

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
April 28, 2010**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Exit Report from the Quality Assurance Review Team for AdvancED District Accreditation Renewal

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in special session at 3:00 p.m. on April 28, 2010 at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to receive the oral exit report from the Quality Assurance Review Team for AdvancED district accreditation renewal. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chairman; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Principals Tammy Bellefeuil, Greg Carter, Mike Bailey, Donna Wilde, Doug Odom, Brian Weaver, Tony Meachum, and Donna Raspa; and central office staff Bo Williams, Kim Elliot, Scott Elliott, David Sutton, Carolyn Barton, Donys Merrill, Kelly Clark, Lisa Anderson, and Norris Barger. Five members of the QAR team were also in attendance.

Chairman Whitmire gave the invocation and Sue Fox led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire called the meeting to order.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting agenda for April 28, 2010 was approved as presented.

2. **Exit Report**

Dr. McDaris introduced the review team chairman, John Kelley. Mr. Kelley outlined the mission and purpose of AdvancED and described the district accreditation process. He reported that during the site review held April 25-28, 2010, team members visited the central office and all nine schools, where they interviewed four board members; 25 administrators; 113 teachers; 22 support staff; 95 parents, community and business partners; and 122 students for a total of 381 stakeholders. Additionally, they listened to district presentations, examined relevant documents and artifacts, and observed practices and the learning environment. After reviewing the evidence, the QAR team presented the following findings:

**COMMENDATIONS**

- Principals and central office administrators are highly visible in classrooms and schools.
- A strong, system-wide focus on high expectations supports student learning in a safe, nurturing environment.
- The Stakeholder Satisfaction Surveys and the Central Services Surveys provide data that guide improvement efforts.
- The school system provides free breakfast to all students and uses the "Backpack Buddies" program to provide food on Fridays to students that are in need.

**REQUIRED ACTIONS**

- Initiate extensive dialogue with economic development leaders aimed at increasing funding, enhancing curricular support, and stimulating student enrollment.
- Develop systemic benchmark assessments at the middle and high school level using an instrument that has been determined to be reliable and valid.
- Identify district-level strategies that are designed to give direction to the school regarding district initiatives designed to assist in the accomplishment of priorities and goals.
- Develop, in collaboration with schools, a district-wide professional development plan.

Mr. Kelley announced that the Quality Assurance Team will recommend to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that Transylvania County Schools be awarded the status of continued District Accreditation as a quality school system. Once reviewed and approved by the Commission, the district and all its schools will be granted a five-year term accreditation. The announcement was met with a round of applause from the assembly. Mr. Kelley extended the review team's appreciation for the district's hospitality, support and professionalism; respect and acknowledgment of the quality of the school district; and congratulations for achieving continued district accreditation.

Board members expressed thanks to the review team members for their time and hard work and commended the district and school leadership and staff for their ongoing commitment to excellence.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary