subsections (a)(1) to discuss confidential student matters pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act; (a)(1) to discuss confidential employee matters pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321; (a)(3) to discuss matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; and (a)(5) to discuss the possible acquisition of real property. Following a brief recess, the closed session convened at approximately 7:51 p.m. Present in the closed session were board members Kimsey Jackson, Chair; Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair; Tawny McCoy; Bryan O'Neill; and Chris Wiener. Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent; Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent; and Board Attorney Chris Campbell were also present in the closed session. At approximately 8:48 p.m., BY MOTION MADE BY MR. JACKSON AND SECONDED BY MR. O'NEILL, the board adjourned closed session and returned to open session.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
April 15, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Chloe Ayres, Teacher, PFES, effective June 14, 2024
Karen Brown, Teacher, RES, effective June 30, 2024
Laura “Kathy” Butler, Teacher, RMS, effective June 14, 2024
Tessa Chappell, Teacher, RMS, effective June 14, 2024
Tammy Deaver, Coordinator, DRS, effective June 30, 2024
Rebecca Green, Teacher, BMS, effective June 14, 2024
Hannah Lunsford, Teacher, PFES, effective June 14, 2024
Breana Murfin, Instructional Coach, PFES, effective June 30, 2024

Classified Personnel

Patti Lance, Office Support, BHS, effective June 14, 2024
Sonya Morris, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective June 11, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Trinity Hardee, Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2024
Charles Megown, Senior JROTC Instructor, BHS, effective July 1, 2024
Caroline Morrison, Teacher, BHS, effective August 19, 2024
Emily Reader, Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2024
Heather Smith, Teacher, BES, effective August 19, 2024

Classified Personnel

Aaron Patton, Custodian & Bus Driver, RHS, effective April 29, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Madeline Coyle, Teacher, PFES, to Teacher, RES, effective August 19, 2024
Brenda Thomas, Teacher, PFES, to Teacher, RES, effective August 19, 2024

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 & Tutors

None

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None

Budget Amendment - State Public School Fund

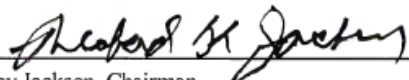
Amendment no. 3

Function Code	Description	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
	REVENUES			
	Revenues	\$28,019,340	(\$1,288,832)	\$26,730,508
	EXPENDITURES			
5XXX	Instructional Services	\$24,351,102	\$264,780.81	\$24,615,882.93
6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	\$3,553,495	\$76,440.19	\$3,629,934.78
7XXX	Ancillary Services	\$114,744	\$0.00	\$114,743.50
				0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET		\$28,019,340	\$341,221	\$28,360,561


EXPLANATION:

To reflect actual (see attached for additional allotment).

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 15th day of April, 2024.



 Kimsey Jackson, Chairman



 Lisa Fletcher, Secretary

PRC	Description	Amount	Reason
001	Classroom Teachers	12,421	Additional Allotment
002	Central Office Administration		
003	Non-Instructional Support Personnel		
004	K-5 Program Enhancement Teachers		
005	School Building Administration		
006	School Psychologist - Position		
007	Instructional Support		
008	School Psychologist Conversion to Dollars		
012	Driver Training		
013	CTE-Months Of Emplment		
014	CTE-Program Support		
015	School Technology Fund		
016	Summer Reading Camp		
019	Small County		
023	CTE Modernization and Support Grant		
024	Disadvantaged Student Supp		
027	Teacher Assistants		
029	Behavioral Support		
032	Exceptional Children	(3,887)	HC Transfers
034	Academic/Intellectually Gifted		
039	School Safety Grant		
040	School Safety Grant	255,430	Initial Allotment
045	Compensation Bonus		
046	Test Result Bonus		
048	Test Result Bonus - (Ap/Ib, CTE, Principal)		
054	Limited English (LEP)		
056	Transportation	50,234	Additional Allotment
061	Classroom Material, Instr Supplies, Equipment		
063	Special Program Funds - Ec		
064	CTE Grade Expansion Program Grant		
067	Assistant Principal Interns-MSA		
069	At-Risk Student Ser/Alternative Schools		
071	Supplemental Funds for Teacher Compenstation		
073	School Connectivity		
083	CTE - Credential Program Support		
085	Early Grade Reading Proficiency		
087	LEA Replacement of Stop Arm Cameras	5,740	Initial Allotment
120	LEA Financed Purchase Of School Buses		
121	CRF Summer Learning Program		
122	CRF-School Health Support		
123	CRF - Nondigital Resources		
124	CRF-Student Computers And Devices		
125	CRF-Student Devices		
126	CRF-Personnel Computers And Devices		
127	CRF-Connectivity School Buses		
128	CRF-Home And Community Wifi		
130	Textbooks		
131	Textbook & Digital Resources (Dollar Transfer)	21,283	Additional Allotment
132	CRF-Exceptional Children		
135	CRF-Cybersecurity		
137	CRF-Personal Protective Equipment		
141	ARRA - Title I		
154	Covid-19 Supplemental Funds		

341,221

Budget Amendment - Local Current Expense Fund

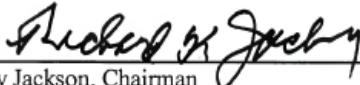
Amendment no. 2

Function Code	Description	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
	REVENUES			
	Revenues	\$ 13,196,152	\$3,000	\$ 13,199,152
	Appropriated Fund Balance	123,720		123,720
	EXPENDITURES		0	
5XXX	Instructional Services	\$ 8,004,991	47,667	\$8,052,658.00
6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	4,210,085	(47,667)	\$4,162,418.00
7XXX	Ancillary Services	4,348	0	\$4,348.00
8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	1,362,171	0	\$1,362,171.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$13,581,595	\$0	\$13,581,595

EXPLANATION:

To reflect actual expenditures.

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 15th day of April, 2024.



 Kimsey Jackson, Chairman



 Lisa Fletcher, Secretary

Budget Amendment - Federal Grants Fund

Amendment no. 3

Function Code	Description	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
	REVENUES			
	Revenues	\$7,453,770	\$52,047	\$7,505,817
	EXPENDITURES			
5XXX	Instructional Services	4,720,834	105,840	\$4,826,673.63
6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	2,222,600	(60,624)	\$2,161,976.03
8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	510,336	6,832	\$517,167.44
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$7,453,770	\$52,047	\$7,505,817

EXPLANATION:

To reflect actual (see attached for additional allotment).

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this 15th day of April, 2024.



 Kimsey Jackson, Chairman



 Lisa Fletcher, Secretary

PRC	Description	Amount	Reason
017	Vocational Ed - Program Improvement		
026	Homeless Grant		
049	IDEA Pre-School Handicapped Grant		
050	IASA Title I - LEA Basic Program	(273)	Adjusting Allotment
053	Sch Improvement		
060	IDEA VI-B Handicapped	\$76,556.98	Additional Allotment
102	Sch Repair & Renovation - Tech		
103	Improving Teacher Quality	-\$14,417.00	Adjusting Allotment
104	Title III Language Acquisition	\$29,085.73	Additional Allotment
105	Title I - School Improvement	\$6,839.38	Additional Allotment
108	Student Support and Academic Enrichment	\$1,690.00	
109	Rural and Low Income Schools		
111	Title III Language Acquisition Increase	\$12,276.21	Additional Allotment
115	TSI School Improvement		
118	IDEA Preschool Targeted Assistance		
119	IDEA VI B Special Needs	\$5,316.23	Additional Allotment
146	Light the Way Grant		
163	Cares Act 2020		
167	ESSER I EC Grant	-	
169	GEER-Student Health Support	-	
170	GEER-Supplemental Instructional Services	-	
171	ESSER II - K-12 Emergency Relief Fund	\$2,653.40	Additional Allotment
173	ESSER II - Supplemental Contracted Instructional Support	-	
174	ESSER II - School Nutrition COVID Support	-	
176	ESSER II - Learning Loss Funding	-\$67,679.97	Adjusting Allotment
177	ESSER II - Cumber Career Accelerator Program	-	
178	ESSER II - Competency-Based Assessment	-	
181	ESSER III - K-12 Emergency Relief Fund		
183	ESSER III - Homeless I		
184	ESSER III - Homeless II		
185	ESSRT III - ARP IDEA Grant to States		
186	ESSER III - IDEA Preschool		
192	Cyberbullying & Suicide Prevention Grant		
193	Gaggle Grant		
194	ESSER III - CTE - Hospitality		
203	ESSER III - Teacher Bonuses		
205	ESSER III - Driver Training		
		52,048	

Budget Transfers

FY	Campus	Project Title	Account Code	Act	Orig. B.	Amends	Rev. B	Program	A	From	To	Notes
2021	REES	Replace Air Handlers 3, 4, 5, 6	4-6380-001-529-104-000-12	CPE	140,000	(25,000)	105,000	-	105,000.00			Project in progress, line complete
2021	REES	Replace air handlers, 11, 12*	4-6380-001-529-124-000-24	CPE	70,000	-	70,000	12,500	51,750.82			
2021	BMS	Replace air handlers, boiler	4-6380-001-529-111-000-47	CPE	105,000	-	105,000	-	105,000.00			
2021	REES	Replace air handlers	4-6380-001-529-124-000-24	CPE	105,000	-	105,000	-	105,000.00			
2021	TCHEES	Replace Chiller	4-6380-001-529-124-000-34	CPE	78,000	-	78,000	-	78,000.00			Project will not be completed
2021	TCHEES	Replace air handlers	4-6380-001-529-136-000-18	CPE	78,000	-	78,000	-	78,000.00			Project will not be completed
2021	PFES	Piping		CPE	1,200,000	528,589	1,728,589	275,944	1,452,644.82	PSBCT		
2021	BMS	Replace air handlers, boiler	4-6380-001-529-111-000-47	CPE	105,000	-	105,000	-	105,000.00		252,138.01	
2021	REES	Replace air handlers	4-6380-001-529-124-000-24	CPE	105,000	-	105,000	-	105,000.00			
2021	TCHEES	Replace air handlers	4-6380-001-529-136-000-38	CPE	105,000	-	105,000	-	105,000.00			Project will not be completed
2021	REES	Replace air handlers	4-6380-001-529-104-000-12	CPE	140,000	-	140,000	-	140,000.00		763,620.89	
2021	PFES	Roof Window Leaks	4-6380-001-529-118-000-50	CPE	200,000	-	200,000	-	200,000.00	PSBCT		
2021	STYS	Critical Rooms and Requirements	4-6380-001-529-000-000-00	CPE	220,000	-	220,000	-	220,000.00			
2021	ROES	Roof Repair	4-6380-001-529-120-000-53	CPE	70,000	-	70,000	-	70,000.00			
2021	REES	Replace air handlers	4-6380-001-529-124-000-24	CPE	750,000	-	750,000	-	750,000.00			
2021	REES/ROES/Off	Air Handling Unit	4-6380-001-529-124-000-55	CPE	75,000	-	75,000	-	75,000.00			
2021	REES	Greenhouse	4-6380-001-529-124-000-56	CPE	50,800	-	50,800	-	50,800.00			
2021	REES	Turf Field	4-6380-001-529-108-000-52	CPE	400,000	-	400,000	-	400,000.00			Project complete
2021	REES/ROES/Off	Drain	4-6380-001-529-124-000-38	CPE	725,000	-	725,000	-	725,000.00			
2021	REES	Reverse Office/ Classroom	4-6380-001-529-108-000-59	CPE	60,000	-	60,000	-	60,000.00			
					6,182,800		6,911,389	2,310,623	4,580,765			
									2,928,121			
									871,031.10			
										1,015,788.90	1,015,788.90	


 Karoly Jackson, Chairman
 List Budget Source

 Kim Sklar