

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
May 1, 2023**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

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. Federal Programs: Notice of Intent to Apply
7. Policy: Fall 2022 PLS Custom Updates (*postponed*)
8. Update on ESSER/HVAC Projects
9. FY24 Budget
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Other Items
13. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on May 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chris Wiener led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 14 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Kris Caudle, Campbell Shatley

PRESENTERS:

Dan Myers, RN&M Engineers
Brian O'Rourke, Shoffner Kalthoff
Mechanical Electrical Service

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent
Missy Ellenberger, Director, 9-12 Instruction
Carrie Norris, Director, K-8 Instruction
Audrey Reneau, Director, Federal Programs
Jen Heatherly, Public Information Officer
Gabi Juba, Chief Finance Officer (contracted)
Janette Broda, Director, School Nutrition
Jason Merrill, Plant Operations Supervisor
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Mike Hall, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
MR. WIENER MADE A MOTION to postpone Item 7, Policy, to the June 5 meeting. MR. KIVINIEMI SECONDED and the motion passed unanimously. MR. JACKSON MOVED to approve the meeting agenda for May 1, 2023 as modified. MR. WIENER SECONDED and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Public Comment**
None

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Rosman High School that was on display in the board room and thanked Officer Mike Hall for attending the meeting. He shared the following good news:

Transylvania County Arts Council 2023 Student Exhibit

Mark your calendars for the Transylvania County Public Schools Student Art Exhibit on May 4-20, 2023 at the Transylvania Community Arts Council (TCArts), located at 349 S. Caldwell Street, Brevard. Each spring, TCArts and art teachers in the schools partner to showcase works of art from students across grades K-12. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, May 4, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at TCArts. Gallery hours are 11am to 5pm Tuesday through Friday and 1pm to 4pm on Saturdays during exhibits.

National Technical Honor Society Inductions

On April 25 and 26, Brevard High School and Rosman High School inducted 69 students into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). The NTHS recognizes outstanding student achievement in technical education and provides opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and career advancement. Members have demonstrated exceptional performance and met rigorous criteria for induction. They must be recommended by two Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers, demonstrate strong character and leadership traits, and meet rigorous academic standards including 1) an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (unweighted), 2) active participant in a CTE Student Organization, and 3) completed a CTE career pathway

“Of the Year” Awards 2023-2024

Transylvania County Schools celebrated the outstanding educators for 2023-2024 at the “Of the Year” Awards Program on April 18th in the Rogow Room of the Transylvania County Library. Baylee Hale, PFES, was announced as the District Teacher of the Year and Nijayah Cruell, BHS, was announced as the District Teacher Assistant of the Year for 2023-2024. Thanks to Ms. Amber Webb and First Citizens Bank for sponsoring the Teacher of the Year awards and to the members of the 2023-24 interview committee who volunteered their time to interview all of the school-level designees in order to select the “best of the best” district winners.

Student Services Person of the Year
Jaime Dulberg, DRS

Principal of the Year
Scott Strickler, BHS

Media/Technology Person of the Year
Alicia LaDow, PFES

Rookie of the Year
Will Lindsey, BHS

Teacher Assistants of the Year
Pat Rich, BES
Nijayah Cruell, BHS (district winner)
Amanda LaRowe, BMS
Mary Palmer, PFES

Michelle Mason, RES
Bethany Green, RHS
Amelia Waycaster, TCH

Teachers of the Year
Nancy Frady, BES
Erica Thompson, BHS
Justin Ausburn, BMS
Julie Bowman, DRS
Baylee Hale, PFES (district winner)

Breanna Morris, RES
Sarah Carson, RHS
Alissa Cook, RMS
Samantha Jones, TCH

STEAM Expo 2023

The Transylvania County Schools STEAM Expo held on April 23 at Transylvania County Parks and Recreation was a huge success. Staff and students provided many fun activities for the community to engage in or make and take including a life-size Operation game; Airzooka (air power); catapults; robotics; gas-powered rockets; termite dissections to look at microbes; “Going on a Bear Hunt” (reading skills, art, and robotics); lots of visual art; Breakout Boxes; Tiger Radio podcast; talking trees; and bird feeders, just to name a few. The projects showcased problem solving, higher order thinking, collaboration, creativity and inquiry skills that can be applied beyond the classroom. Thanks to all the students and staff who participated and Director Audrey Reneau for coordinating the event.

RHS National Honor Society Trip

During Spring Break, sixteen members of the Rosman High School National Honor Society headed to the Florida Keys for a five-day trip that included beach time, snorkeling, feeding sharks at an aquarium, visits to a Wild Bird Sanctuary, a Dolphin Center, and a day trip to the Dry Tortugas National Park, an airboat ride and alligator show in the Everglades, and two service projects—creating papier mâché treat eggs for the birds in care at the rehabilitation center and volunteering at one of the RCMA preschools for children of migrant workers. Plus the BEST key lime pie at the Blonde Giraffe Key Lime Pie Factory. The students and chaperones had a wonderful time. The trip was made possible by community donations and students fundraising efforts.

MCJROTC Serves Community for Earth Day

The Transylvania County Schools Marine Corps Junior ROTC recently served the community by picking up trash and planting flowers in recognition of Earth Day. Cadets collected seven bags of trash from Gallimore, Sugarloaf, and Country Club Roads and the BHS campus. The cadets also planted flowers at Brevard High to bring new life and color to the campus. The MCJROTC would like to thank the Brevard Rotary Club for its support of this project.

RHS Theater Department Presents “A Night of Music and Drama” May 9

The Rosman High School Theater department will present “A Night of Music and Drama” on Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rosman High School Auditorium. Directed by Linda Peeples, the presentation will feature “Balcony Scene” by Donald Esler and “The Common But Clever Peasant” by Christina Hamlett. Tickets are \$10 at the door and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

BHS Thespians Presents “Mamma Mia!” May 12-14

Tickets are on sale now for the Brevard High School Musical, “Mamma Mia!,” premiering Friday and Saturday May 12th and 13th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the Brevard High School Auditorium. Told through the legendary music of ABBA, this musical has become a worldwide sensation that has audiences everywhere dancing. Buy your tickets at bit.ly/BHSMammaMia or scan the QR code on one of the posters around the school. Adult tickets are \$15, student tickets are \$12, and children’s tickets are \$10.

National Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12, 2023. Teachers shape the lives of millions of children every day, and are some of the hardest working people in the workforce. They go above and beyond for their classes, creating not only lesson plans but a sense of safety and belonging for their students. They work to reach the students who are falling behind and they encourage students to excel. Teachers strive to meet

every challenge with compassion, creativity and care. Whether you are an educator or a supporter of one, join us this week and throughout the year in showing teachers your respect and appreciation.

Celebrating Adria Hardy

Congratulations to Brevard High School teacher Adria Hardy who was named as a 2023 Morehead-Cain Impact Educator. Ms. Hardy was awarded a Discovery Fund grant of \$2,070 to attend the AP Statistics Summer Institute in Davidson, NC.

National School Principals Day May 1, 2023

School Principals' Day is observed every year on May 1st to show appreciation to the school administrators who work hard to create an enriching learning environment. Some interesting facts about school principals:

- The principal has a big impact on student achievement. A recent study demonstrated that an effective principal's presence led to a positive impact on student progress.
- Effective principals seek out and retain effective teachers which in turn leads to an improvement in student performance. The discipline and success of the school depends on the principal.
- In earlier times, principals taught daily lessons. Nowadays, they are responsible for school administration and organization. However, nearly all principals started their careers as teachers. When needed, they can step in and teach a class, drive a bus, or help a beginning teacher engage with students and make learning interesting.

National School Nurse Day May 10, 2023

As healers, comforters, and role models, school nurses rise to the challenge of caring for students every day. School nurses help improve attendance, enforce federal law, help staff health, and improve academic performance. They can help prepare students to learn by providing examinations, treatment and follow-up to children who are at risk of developing persistent physical, cognitive, or social or emotional problems. They are essential for healthy kids, healthy schools, and healthy communities. Please join us in recognizing our school nurses, April Owenby, Ashley Owen, Julie Hak, and Amy Parker for all they do.

School Lunch Hero Day is May 5, 2023

When we say our school nutrition professionals are heroes, we mean it. That's why we celebrate them every spring with the annual School Lunch Hero Day, which is this Friday, May 5th. It is an opportunity for everyone to recognize the difference these hard-working team members make for every child who comes through their cafeteria.

PreK Farm to Preschool Grant

Congratulations to Kelii Krueger for receiving the Farm to Preschool Grant for both PreK classrooms at BES. The students will learn about worms and compost and purchase supplies and materials to create gardens. The students will also enjoy a visit from a local farmer to help them with their projects.

Thank You to BHS Students

A big shout-out to students in the Brevard High School OCS class who came to the Morris Education Center last month and packed 400 bags for the 2023 Kindergarten registration. They did an awesome job!

Dr. McDaris Retirement Celebration May 23

We invite faculty, staff, and the community to help celebrate and honor a 40-year career in public education at the Retirement Reception for Dr. Jeff McDaris on Tuesday, May 23, from 4-7 p.m. at the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. We hope everyone can drop in to share memories and wish Dr. McDaris well as he enters this new and exciting phase of life.

4. Former Students in the Military

The board recognized 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. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the consent agenda consisting of minutes of the January 30 and February 6, 2023 meetings and the personnel report for May 1, 2023 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. Federal Programs: Notice of Intent to Apply

Director Audrey Reneau reported that Transylvania County Schools has given public notice of the following applications for federal program grants that have been or will be submitted within the next 30 days. She gave an overview of the programs and answered questions from the board.

TITLE I - Basic Programs, Student Support, and Academic Enrichment

TITLE II - Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals

TITLE III - Multilingual Learners

TITLE IV - Well Rounded Education, Safe and Healthy Children, Effective Use of Technology

ESSER III* - People, Summer School, Materials, Tutoring

CARL PERKINS - Career and Technical Education Program

IDEA - Special Education Grants (ages 3-21)

MCKINNEY-VENTO - Homeless Assistance Grant

*ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) grants are specific to COVID-19 response and mitigating learning loss.

7. Update on ESSER/HVAC Projects

Dr. Brian Weaver, Jason Merrill, Dan Myers from RN&M Engineers, and Brian O'Rourke from Shoffner Kalthoff Mechanical Electrical Service gave updates on the HVAC/ESSER projects for Brevard Elementary School and Brevard Middle School. The engineers and Mr. Merrill reviewed schematics and plans and answered questions from board members. Mr. Merrill reported that bringing some of the units down from the ceiling to floor level will help with repairs and roof leaks from condensation. The project will take care of the 49-year old units at BMS. Scope of work is planned for 2023, 2024, and 2025. The work is sequenced to ensure use of all available ESSER funds by the federal deadline. Some fire alarm systems will be replaced as needed for compliance. All equipment for the projects will be purchased in 2023 with contracts written and guaranteed. Mechanical rooms and storage rentals will be utilized to store materials. Work will begin this summer as soon as students are out of the buildings.

8. FY24 Budget

Dr. Jeff McDaris presented the draft budget message for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and he and Finance Officer Gabi Juba answered questions from the board. It was noted that the capital outlay amount had changed to slightly under \$11 million. Board members discussed the decision from the budget work session to request the full amount for

capital projects that will fall over a three-year period. Mr. Kiviniemi and Mr. Wiener feel that having the money now would allow more work to be completed sooner and would save money in the end. Chairman McCoy recommended making it clear in the budget message that the numbers presented reflect more than one year and do not reflect any additional capital needs over those future years. There will still be recurring expenses. Mr. Wiener recommended amending the first sentence on page 9 to say that this request does not reflect any additional capital outlays that may be needed and that the board needs to do a lot of work, wants to buy materials now, and will be coming back next year to ask for more. Dr. McDaris offered to wordsmith the revision and send to the board chair for review before submission to the county. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the board voted unanimously to approve the FY24 budget request subject to final revision by the superintendent in conjunction with the board chair.

9. Superintendent’s Update

Dr. McDaris reported that for many years the trend for rural communities in North Carolina has been bleak as residents have flocked to urban and suburban environments seeking better job opportunities. Now, recent data from the NC Rural Center indicates there may be some hope for rural counties. The key will be finding ways to keep future leaders “at home” by retaining 18-29 year old working adults. Young people represent future mayors, business owners and county commissioners. Still, affordable housing remains a pervasive hurdle, and is especially dire in rural communities. Because rural residents tend to earn less than urban or suburban workers, the lack of available affordable housing options means that rural residents are often housing-cost burdened. Another challenge in all communities, including rural ones, is the NIMBYs. The acronym, which stands for Not in My Backyard, describes a group of people who oppose development. But as we’ve seen with the growth in Asheville, the sheer volume of expansion is beginning to move outward. With it comes likely change in demographics on multiple levels.

10. Important Dates

May 5	CLOSED SESSION MEETING	9:45 am - 4:30 pm	Blue Ridge Comm. College, Flat Rock
May 6	CLOSED SESSION MEETING	9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Blue Ridge Comm. College, Flat Rock
May 7	All-County Chorus Concert	3:00 p.m.	Porter Center
May 9	“A Night of Music and Drama”	7:00 p.m.	RHS Auditorium
May 12, 13, and 14	“Mamma Mia!”	Fri. & Sat. 7pm; Sun. 2pm	BHS Auditorium
May 15	REGULAR MEETING		
May 18	TC Scholars Recognition Evening	5:00 p.m.	BHS Cafeteria & Auditorium
May 23	Retirement Celebration for Dr. Jeff McDaris	4-7 p.m.	Mary C. Jenkins Community Center
May 29	Memorial Day holiday		
Jun. 5	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Jun. 8	DRS Graduation	10:00 a.m.	Brevard Music Center
Jun. 9	Last pupil day; students dismissed at noon		

Jun. 9	BHS Graduation	6:00 p.m.	Brevard Music Center
Jun. 10	RHS Graduation	10:00 a.m.	Brevard Music Center
Jun. 12-15	Teacher workdays		
Jun. 19	4-day summer schedule begins		
Jun. 19	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Jul. 3	NO MEETING		
Jul. 4	Independence Day holiday		
Jul. 17	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC

11. Other Items

Mr. Wiener reported that Geoffrey Hinton, a cognitive psychologist and computer scientist known as the “Godfather of AI,” resigned today from Google because he is concerned that bad players will use artificial intelligence for bad things. There have been innumerable calls from those in the AI trade seeking a pause in AI development. Mr. Wiener echoed that concern. He stated that students are using ChatGPT instead of Google and are becoming less involved in learning content and more involved in learning acquisition of data. The brave new world is here.

12. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. § 115C-319-321.; subsection (a)(5) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; and subsection (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body. Following a brief recess, the board entered closed session at approximately 8:10 p.m. The following board members were present: Tawny McCoy, Chair; Kimsey Jackson, Vice Chair; Tanya Dalton; Ron Kiviniemi; and Chris Wiener. Board Attorney Kris Caudle was also present. No action was taken in the closed session, and ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board returned to open session at 9:05 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
May 1, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

Cory Earp, Teacher, BES, effective June 15, 2023
Ashley Roof, Teacher, PFES, June 15, 2023
Kimberly Williams, Teacher, PFES, effective April 17, 2023

Classified Personnel

Silvana Tooher, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective June 13, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

Chloe Ayres, Teacher, PFES, effective August 21, 2023
Scott Davis, Teacher, PFES, effective August 21, 2023
Jessica Fallon, Teacher & Coach, BHS, effective August 21, 2023
Joseph Kane, Teacher, BMS, effective August 21, 2023
Cincerea April Lackey, Teacher, BES, effective August 21, 2023
Jacob Montgomery, Teacher, BMS, effective August 21, 2023
Jordan Powell, Teacher & Coach, RMS, effective August 21, 2023
Allyson Smith, Teacher, RMS, effective August 21, 2023

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Griffin Colegrove, from College & Career Coach, DRS, to Teacher, DRS, effective August 21, 2023
Theresa McManus, from Teacher, BES, to Teacher, TCH, effective August 21, 2023
Samantha Osteen, from Reading Specialist, BES, to Media Coordinator, BES, effective August 21, 2023
Dusty Robinson, from Teacher, RMS, to Teacher, BMS, effective August 21, 2023
Patricia Smith, from Teacher Assistant, PFES, to Teacher, PFES, effective August 21, 2023

Classified Personnel

Carla Lance, from Child Nutrition Worker, TCS to Teacher Assistant, RES, effective August 23, 2023
Margaret Laney, from Teacher Assistant, PFES, to Office Support, BHS, effective June 14, 2023
Christina Faith Stamey, from Teacher Assistant, BES, to Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 23, 2023

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

None

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None