

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
April 20, 2015**

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. Request to Approve International School Trip
7. Policy:
  - A. "Notice and Hearing Rights of Probationary Teachers"
  - B. "Non-Career Status Teachers: Nonrenewal"
8. FY16 Budget
9. Superintendent's Update
10. 2015 Summer Schedule
11. Important Dates
12. Public Comment
13. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on April 20, 2015 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin 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 one guest, the following board members, staff, and media representatives were in attendance:

*BOARD MEMBERS:*

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

*BOARD ATTORNEY:*

Chris Campbell

*MEDIA:*

Park Baker  
*Transylvania Times*

*STAFF:*

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Jeremy Gibbs, Director, Human Resources  
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services  
Brian Weaver, Director, 6-12 Curriculum/Instruction  
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum/Instruction  
Tammy Bellefeuille, Director, Student Services  
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services  
Leca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education  
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator  
Meredith Licht, TCAE President  
Linda Carrillo, Teacher  
Desiree Abram, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for April 20, 2015 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.

### 3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

#### *2015 GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL*

Carly Onnink, Brevard High School, has been accepted to the 2015 session of the North Carolina Governor's School. Carly's area of study is Natural Science. The Governor's School sessions run for 5½ weeks during the summer.

#### *NCJSHS SCIENCE COMPETITION RESULTS*

Congratulations to the TIME 4 Real Science students who represented Brevard High School at the North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Wilmington on March 23. Sam Farrar, Carver Nichols, Crista Cali, Ryan Holland, Allie Reece and Lauren Tooley were selected to present their research in the poster competition. Carly Onnink was one of the top ten students statewide chosen to give an oral presentation and placed fourth during the competition for her project, "Electroantennogram assays to determine *Megacopta cribraria* response to [E]-2-hexenal, tridecane, and [E]-2-decenal." Ryan was awarded third place in the poster competition for his project "Screening Local Lignicolous Fungi for Lignin Degrading Enzymes." Ryan will represent North Carolina at the national competition in Washington, DC in April.

#### *2015 STATE SCIENCE COMPETITION*

Brevard High School TIME Science students earned the following recognitions at the 2015 State Science Competition:

#### Senior High School Division

Abby Williams and Carly Onnink: Electroantennogram assays to determine *Megacopta cribraria* response to [E]-2-hexenal, tridecane, and [E]-2-decenal

- 4th place oral presentation, North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- 1st place Biological Sciences, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- Grand Award: Most expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [American Academy for the Advancement of Science Meeting in Washington, DC](#)
- 1st place Biological Science A, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair
- Gold Medal, US Army Award, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair
- Grand Award: All expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA](#)

Joseph Roberts, Eliza Witherspoon, and Lauren Tooley: Evaluation of VOC producing *Diaporthe* species for enzyme production

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- 1st place Chemistry, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- Grand Award: Most expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [American Academy for the Advancement of Science Meeting in Washington, DC](#)
- Arizona State University Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives Award, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair

Hannah Field and Ryan Holland: Screening Local Lignicolous Fungi for Lignin Degrading Enzymes

- 3rd place poster presentation, North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- Grand Award: All expenses paid trip to represent NC at [National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Washington, DC](#)
- 3rd place Biotechnology, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- Bronze medal, US Army Award, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair
- Society for In Vitro Biology Award, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair

Crista Cali and Sarah Branagan: The Search for *Pityophthorus juglandis* and Associated *Geosmithia morbida* in Transylvania County, NC

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- 1st place Biological Science B, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair
- Grand Award: All expenses paid trip to represent NC at the [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA](#)

Ryulee Park and Aidan Spradlin: Identification and heavy metal remediation potential of fungi isolated from Duke Energy's 1964 Asheville coal ash pond

- 2nd place Environmental Science, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- 3rd place Environmental Science, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair

Allison Reece and Lauren DuBreuil: The Effect of Antibiotics on the Mortality of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- 3rd place Environmental Science, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair

Aaron Neumann, Ingrid Findlay, and Hannah Lemel: Evaluation of Honey Bee Health in Transylvania County: An Assessment of *Varroa destructor* and *Nosema* levels

- 2nd place Biological Sciences, North Carolina Student Academy of Science

Sam Lemel and Bryce Spradlin: Adapting Lamp Assay and Culturing Methods for use in Detecting *Pseudoperonospora humuli* in Hops and *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* in Cucumbers

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Student Academy of Science
- Bronze Medal, US Army Award, North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair

Sam Farrar, Erin Smith, and Cameron McCathern: The Evaluation of *Stevia rebaudiana* for the Presence of Estrogen Like Compounds

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium
- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Student Academy of Science

Carver Nichols: AGROBACTERIUM-MEDIATED STABLE TRANSFORMATION OF COLEUS X HYBRIDUS IN PLANTA USING THE FLORAL DIP METHOD

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

- Western NC Representative, North Carolina Student Academy of Science

Laura Patch: High School Teacher Award, North Carolina Student Academy of Science

#### *DRS WAVE MACHINE*

Davidson River School received a generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Peterman and the Pitcher Foundation to integrate art activities into middle and high school science classes. Students in Mr. Bullwinkle and Mrs. Webb's classes recently studied the interpretation of Hokusai's Wave, and then worked in collaborative groups with artist in residence Nachin Bone to create a three-dimensional wave in the school corridor.

#### *DONATION TO ARTS PROGRAM*

The Transylvania Arts Guild has made a donation of \$800 to the Transylvania County Schools. The donation is earmarked for arts supplies for the schools. Our thanks go to the Arts Guild for their generosity and support.

#### *STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT HOLOCAUST THROUGH LIVING HISTORY*

On March 5, eighth grade students at Brevard Middle School learned about the Holocaust from Asheville resident and Holocaust survivor, Rubin Feldstein. Mr. Feldstein spoke before a packed classroom about his experiences, sharing stories to help bring history and lessons about tolerance to life. Also in March, eighth graders had the chance to travel to Washington, DC, to visit landmarks in our nation's capital. A major focus of the trip was visiting memorials, specifically the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Brevard Middle School teacher Kelly Muse is a leader in Holocaust education, having recently been accepted into the Summer Seminar of the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program—open to 30 US teachers annually—that places attendees in the homes of Holocaust survivors and includes tours of sites in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

#### *BREVARD FFA TAKES SECOND IN STATE POULTRY EVENT*

On April 1, the Brevard High School FFA Chapter participated in the North Carolina Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event at the NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Led by FFA Advisor Andy VonCanon, team members Faith Farmer, Zach Merritt, Haley Clark, and Hannah Field placed second in the state out of 77 teams. During the event, students evaluated production, processing, and merchandising phases of the poultry industry and identified various industry components. They were also tested on management practices, evaluated live birds, presented oral reasons, selected and graded ready-to-cook turkeys, and processed products and cartons of eggs.

#### *BREVARD FFA MEMBERS ATTEND LEADERSHIP TRAINING*

On March 28-29, Brevard High School Future Farmers of America members participated in the 2015 MEGA Conference. The MEGA conference provides students with an opportunity to explore the FFA and develop their potential as leaders in FFA and the field of agriculture. MEGA conference participants were Anthony Scala, Sophie Davis, David Howell, Aly Pagano, and Harrison Jenkins.

#### *ROSMAN HIGH SCHOOL FBLA*

Members of the Rosman High School Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America competed recently in the state FBLA competition. Madison Holden and Rachel Owen

medaled in the top five for Business Presentation. Ressie Owen received a proficiency certificate for Multimedia Web Design, and Sammy Anders and Kimberly Holliday received proficiency certificates in Personal Finance. Other participants and their events were Sammy Anders and Kimberly Holliday, Website Design; Tyler Arant, Agribusiness; Ressie Owen, Business Math; Jasmine Myers, Introduction to Business Communications; and Clara Jacques and Ansli Shipman, Personal Finance. Lisa Gillespie is the FBLA sponsor at RHS.

*BMS STUDENTS MAKE ALL-STATE BAND*

Brevard Middle School students Luke Milligan and John Nguyen have earned seats in the 2015 North Carolina All-State Band. Along with hundreds of other students from across the state, the pair auditioned in March at Brown Middle School in Thomasville. The students were required to perform scales, a prepared solo, and a cold sight-reading piece. Milligan earned the fifth chair on trombone, and Nguyen took first chair on bass clarinet. Only eight middle schools from Western North Carolina had students earn All-State positions, and only three had multiple students earn the honor: Asheville, Cane Creek, and Brevard Middle. The students will travel to UNC-Greensboro for performance in the All-State band concert on May 3 in Aycok Auditorium. BMS band director Donnie Mulligan and private instructors Karen Cole and Dr. Miller Asbill are very proud of these young musicians for their hard work and accomplishments.

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Brevard High School that was on display in the board room. He welcomed SRO Abram and student Carver Nichols to the meeting.

**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 MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the minutes of the March 16 and April 1, 2015 meetings and the personnel report for April 20, 2015 (attached) were unanimously approved.

**6. Request to Approve International School Trip**

Linda Carrillo, Spanish teacher at Rosman Middle School and Rosman High School, presented a request for approval of a student trip to Costa Rica in July 2016. Approximately 29 students and 8 adults would be participating in the nine-day trip, which will be conducted by Educational Tours, a leader in international travel excursions. Ms. Carrillo spoke about how international travel gives students the opportunity to enhance their self-confidence and broaden their cultural awareness in a global world. Board policy IIC states that field trips outside the continental United States shall not be sponsored or approved by the school system without prior approval of the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the superintendent. Dr. McDaris reported that he and Ms. Carrillo have not yet had a chance to discuss the trip, but would be doing so before the next board meeting. Chairman McCoy requested that the Board receive the superintendent's recommendation at the next regular meeting on May 4, at which time the Board will take action on the request.

**7. Policy**

Jeremy Gibbs presented policy GCN/B, "Notice and Hearing Rights of Probationary Teachers," and policy 7950, "Non-Career Status Teachers: Nonrenewal," for first-read information. He recommended policy CGN/B for rescission based on legislation that has eliminated probationary status for teachers. New policy 7950 is recommended for adoption based on the state's new time frames for notification of teacher non-renewal. Attorney Campbell reported that policy 7950 is the standard used by the North Carolina School Boards Association. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he would prefer a change in the section of policy 7950 regarding board hearings. He recommended that the decision whether or not to grant a hearing be based on a majority vote of the board in closed session. The other members were in agreement with the recommended change. Policy 7950 will be revised and presented for action along with GCN/B at the next regular meeting.

**8. FY16 Budget**

Norris Barger reported that the Senate budget is expected by mid-May; otherwise there is no new budget information from the state. Mr. Kiviniemi asked for an update on driver education funding. Dr. McDaris reported that some new legislation has been proposed. If funding is not reinstated, either parents or the county may have to make up the difference. Mrs. Scruggs asked for an update on Fund 8 and ADM funding. Dr. McDaris reported that a bill has been proposed to allow charter schools more access to school system money, including Fund 8 (Restricted Grants). This means that any grant money awarded to the school system would have to be shared with the charter school(s) in its district, whether or not the charter had any involvement in obtaining the grant. Attorney Campbell reported that this bill is adamantly opposed by NCSBA. He reported there is also a proposed bill to allow charter schools to request capital funding from the county. If approved, this would in effect require a county to financially support two school systems instead of one. Regarding ADM funding, Dr. McDaris reported that the state budget does not include expansion funding for growth in Average Daily Membership (ADM). This means that any increase in enrollment would result in the dollar allocation per student going down.

Mr. Barger reported that he is finalizing the capital detail presentation for the commissioners' meeting on April 27. He reported that the architect team from Clark Nexsen has completed its school visits. The next task will be to compile a list of program needs from principals and central office administrators. The final master plan report from Clark Nexsen is expected to be ready in July. Board members will have an opportunity to modify, accept or reject the report.

Mr. Kiviniemi noted that the governor has proposed a statewide bond for road repairs and asked if it would be possible to get a local bond referendum on the same ballot. Chairman McCoy reported that the law has been changed to restrict local bond referendums to general elections in even-numbered years. Therefore, 2016 would be the earliest possible year for a local bond referendum.

Mr. Gibbs reported that he has received a preliminary draft of the IPSAC report from NC State University on projected enrollment and demographics. The final report is being prepared for presentation to the Board.

Chairman McCoy recommended and the Board agreed to schedule approval of the FY16 budget request for the next regular meeting on May 4.

**9. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- Last week's kindergarten registration for 2015-2016 went well, with good numbers reported at each elementary school. Postcards were mailed to the household of every potential kindergarten student in the county inviting them to register their child for next year.
- The State Board of Education is looking at ways to incorporate student perception into teacher evaluations.
- A bill to restore the Teaching Fellows program has been introduced to the legislature. LEAs have been invited to send representatives to a meeting with the General Assembly on April 28 to advocate for the program. Meredith Licht may attend as the Transylvania representative.
- House Bill 661 to improve teacher recruitment has been proposed. Enrollment in teacher education programs statewide has decreased by 27% in recent years.
- Teacher assistant funding remains a concern for next year. State funding for teacher assistant positions has been cut for each of the last three years. Depending on the legislature's actions, the superintendent may bring options for teacher assistant hours/duties to the Board for consideration.
- The North Carolina High School Athletic Association is preparing realignment models for 2017-2021. Realignment has ramifications for instructional time due to the distances that teams from smaller schools have to travel. Representative Chris Whitmire has proposed a bill to review some of the decisions of the NCHSAA.

**10. 2015 Summer Schedule**

Dr. McDaris presented the 2015 summer schedule for the TCS central office and other administrative offices. Forty-hour weeks consisting of four ten-hour days will begin on June 15 and end on August 14. Office hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Offices will be closed on Fridays and on Thursday, July 2, for the Fourth of July holiday.

Dr. McDaris reported that it may be possible to offer summer school this year to help students reach proficiency levels on end-of-grade testing. Summer school would not replace the summer reading camp.

**11. Important Dates**

Apr. 27-29	AdvancED District Accreditation External Review
Apr. 27	AdvancED interviews, 10:45 a.m., MEC
Apr. 29	SPECIAL MEETING to receive AdvancED exit report, 1:30 p.m., MEC
May 4	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 7	SPECIAL MEETING, 10:30 a.m., MEC
May 12	Taste of Transylvania, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Lumberyard
May 13	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 15	"Teacher of the Year" Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Rogow Room
May 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 21	Scholars Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS
May 25	Makeup day for Feb. 24

June 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 11	Last student day (noon dismissal)
June 12	Teacher workday
June 12	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
June 13	RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center
June 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

CALENDAR REVISIONS:

February 17 was made up on March 27.	February 24 will be made up on May 25.
February 18 will be made up on June 11.	February 25 is not made up.
February 19 was made up on April 3.	February 26 was made up on March 28.
February 20 is not made up.	February 27 is not made up.

Dr. McDaris invited board members to join him for lunch at the schools during April and May. Dates, times and locations will be forthcoming.

12. **Public Comment**  
None

13. **Other Items**

Mrs. Scruggs commended the outstanding achievement and leadership in our schools. She expressed pride in our teachers for their hard work and commitment to excellence, particularly in this time when teachers have been shortchanged at the state level, and in our students for their many accomplishments in academics, arts, athletics, and the community. She particularly noted TCS leadership in science fair, senior projects, and extracurriculars. Mrs. Scruggs commended Kevin Smith for all of his work in “telling our story” and encouraged everyone to keep celebrating and sharing the great things happening in our schools.

Mrs. Scruggs invited everyone to attend the public input session for the Transylvania County 2025 Comprehensive Plan that will be held on April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brevard Community Church.

Chairman McCoy reported that the Board would soon need to discuss the direction they want to take regarding the Community Land Trust property. She also reported that she is in talks with Chairman Hawkins regarding a possible joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the school system’s budget needs for next year.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



**PERSONNEL REPORT  
April 20, 2015**

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

Licensed Personnel

Deborah Aiken, Teacher, RES, effective June 12, 2015  
Elizabeth Aspray, Teacher, BES, effective June 12, 2015  
Tammy Bellefeuil, Director, MEC, effective July 1, 2015  
Elaine Goar, Teacher, RES, effective June 12, 2015  
William Daniel Holbert, Teacher, BHS, effective June 30, 2015  
Amanda Mosser, Teacher, RES, effective June 12, 2015  
Tyscha Owens, School Counselor, RES, effective June 12, 2015

Classified Personnel

Angela Baney, Assistant Cafeteria Manager, BHS, effective April 10, 2015  
Ralph Norton, Custodian, BES, effective June 30, 2015  
Agnes Wilson, Part-Time Receptionist, MEC, effective March 30, 2015  
Brantley Wilkie, Custodian & Bus Driver, BMS, effective April 24, 2015

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

Licensed Personnel

Michael Andrew Healy, Teacher, BHS, effective August 19, 2015  
James Leatherwood, Teacher, BHS, effective August 3, 2015  
Charles Megown, Senior Marine ROTC Instructor, BHS, effective June 1, 2015  
Gaynelle Patterson, Interim Teacher, BHS, effective March 23, 2015 through June 12, 2015

Classified Personnel

None

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

Blane Gregory  
Barbara Johnson

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None