

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
May 15, 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. Middle School Math Textbook Adoption
7. Superintendent's Update
8. Important Dates
9. Other Items
10. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on May 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Kimsey Jackson 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 nine guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Kris Caudle, Campbell Shatley

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
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Brent Owen, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MR. WHITLOCK, the meeting agenda for May 15, 2023 was unanimously approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
TM reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Jeff Brewer - I wish the board good luck with the superintendent search. Fifty years ago my brother played the title role in his school play, *Oliver*. Yesterday my wife and I attended *Mamma Mia!* at Brevard High School. It was fantastic. The faculty coordinator did a fabulous job and the production values were just great. I am a big proponent of extracurriculars. These kids will remember that play for the rest of their lives. It was good to see high schoolers having fun singing, laughing, and dancing. Please don't ever sell extracurriculars short.

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 Brent Owen for attending the meeting. He shared the following good news:

Summer Theme Camps 2023

Transylvania County Schools will hold three Summer Theme Camps June 19-29, 2023 (Monday through Thursday), from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Brevard Elementary, Pisgah Forest Elementary, and Rosman Elementary. In addition to a particular theme (BES arts-based; PFES outdoor activities; and RES leadership skills), each camp will incorporate reading, math and field trips. Current 3rd, 4th and 5th graders have applied and every slot is now full. The camps are made possible through ESSER funding.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month and the 2023 theme is “More Than Enough.” The National Alliance on Mental Illness wants everyone to remember the inherent value we each hold, no matter our diagnosis, appearance, socioeconomic status, background, or ability. If all you did today was wake up and get out of bed, that’s *more than enough*. Showing up, just as you are, for yourself and the people around you, is *more than enough*. No matter what, you are inherently worthy of *more than enough* life, love and healing. Many people are dealing with depression and anxiety, some for the first time. It is important to talk with your primary care physician and with friends and family if you have concerns. It is also important to talk with our children about mental health risk factors, how to practice the steps to stay mentally healthy, and how to recognize when we or someone we love needs help. [#breakthestigma](#)

4. **Former Students in the Military**

In honor of the upcoming Memorial Day observance on May 29, 2023, the board read aloud 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.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 13, February 16, February 20, February 21, February 23, February 27, February 28, and March 6, 2023 meetings and the personnel report for May 15, 2023 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Middle School Math Textbook Adoption**

Director Carrie Norris presented as first-read information a recommendation to adopt enVision Math as the new middle school math textbook effective August 2023. The three-year adoption for grades 6-8 is \$97,802 to be paid from textbook funds. She reviewed the process undertaken by the selection committee and reported that 90% of middle school math teachers surveyed are in favor of adopting enVision Math. She noted that TCS has a current adoption with enVision for grades K-5. Mr. Wiener asked many questions and stated that his research shows that while the enVision curriculum has strong remediation for students who have deficiencies in math, it is boring for kids who are doing well. Mrs. Norris reported that is not what the selection committee found. They observed the program to be very rigorous and fast moving for advanced learners. Johnson County, Henderson, Catawba and Newton-Conover have all recently adopted enVision Math. Mr. Wiener asked if any other products were considered. Mrs. Norris reported that one parent on the committee had favored Saxon Math, but it failed to meet

expectations across the board. Mrs. Norris reported that she has sample materials in her office if board members would like to review them. Approval of the middle school math textbook adoption will be requested at the next regular meeting on June 5.

7. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following update:

K-12 students have grown up in a world where artificial intelligence (AI) informs, tracks, and affects many things--what groceries families buy, how scientists track diseases, and even how photos filter into social media apps. This technology was largely invisible until ChatGPT burst onto the scene late last year. This AI tool can put out essays, novels, legal briefs and many other things. It can also do computer coding. What do students need to understand about AI to be prepared for the world of work? To be a smart and responsible citizen? Currently AI is based on probability and statistics. It makes errors. It can spread misinformation. It can have bias. Understanding how it works is important so that people can recognize its weaknesses. Students will always need to learn how to write, and writing is important for computer coding. Moving forward it will be increasingly important for students to 1) have a basic understanding of how AI works, 2) have hands-on opportunities for learning how it works, 3) analyze ethical questions about its use, and 4) learn how to interact effectively with it.

8. Important Dates

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

9. Other Items

Mr. Jackson asked the administration to find out who had torn up the sidewalk alongside Brevard High School and see when they are going to finish repairs.

Mr. Kiviniemi stated, "As some of you know, my wife Ann recently fell coming down our stairs. So we decided to sell our two-story house and buy a one-story house. As a part of that process, we decided to purchase a house in Berea, Kentucky. Ann and I went to college there, and our son and his wife work there, so the move makes sense. Plus, housing costs there are about 35% less than here. I have not shared this information

with many people yet. We will be closing the first week of June, then vacating within the next two weeks. I want to thank the voters for electing me to serve these past 12 years. I would also like to thank Tawny McCoy for her nonpartisan leadership during that time. I feel that we both looked at making decisions through the lens of what is best for students, staff, and the community. Individual board members have no power. Only by working as a body can we act. Once a decision is made, the rest of the board should support that decision. Unfortunately, it has become clear to me that the new majority is moving in directions I cannot support. Therefore, I am tendering my resignation from the board of education effective at end of this meeting. I would like to thank everyone for their support.”

Board Attorney Kris Caudle thanked Mr. Kiviniemi for his years of service. He informed the board that he could give advice in closed session regarding the process for filling a board vacancy. Mr. Jackson stated that he was sorry to see Ron go and had enjoyed working with him. Mrs. McCoy stated that she has enjoyed working with Ron all of these years and wished he and Ann the best as they enjoy being closer to family. She thanked Ron for always doing what he believed best for students and staff. Dr. McDaris stated that he and Ron have done a lot of things together over the years and it has been an honor and privilege to work with him. He added that many years ago, Principal Kiviniemi gave his son some great advice. He thanked Ron for his service and stated that he would miss him.

10. **Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) to consider confidential personnel matters protected by G.S. § 115C-319-321; subsection (a)(3) to consider matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; and subsection (a)(6) to consider the qualifications for initial employment of a public officer or official. After a brief recess, the closed session convened at approximately 7:25 p.m. The following board members were present: Tawny McCoy, Chair; Kimsey Jackson, Vice Chair; Tanya Dalton (*participating by phone*); and Chris Wiener. Board Attorney Kris Caudle was also present in the closed session.

At approximately 8:27 p.m., BY MOTION MADE BY MRS. MCCOY and SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board adjourned closed session and returned to open session.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
May 15, 2023**

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

Licensed Personnel

Lauren Koons, Teacher, BES, effective June 15, 2023
Daniel Lisenby, School Counselor, BHS, effective June 15, 2023

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Megan Libby, Teacher, BES, effective August 21, 2023
Hannah Lunsford, Teacher, PFES, effective August 21, 2023

Classified Personnel

Sara Smith, College & Career Coach, DRS, effective August 21, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

None

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

None

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None

The administrators named here are recommended for a four-year renewal of their contracts:

Melonie Armano
Janette Broda
Patrick Chapman

Carrie Norris
Audrey Reneau

The licensed employees named here are recommended for a one-year renewal of their probationary contracts:

Abigail Ammons	Jennifer Heaslip	James Proctor
Allyn Anderson	Connor Heitzmann	Karen Randle
Lindsay Barton	Emma Higgins	Candace Reese
Mary Beck	Lori Holbert	Dusty Robinson
Tania Boggia	Emma Hughson	Zachary Rohrer
Tessa Brown	Ashley Israel	Amber Schur
Angela Cannon	Sonya Jenkins	Christie Sentell
Debra Carabantes	Andrew Jameson	Alyse Sheppard
Melanie Carrick	Forrest Johnson	Elizabeth Shober
Elizabeth Chancellor	Margaret Joseph	Olivia Shuler
Luke Coleman	Keli'i Krueger	Hannah Souther
Abigail Cooley	Robin Lavery	Heidi Spradlin
Megan Dalton	Alaine LeGrand	Jessica Stone
Natalie Daves	Melissa Lindsey	Emily Taylor
Lydia Davis	William Lindsey	Julia Thramann
Morris Davis	Jodie McCall	Jessica Tidmore
Mary Derks	Elizabeth McConaughy	Nathan Tripp
Theresa Dixon	Dahlia McGee	Bridgette Tunney
Callin Driver	Lora McIntosh	Linda Underwood
Jaime Dulberg	Brandon McIntyre	Jennifer Victory
Madison Elliott	Theresa McManus	Rebecca Walkup
Kaitlyn Franks	Sarah Miles	Alexandra Wall
Elizabeth Gibbs	Aubrey Moore	Jennifer Warren
Bethany Green	Catherine Motuz	Beth Watson
Dustin Haithcox	Lydia Odell	Huyana Whitely
August Hall	Rebecca Peele	Kyle Worley
Carri Harris	Amber Perkins	

The licensed employees named here are recommended for a two-year renewal of their contracts:

Christopher Alley	Jessica Gorman	Amanda Przywara
Julie Bowman	Daisie Hullender	Autumn Rumpfelt
Trey Brown	Hazel Ketchum	Chandra Thrift
Jennifer Collins	Jennifer McCall	Rachel Vandegrift
Heather Corn	Alaina McGinnis	Samuel Wellborn
Haley Dawson	Sarah Monteith	Leah Worley
Kelli Glover	Benjamin Morgan	Ashlee Zachary

The licensed employees named here are recommended for a four-year renewal of their contracts:

Margaret Buchanan	Alana Hokans	Breana Murfin
Charles Burchill	James Markey	Scott Russell
Daniel Courtine	John McCarson	Richard Stubbs
Erica Courtine	Breanna Morris	Leslie Taylor