

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
April 29, 2015**

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 1:30 p.m. on April 29, 2015 at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to receive the oral exit report from the AdvancED Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Team for District Reaccreditation. 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. In addition to three guests and the six members of the QAR team, the board members and staff listed below were in attendance. Chairman McCoy reported that Betty Scruggs was in Raleigh attending a meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS

Tawny McCoy, Chair; Cindy Petit, Vice Chair  
Marty Griffin; Ron Kiviniemi

STAFF

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent	Scott Strickler, Principal, RES
Jeremy Gibbs, Director, Human Resources	Tony Meachum, Principal, TCH
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services	Cathy Credle, Principal, BES
Brian Weaver, Director, 6-12 Curriculum	Jason Ormsby, Principal, BHS
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum	Merriman Nichols, Principal, PFES
Carolyn Barton, Director, Child Nutrition	Kerry Putnam, Principal, BMS
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services	Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Alan Justice, Director, Transportation/Safety	Kelly Clark, Administrative Assistant
Tammy Bellefeuil, Director, Student Services	Cathy Zandecki, IT Facilitator
Kevin Smith, Schl-Cmnty Relations Coordinator	Chad Owen, School Resource Officer

**Approval of Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for April 29, 2015 was approved as presented.

**Exit Report**

Members of the QAR team introduced themselves to the assembly. Dr. Ann Williams-Brown reported that in order to earn and maintain district accreditation, school systems must meet the AdvancED standards for quality school systems, engage in systemic and continuous improvement, and demonstrate quality assurance through an external review every five years. At the conclusion of the external review visit, the QAR team presents its findings to the school board and makes an accreditation recommendation for state review. Dr. Williams-Brown reported that during its three-day review of Transylvania County Schools, the QAR team examined relevant documents and artifacts; observed practices and learning environments in all nine schools; and interviewed 132 stakeholders, including board members, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, community and business partners, and students. She presented the following summary findings:

DOMAIN 1: IMPACT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

*STRENGTHS*

- Dedicated principals and teachers
- Protection of instructional time

*OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH*

- More system-wide vertical and horizontal articulation
- System-wide protocol for analyzing data
- Curriculum alignment (K-12) and resources
- Equitable access to college and career courses for all eligible students

DOMAIN 2: CAPACITY OF LEADERSHIP

*STRENGTHS*

- Vision, mission and goals focus on student success

*OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH*

- Development of a comprehensive strategic plan
- Monitoring compliance of AdvancED standards

DOMAIN 3: USE OF RESOURCES

*STRENGTHS*

- Excellent safety practices

*OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH*

- Evaluation of program effectiveness

Dr. Williams-Brown presented Transylvania County’s scores on the summary evaluation instrument. Transylvania scored above the average in almost all areas. She noted that the school system excelled particularly in the area of digital learning environment, scoring significantly higher than the average of other systems seeking district accreditation.

Dr. Williams-Brown concluded with the review team’s recommendation that the Transylvania County School system earn the distinction of re-accreditation by AdvancED. The recommendation must receive final approval from the state organization. A written report including specific recommendations and findings will be submitted to the district within 30 business days. After receiving the report, the district is expected to review and address the improvement priorities within two years and report progress.

Dr. Williams-Brown extended the review team’s thanks and appreciation for the district’s hospitality, and congratulations for being recommended for district accreditation renewal. Dr. McDaris thanked the team for their hard work and exciting opportunities for growth. Board members expressed thanks to the review team for their time and effort and commended the TCS leadership and staff for their ongoing commitment to excellence. Dr. McDaris and Chairman McCoy gave special recognition to Jeremy Gibbs for all of his work in preparation and coordination of the review.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary