

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
April 20, 2023**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME  
BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):  
    1. Approval of Agenda  
    2. FY24 Budget  
ADJOURN

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in special called session on April 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a budget work session. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Tanya Dalton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to two guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance. Chairman McCoy announced that Mr. Jackson would be late.

BOARD MEMBERS:  
Tawny McCoy, Chair  
Kimsey Jackson, Vice Chair  
Tanya Dalton  
Ron Kiviniemi  
Chris Wiener

STAFF:  
Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent  
Gabi Juba, Finance Officer (contracted)  
Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:  
Kris Caudle, Campbell Shatley

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting agenda was unanimously approved.
  
2. **FY24 Budget**  
Dr. McDaris reported that the Senate budget for FY24 has not yet been released. Both chambers have indicated interest in increasing salaries and other items. The board's budget request must be submitted to the county by May 15. The administration is requesting direction from the board regarding which items to include in the local budget message. It is doubtful that everything requested will be received. Many items on the list of changes for FY24 are beyond the board's control.

*Mr. Jackson joined the meeting at 6:57 p.m.*

The board discussed at length which items to prioritize in the FY24 budget request. Ms. Juba answered a series of questions from Mr. Wiener regarding the Uniform Budget Chart of Accounts and the format of the budget documents. Chairman McCoy noted that school system budgets are very complex and like no other due to their hundreds of budget codes. She recommended that Mr. Wiener follow the example of other new board members and schedule time with the superintendent or finance officer to ask questions. Following much discussion, the board reached consensus to request local funding for all 14 of the items listed on the one-page summary of budget changes for FY24 (approximately \$1.7 million).

The board discussed the capital needs list at length. Mr. Jackson stated that he would like the board to hire a full-time director of facilities, capital projects, and long-term planning. Mr. Kiviniemi agreed that the board is “killing its people by giving them 4-5 jobs apiece.” Dr. McDaris reported that a small rural system such as ours is challenged to cover all the things we have to cover. Especially since the legislature cut funding years ago for several central office positions. Finding a person with the skill set and expertise required for that position and having the money available to pay their salary would be wonderful but incredibly unlikely. Dr. McDaris reported that he is already working on a solution that involves an engineering partner who can contract for specific work. Mr. Wiener recommended that the board request funding to enable the school system to lock in contract pricing for big-ticket, multi-year items in the capital request. Ms. Juba noted that the board never knows which projects the county manager will agree to fund. Last year the board requested approximately \$4 million for capital needs and eventually received about \$2.9 million. After further discussion, there was consensus to request funding for the full list of capital needs (\$11,217,598 million).

Dr. McDaris will use this information to prepare the superintendent's budget message for FY24 which will be presented at the May 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting for approval.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary