

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
May 10, 2022**

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and recissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. FY23 Budget

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve the budget request for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Chairman McCoy announced that Mr. Kiviniemi was running late and there would be a delay. After a short wait, the meeting convened at approximately 5:15 p.m. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Kimsey Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to two guests, the following individuals were in attendance.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Tawny McCoy, Chair  
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair  
Courtney Domokur  
Marty Griffin  
Kimsey Jackson

**STAFF:**

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent  
Gabi Frost, Finance Officer  
Carrie Norris, Director, K-8 Education  
Audrey Reneau, Director, Federal Programs  
Alan Justice, Director, Facilities/Athletics/Transport.  
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services  
Ray Owen, School Resource Officer

**MEDIA:**

Jordon Morgan, Transylvania Times

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting agenda for May 10, 2022 was unanimously approved as presented.
2. **FY23 Budget**  
Dr. McDaris reviewed changes to the Local Current Expense request including an increase to locally paid school nurse salaries (based on current fiscal year data) and an increase in vehicle insurance. Gabi Frost reported that the revised LCE appropriation increase was \$674,898. Of that amount, \$145,123 represents state-mandated increases. The board reviewed two prioritized capital needs lists, one with bond projects and one without bond projects. Ms. Frost noted there has been no official word on the Public School Needs grant applications, and she is not optimistic.

Mr. Jackson asked how much has been received in ESSER funds and how it is being used. Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that federal ESSER funds may not be used for anything except COVID-related response; nor may they be used for pre-existing needs. Ms. Frost explained that the expenditure report at Monday's meeting will show ESSER fund activity to date. Audrey Reneau gave Mr. Jackson a brief review of the ESSER projects.

Returning to the capital needs list, Chairman McCoy asked about an increase in computer equipment systemwide. Ms. Frost and Mr. Whitlock reported that this line item has been increased by \$115,000 due to increased technology costs. Mr. Whitlock reported that the price of Chromebooks has stayed around \$225-239 per unit for years;

now they cost approximately \$379-459 per unit. He noted there has not been an increase in this line item in approximately 15 years.

Chairman McCoy noted that the majority of priority capital needs after recurring items are things such as roofs, floors, etc. She emphasized that the board is not asking for any “gingerbread.” She expressed thanks to the custodians and maintenance crews who do a fantastic job of patching things up, keeping things running, and working with what we have.

Chairman McCoy discussed including the cost of replacing the old gym and cafeteria at BHS in the capital request to show what will be needed if the bond is not issued. Dr. McDaris reported that with escalation costs and supply chain issues, the estimated price tag for those two items would be \$20.354 million. Mr. Griffin remarked that a primary goal for the bond projects is to reduce the number of school entry points in order to increase student safety.

*Mr. Kiviniemi jointed the meeting at 5:53 p.m.*

Mr. Jackson suggested building columns to support the arched beams in the BHS cafeteria. Board members explained that this would involve design and engineering services in addition to labor and materials. Mrs. Domokur stated that the BHS cafeteria is a unique design that has been “piecemealed” over the years, and in her opinion, building columns would be more expensive than the current plan. Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that the architects and engineers did an extensive facilities study before the passage of the bond in 2018 and determined that it would be cheaper to level the existing buildings and build new rather than try to repair. Mr. Kiviniemi added that in his opinion, the commissioners need to get going and approve the contracts so that the bond projects can move forward, calling it ridiculous to be taking this long.

MR. JACKSON MADE A MOTION to approve the Local Current Expense request for FY23 as presented with the changes as discussed for a total appropriation increase of \$674,898, and to approve the capital appropriation request of approximately \$3.59 million, both with and without the bond, and to include in the request the estimated cost of \$20.354 million to replace the cafeteria and old gym at Brevard High School if the bonds are not issued. After some discussion, there was general consensus to have three separate motions instead. THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.

CHAIRMAN MCCOY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, to approve the Local Current Expense request for FY23 with the changes submitted for a total appropriation increase of \$674,898. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIRMAN MCCOY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, to approve the capital appropriation request for FY23 as submitted with one change of a \$115,000 increase in computer equipment systemwide, and to include as information the capital request both with and without bond for a total appropriation of \$3,529,835. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIRMAN MCCOY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, to make an additional request of \$20.354 million for replacement of the old gym and cafeteria at Brevard High School in the event the bond does not move forward as currently planned and submitted. Mr. Griffin stated that he hopes the commissioners realize that the board wants the bond to proceed as planned and that over 60 percent of voters said they want the board to do this. The board directed the superintendent to include in the budget message that it is the intent of the board to move forward with the bond projects as

planned under Option 1 at Rosman High School, Rosman Middle School and Brevard High School. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Dr. McDaris stated that he will share the finalized budget message with the board before submitting it to the county manager. Chairman McCoy directed the superintendent to also include in the request that the board continues to have roughly \$35 million in other facility needs.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary