

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 21, 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. Resolution in Support of Child Nutrition Funding
7. FY15 Budget
8. Facilities Study Requests for Proposal
9. Superintendent's Update
10. Central Office 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 21, 2014 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Cindy Petit led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Mrs. Fox was out of town and Mr. Kiviniemi was under the weather. 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, 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; Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator; Meredith Licht, TCAE; and School Resource Officer Scott Thomas

MEDIA: Park Baker, *Transylvania Times*

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, the meeting agenda for April 21, 2014 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

RECOGNITION

The North Carolina National Board Certification Program has recognized Jeremy Gibbs, Transylvania County Schools District Coordinator, for exemplary service in

supporting National Board certification, candidates and National Board certified teachers.

RHS GRADUATE HONORED

The Sigma Xi award for interdisciplinary research was presented to Geology major Jared Voris of Brevard for his study, "Lateral Osteoderm Analysis of *Desmatosuchus Spurensis*," an analysis of two fossilized scales from the crocodile-like aetosaurs found in an Arizona quarry. Jason is a graduate of Rosman High School and attends Appalachian State University.

PFES SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to the Pisgah Forest Elementary School Science Olympiad Team for winning first place at the Buncombe County Regional Elementary Tournament. Students competed against schools from Buncombe County and Henderson County in 18 categories that involve engineering skills and general science knowledge. Pisgah Forest took first place in Water Rockets, Bone and Brawn, Genes-R-U's, The Heat is On, and Work It Out. They also placed second in Fossil Frenzy, Junk Box Build-Off, Trajeggory, Backyard Biologists, Bridge-a-Roni, Data Crunchers, and Describe It/Build It. Coached by Bob Dinsdale and Stefanie Tomlin, the team has been building, researching, and studying since November to prepare for the competition. The Science Olympiad members are A. J. Eberhardt, Graham Patterson, Haley Yarbrough, Estrella Sheehan, Willow Blackstock, Milo Jones, Kiernan Lockhart, Pearl Brown, Ada Weaver, Robert Hienemann, Charlie Stewart, MacKenzie Caison, Brendan Farmer, Chris Conner, and Bobby Brown.

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATIONS AT RES AND PFES

On April 10 at Rosman Elementary School, 33 volunteers were invited to share lunch and review the positive results their work has created for the school. Community members from all walks of life -- from retirees to bus drivers and maintenance staff -- were recognized for their contributions. Special thanks were extended to a handful of volunteers from the Augustine Literacy Project, which helps individual students get hours of one-on-one assistance from highly trained tutors. Among the volunteers recognized at Pisgah Forest Elementary School on April 17 were Gerald and Nancy Deaver, who have assisted with one or two classes per week for twenty years, and Linda Snowden, who taught at PFES for 13 years and has since volunteered for another 10. Brevard Community Church, where volunteers train for the Augustine Literacy Project, recently provided breakfast for PFES teachers to show their continuing support for our schools. Donations of volunteer hours make it possible to achieve our goals in all nine of TCS schools. We thank all our volunteers and donors for their generous support of our students and public education in Transylvania County.

"COINS FOR A CURE" RAISES \$1,900 FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS AT BES

During the week of April 7-11, Brevard Elementary School classes participated in "Coins for a Cure" to raise much-needed funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. With containers in each class, students brought in pennies on Monday, nickels on Tuesday, and so on through giving dollar coins on Friday, to meet their goal of \$50 per class, or \$1,500 for the school. BES far surpassed its goal, raising over \$1,900 for the CF Foundation on behalf of BES second grader, Madi Ball, one of several area residents who is fighting cystic fibrosis. A check will be formally presented at the organization's annual Great Strides Walk on May 3. Grassroots fundraising is currently the only way to support new treatments to extend and improve the lives of those with CF. Thanks to school nurse April Owenby for helping to set "Coins for a

Cure” in motion. There are plans to expand the campaign to other schools in the future.

BHS HOSA BLOOD DRIVE SURPASSES GOAL

The Health Occupations Student Association at Brevard High School held a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on April 17 in the BHS gymnasium. According to HOSA advisor and Health Sciences teacher, Trina Hendricks, “Our community heavily depends on high school blood drives to support the demand for blood in our community. Having a niece who just received platelets this week for her childhood cancer, I greatly appreciate it as well!” From the 66 people who donated (35 of whom were first time donors) the Red Cross acquired 59 productive units--nine more than the goal of 50 units. Twenty student volunteers helped to put on the event, and the Red Cross staff were very impressed with the politeness and organization of our students.

INAUGURAL RACCOON RUN 5K RAISES FUNDS FOR ROPE

At 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, just ahead of the *Assault on the Carolinas*, almost 110 runners young and old gathered for Pisgah Forest Elementary School’s first-ever *Raccoon Run 5K*. Surpassing their goal of 100 participants, organizers were pleased by the turnout and thankful for the great weather. Members of ROPE, the Rangers Organization of Parents and Educators worked hard to organize, starting work last November. The first *Raccoon Run 5K* raised over \$3,000 from sponsors led by Hunter Subaru of Hendersonville, and another \$1,100 from participants. With the success of their inaugural race, ROPE hopes to make this the first of many such annual events in the future.

COMPOSER JENN JOLLEY PREMIERES COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH BES, BREVARD COLLEGE SYMPHONIC WINDS

During the week of April 14,, Mrs. Pauer’s fifth grade class at Brevard Elementary School enjoyed the final stages of their collaboration with composer and professor Jenn Jolley of Ohio Wesleyan University. Music teacher Sarah Moser teamed with Brevard College professor Miller Asbill to commission a brand-new work, entitled “Through the Looking Glass Falls,” which received its world premiere on Thursday, April 17 at the Porter Center. The piece was composed by Professor Jolley and based on musical ideas created by the fifth graders themselves. Ms. Jolley taught students via Skype earlier in the year and assigned them to generate original musical ideas on note cards. Once Jolley received the drawings, she turned each idea into a distinct movement of the nine-minute composition, so each student truly helped to create a specific portion of the work. Jolley visited the school in the days just before the performance to share and discuss the process that helped her bring the collaboration to its fruition in a musical performance by the Brevard College Symphonic Winds Ensemble. The project was made possible thanks to generous support from Brevard College, Brevard Community Band, and the Transylvania County Schools Education Foundation. We congratulate the composer, Mrs. Moser and Professor Asbill for this cutting-edge musical project.

BMS 8TH GRADE TOURS HOLOCAUST AND SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS

Communication skills teacher Kelly Muse of Brevard Middle School organized a trip to Washington, DC in early April for almost 50 eighth graders. Accompanied by Principal Kerry Putnam and Lewis Whiteside, the group visited attractions around the nation’s capital including the Washington and Lincoln Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. The highlight and focus of the trip was the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, where students experienced sights, sounds and even smells that

brought them into the events commemorated there. Students and faculty participated in a debriefing after the trip to describe for one another and visitors how the names, dates and artifacts represented there helped to make otherwise distant events very real. From confronting the big-picture concepts of prejudice and injustice that helped spawn the Holocaust, to very specific elements like seeing the names of all the concentration camps or the elevator doors specially designed to create a feeling of confinement as visitors navigated the museum, everyone on the trip was challenged to deepen their awareness of how historical events have dramatically shaped the individual lives of millions of people and our own consciousness today.

ROSMAN FFA HELPS TO OPEN NEW SEASON AT TRANSYLVANIA FARMERS MARKET

Since Thanksgiving, Rosman High School horticulture teacher Heather McNeely has worked with Horticulture classes, student volunteers and members of the Future Farmers of America to prepare and grow produce for spring sales at the Transylvania Farmers Market. On Saturday, April 19, McNeely, her student teacher Maggie, and seven volunteers braved the cold and mist to help kick off this year's season opening by packing up a trailer full of hanging baskets, annuals, succulents, lettuce bowls and herbs for sale in downtown Brevard. According to McNeely, they could bring many, many more basil plants and still sell out at every market. The single greenhouse at RHS provides a central location for students to gain practical knowledge of hydroponics and other growing methods, as well as learning business skills and volunteer service. Proceeds from the Saturday sales go back into the program, and many happy customers look for the unique offerings the Rosman FFA brings each and every season. We salute Ms. McNeely and student volunteers for making a contribution to sustainable agriculture and our local economy through the Transylvania Farmers Market.

STUDENT ART SET TO LAUNCH 4TH FRIDAY GALLERY WALK SEASON

Artwork from TCS students is on display at the Transylvania County Arts Council during the month of April. An opening reception on April 10 gave art teachers and students an occasion to gather and celebrate their best works from throughout the school year. The student art exhibit will also help launch the annual series of "4th Friday Gallery Walks" at another reception on April 25, along with a performance by Davidson River Taiko. We thank and congratulate art teachers Emily Atkinson (BMS), Elizabeth Ballard (TCH and RMS), John Brinkley (RES), Vernon Bryson (PFES), Pam Granger-Gale (BES), Sean Parrish (BHS), and Amy Schoenacher (BHS) for bringing this annual show together.

ROSMAN STUDENTS PLACE IN AREA 1 ENVIRONMENTHON

On April 4, three teams from Rosman High School and three teams from Rosman Middle School competed in the Area 1 Soil & Water Conservation District's Environmenthon Competition at the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville. The "Chaco Chicks" and the "Incrementally Bored" team tied for second place in the high school division, and the "Merrican Squirrels FFA" team took eighth place. The RHS teams competed against 14 other high schools from 16 WNC counties and will advance to the state competition in Burlington on April 25-26. The Rosman Middle School teams did well also-- the "Thunder Llamas" won third place, the "Appalachian Warden's Baccas" came in fifth place, and the "Nature Avengers" took sixth place. They also will advance to the state competition.

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. ROGERS, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the minutes from the April 7, 2014 meeting and the personnel report for April 21, 2014 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Resolution in Support of Child Nutrition Funding**

Dr. McDaris presented a resolution in support of additional federal funding for the Child Nutrition program (see attached). ON A MOTION BY MR. ROGERS, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the resolution was unanimously approved. The resolution will be sent to U.S. Senators Kay Hagen and Richard Burr and U.S. Congressman Mark Meadows.

Carolyn Barton reported that a food company in the Transylvania region of Romania had recently made a donation to the Backpack Buddies program in order to help support the "other" Transylvania. Mr. Rogers reported meeting a representative from a Haywood County organization that donates all of its profits to Backpack Buddies. Board members discussed the importance of the Backpack Buddies program, which provides non-perishable food for students in need to take home.

7. **FY15 Budget**

Norris Barger reviewed the latest changes to the FY15 budget drafts. He pointed out that \$150,000 had been pulled out of the appropriated fund balance item and designated for the Child Nutrition program. He reported that the state planning allotments came in better than expected for a net increase of \$32,739. The Board discussed how to address the problem of fund balance. Chairman McCoy stated that if the Board has to continue drawing down from fund balance, there will eventually be nothing left to use as protection against further state cuts. If that point is reached, the Board would have no choice but to cut programs and/or positions. She suggested that the Board set an 8.0% goal (about one month's operating expenses) to maintain in fund balance. This would equate to approximately \$2.78 million. After further discussion, there was general agreement to request approximately \$780,000 in local funds, representing a 7.9% increase over last year. The Board will vote on the FY15 budget request at the next meeting.

Mrs. Barton thanked the Board for designating additional local support for the Child Nutrition program. She noted that there are many children in this county whose primary source of food comes from school lunches and the Backpack Buddies program. She reported that the state has a very slim cushion with which to pay CN programs in the event of another federal government shutdown. She reported that without some significant improvement in federal funding levels, the Child Nutrition program could experience program changes such as reduced services and a corresponding reduction in staffing.

Mr. Rogers asked about textbook funding. Mr. Barger reported that the state has cut textbook funding for the last five years. Our schools are using outdated editions and having to rebind old books. The state's general goal is to replace printed books with digital books; however, textbook publishers have set costs for electronic materials at the same levels as printed versions, so no real savings could be realized. Dr. Elliott reported that the most critical need right now is curriculum-aligned support materials, especially in math. Until the state addresses textbooks in any format, TCS will be moving forward

with its own locally created materials and spending local money to fill in from state cuts in textbooks and instructional supplies.

Mr. Barger reported there had been no changes to the FY15 capital outlay budget documents since the last meeting. He gave updates on door access controls, the BHS field, and the PFES roof. Mr. Rogers suggested another look at metal roofing for possible cost savings.

8. Facilities Study Requests for Proposal

Norris Barger reported that nine firms submitted proposals for the Transylvania County Schools facilities study. The firm that is selected will be asked to provide a comprehensive facilities review and planning guide for use over the next 10 years and for a possible bond referendum. Mr. Barger reviewed the list of firms and recommended that a committee select the top 3-4 choices to give presentations. The RFP timeline calls for a recommendation to be made at the May 5 meeting. Chairman McCoy stated that since it appears the bond referendum would be postponed somewhat, she recommended extending the timeline to give more time for review and find out the county's stance on fund balance. All were in agreement to have the committee bring a recommendation for approval later this summer. Mrs. Petit asked for an estimate on cost. Mr. Barger estimated that the cost could be around \$50,000.

9. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- Approximately 25 teacher openings are expected for next year due to a large number of retirements this spring.
- The Board would discuss annexation of the BHS property by the City of Brevard in May.
- The Board of Commissioners budget workshop schedule has been announced:

May 7	6-10 p.m., Rogow Room
May 29	6-10 p.m., Community Services Conference Room
June 9	6-10 p.m., Rogow Room
June 10	12-3 p.m., Community Services Conference Room (if needed)
June 11	6 p.m. until, Rogow Room (if needed)

- A ground-breaking ceremony for the artificial turf field at Brevard High School Stadium will be held on May 1, 2014 beginning at 3:30 p.m.
- The Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 12:00 noon on April 24, 2014 at Rosman Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting is to have lunch with students and staff. No business will be conducted.

10. Central Office Summer Schedule

Dr. McDaris presented the 2014 summer schedule for the central office and other administrative offices. Four-day weeks consisting of four ten-hour days will begin on June 9 and end on August 15, 2014. Office hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Offices will be closed on Fridays. Offices also will be closed on Thursday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday.

11. Important Dates

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 27	Transportation Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Twin Dragons
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
June 23-25	NCSBA Summer Leadership Seminars, Atlantic Beach
June 26-27	NCSBA Policy Conference, Atlantic Beach

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*

12. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

13. **Other Items**

No other items were discussed.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
April 21, 2014

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

Licensed Personnel

Vicki Denton, Teacher, BES, effective July 1, 2014
Patricia Stahl, Teacher, BES, effective July 1, 2014

Classified Personnel

Shane Foreman, Custodian, BHS, effective May 30, 2014
Sylvia Stepp, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective July 1, 2014

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Melissa Ellenberger, from Teacher, BHS, to Assistant Principal, BHS, effective June 11, 2014

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

Shannon All
Sonya Jenkins

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Child Nutrition Program is an integral component of a child's school education and well-being; and

WHEREAS, many families continue to struggle financially due to lagging economies; and

WHEREAS, a majority of students in the Transylvania County Schools receive free or reduced fee meals; and

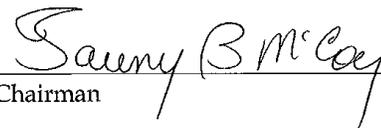
WHEREAS, per plate reimbursement through the Federal School Lunch program is much lower than the actual cost per plate for child nutrition; and

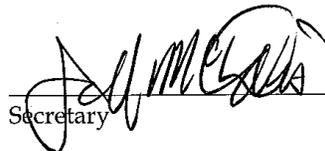
WHEREAS, supplemental funding and sales is hindered due to state and national school lunch regulations as well as economic factors affecting supplemental sales; and

WHEREAS, despite additional financial support from local government, the school system is not keeping pace with the operating costs of child nutrition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board Of Education does hereby request that the Federal reimbursement rate provided to school systems be raised to a level more in line with the actual per plate cost of school lunches for children.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of April, 2014.


Chairman


Secretary