

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
May 17, 2010**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

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. Non-Faculty Coaches
7. Policy:
  - A. IK-R "Student Accountability for Academic Achievement"
8. School Calendar 2010-2011
9. Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey Results
10. CTE Plan 2010-2011
11. Facilities Update
12. Important Dates
13. Other Items
14. Public Comment

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on May 17, 2010 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chairman; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chairman; and Sue Fox. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Dr. Bo Williams, Director of Testing and Policy; Dr. Scott Elliott, Director of 9-12 Curriculum; Dr. Kim Elliott, Director of K-8 Curriculum; Lenora Carver, *Transylvania Times*; Wanda Lu Paxton, *WSQL*; and two guests. Zack Cady, BHS, was the student representative. Mrs. McCoy gave the invocation and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire called the meeting to order. He reported that Shelia Norman and Cindy Petit were absent due to illness.

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting agenda for May 17, 2010 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**  
Dr. McDaris welcomed Zack Cady to the meeting. The Board recognized student artwork from BES that was on display in the board room. Dr. McDaris reported the following good news items:

*RHS PEER TEAM*

Thanks to an \$800 grant from the Transylvania County Schools Education Foundation, the Rosman High School Peer Team is finding ways to improve their school environment through conflict resolution and student-led bully-free initiatives. The students, who wrote their own grant proposal, had the goals of improving

communications, promoting peaceful resolutions to disputes, and helping schoolmates and others make responsible decisions. Peer Team members are Drew Jamerson, Leanna Hall, Kendra Thomas, Fallon Newell, Kandyce Norton, Garret Owen, Colby McAlister, and Brittany Nelson. Sarah Shawver, school guidance counselor, is the team advisor.

#### *BMS DISPLAYS TRAVELING ART EXHIBIT*

As a part of its Cinco de Mayo recognition, Brevard Middle School participated in a traveling art exhibit of works by famed artist Diego Rivera. Reproductions of *Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda Park* (1947-1948), *The Agitator* (1926), and *The Flower Vendor* (1942), were on display at the school during the week of May 3-7. The exhibit is part of a grant titled *Messages from Mexico* that Mrs. Newman's Spanish classes received this year from the Education Foundation.

#### *FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM EXPANDS*

The TCS Department of Child Nutrition has been awarded grants for all four elementary schools to participate in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2010-2011 school year. The grants will help children make fresh fruits and vegetables part of their regular diet by allowing them to try various items by means of a fresh fruit or vegetable snack each day. Classroom staff members also receive a fruit or vegetable snack each day. BES and RES participated in the grant in 2009-2010 and the program was very well received. Transylvania is one of only two systems that have received approval for all of its elementary schools to participate in the program for next year.

#### *CEILING ART FOR LOCAL BUSINESS*

Students in the Brevard Middle School Art Guild, under the guidance of art teacher Erin Keane, painted ceiling tiles for OP Taylor's toy store in Brevard. John and Susie Taylor hosted an opening reception for the young artists and their families and friends. The students felt like celebrities and were honored to have their work on display in a prominent business in our community. The original artworks have been permanently installed, so look up the next time you stop by!

#### *MEALS ON WHEELS FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE*

This year marked the seventh annual partnership between Meals on Wheels of Brevard and the Transylvania County Schools for the annual Feinsein Challenge fundraiser. Transylvania students collected a grand total of 4390 food items, with Pisgah Forest Elementary winning the \$100 award for the most items (2017) donated. All donations go to Sharing House.

#### *BUILDING FUTURES GRANT*

On May 12, the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board approved Transylvania County Schools' request for a grant in the amount of \$97,493 for the 2010-2011 school year. The funds, available through the Workforce Investment Act, provide the financial support for the Building Futures student support program. Sixty percent of our student advocate program is paid for by the grant. This year, 45 students have been enrolled in the Building Futures program and received assistance with school work, job placement, and mentoring. The grant includes \$21,853 to hire student workers throughout the school year. This is the first time we have been able to offer a paid work experience during the school year. Student advocates are Stephen Shields, Ashley Witt, and Wendy Taylor. The grant application was written and submitted by Dr. Scott Elliott.

Chairman Whitmire commended the Brevard High School Theater Arts department for their wonderful production of "Beauty and the Beast."

4. **Former Students in the Military**

In recognition of Memorial Day, the Board of Education 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. Chairman Whitmire reported that although school will be in session on May 31 as a make-up day, each school will have activities focusing on the meaning and importance of Memorial Day.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the minutes from the May 3, 2010 meeting and the personnel report for May 17, 2010 (see attached) were unanimously approved. Dr. McDaris announced that Jeff Bailey will be the new head football coach at BHS, effective June 16, 2010. Mr. Whitmire remarked that Mr. Bailey will be the first head football coach at BHS who is also an alumnus of Brevard High School.

6. **Non-Faculty Coaches**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously approved Holly Krogman as the head coach for BHS women's basketball.

7. **Policy IK-R**

Dr. Bo Williams presented revised Policy IK-R "Student Accountability for Academic Achievement" for first-read information. Dr. Williams thanked Dr. Scott Elliott for his work on the policy and he and Dr. Elliott reviewed the major changes. Dr. Williams reported that the revisions were made to align the policy with the state accountability policy. Dr. Elliott pointed out a change in procedure for school safety net plans. Schools will submit safety net plans on the same two-year cycle as the school improvement plan. Board members were pleased to note that first semester test results were positive and that overall test anxiety seemed to have decreased. Chairman Whitmire stated that the revisions have resulted in a policy that provides more opportunity for students to meet the standard without lowering the achievement bar. He confirmed with Dr. Williams that the TCS policy still exceeds state standards. Mr. Whitmire requested three readings of revised Policy IK-R before final approval.

8. **School Calendar 2010-2011**

Dr. McDaris reported that the TCS waiver request to allow school to start on August 9, 2010 was denied. He expressed his displeasure with the handling of the waiver request and "miscommunication issues" by the Department of Public Instruction. He reported that after learning last week that neighboring school districts had received answers regarding their waiver requests, he contacted DPI to inquire about Transylvania's request. Transylvania submitted its request on March 16. Dr. McDaris's inquiry revealed that a letter from DPI was generated on March 31 informing him that the waiver had been denied, however, the letter was sent to the wrong e-mail address *and* the wrong physical address. In addition, he discovered that the TCS waiver request had never been reviewed by the State Board. It appears that an arbitrary decision was made by someone at DPI to present some, but not all, of the waiver requests received to the SBOE. Dr. McDaris stated that four mountain counties including Transylvania were denied a voice on this issue. He reported that State Board representative Wayne

McDevitt is displeased with the way in which this issue was handled by DPI and has requested an explanation from Associate State Superintendent Phillip Price at the next SBOE meeting.

Dr. Williams presented the recommended school calendar for 2010-2011 for approval. Chairman Whitmire discussed the impact of early dismissals and late starts on the academic environment and stated that current calendar legislation forces the school system to constantly plan for crisis. He described the inconvenience to families that has resulted from the long wait for an answer on the waiver and the denial of a voice before the State Board. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the school calendar for 2010-2011 was unanimously approved as presented. The first day of school for next year will be August 25, 2010.

Dr. McDaris noted there has been much controversy recently in the local media surrounding the school system's desire to start school earlier than August 25. Some summer camp owners have been vocally opposed to an earlier start. Dr. McDaris stated that while he respects these opinions, most summer camps do not depend on Transylvania students to fill their rosters nor school system employees to staff them. He stated that summer camps in this area have traditionally started before school lets out and ended after school starts, and this was true even when schools started earlier in August. He remarked, "I just don't believe that we are going to cause a complete economic collapse by starting school two weeks earlier." He also took issue with comments made by Gordon Strayhorn, Director of Camp Illahee and president of the NC Youth Camp Association, which were reported in the *Transylvania Times*. Mr. Strayhorn was quoted as saying that summer camp is an educational experience equal to school. Dr. McDaris stated that while camp is a wonderful experience, it is not equal to school because no child would attend 180 days of summer camp, nor be tested on his/her achievement. He also reported that data shows that overall test indexes for high schools went down after the calendar law went into effect and students were forced to take first semester exams after Christmas break. Dr. McDaris commended camp owner Page Lemel for her work a liaison with local camp owners in seeking a solution to the calendar dilemma.

As requested by the Board at the May 13 meeting, Dr. McDaris presented a draft resolution of concerns regarding school calendar legislation and the handling of calendar waiver requests by the Department of Public Instruction. Chairman Whitmire suggested several new additions to the resolution, and members debated the wording of the changes at length. After much discussion, Vice Chairman McCoy suggested tabling the resolution temporarily to allow Mr. Sutton to draft the new language and the Board to move on with the rest of the agenda. ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED MRS. MCCOY, the Board tabled the calendar resolution until later in the meeting.

Dr. McDaris recognized BHS representative, Zack Cady. Mr. Cady invited the Board to attend the National Honor Society Induction ceremony scheduled for 3:45 p.m. on May 26 at Brevard High School. He reiterated his recommendations to the Board to 1) make AP courses year long rather than semester long, and 2) support funding for the BHS fine arts department. He also commended Dr. McDaris for his excellent calls on closures, delays, and early dismissals this winter. Board members thanked Mr. Cady for his contributions and wished him much success in the future. Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the high schools have been working on alternating A/B schedules for AP courses for next year. He also reported that the state budget cuts could mean that certain online courses would require an enrollment fee or giving up some funding next year.

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board took a ten-minute recess.

**9. Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey Results**

David Sutton presented a summary of the 2010 Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey and Central Services Satisfaction Survey composite results. He noted that overall participation rates were very high (76.5%) for surveys of this type, and overall survey results were quite positive. He reviewed specific indicators and answered questions from the Board. Full results including individual school-level results may be viewed online.

**10. CTE Plan 2010-2011**

Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the Career and Technical Education Plan for 2010-2011 is available for comment and review at <http://ctelops.dpi.state.nc.us>. Approval of the plan will be requested at the next regular meeting. Dr. Elliott reported that the Transylvania CTE program has had another successful year. He provided an overview of the broad spectrum of CTE courses available, a number of which are offered in partnership with Blue Ridge Community College. Dr. Elliott reported that the state is about to embark on major changes to the CTE Course of Study. The changes would go into effect in two years. Chairman Whitmire commended the CTE program and stated that the Board has not given up on the new CTE building for RHS; the project is on hold until additional funding can be found.

**11. Facilities Update**

Chairman Whitmire asked for thoughts on the most effective way to use the facilities master plan in the Board's presentation to the County Commissioners and as a communication tool to help increase public awareness of the school system's infrastructure needs. Mr. Barger suggested a presentation of the plan in the current format with emphasis on those items that need to be done sooner rather than later. He stated that the years 2018 and 2019 have been mentioned in terms of being able to fund a needs list such as this. He cautioned that items such as HVAC systems cannot wait that long. Mechanical systems that were original to buildings built in the 1970's are beginning to break down. Chairman Whitmire stated that it is a credit to the Plant Operations team that these old systems have been kept operational well past their intended useful life. Mr. Whitmire noted that the five-year capital outlay plan has become in actuality an 8-10 year plan.

**12. Important Dates**

May 20	Scholars Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS
May 20	DRS Senior Projects, 3:30-5:30 pm, DRS
May 21	BMS Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
May 25	BHS Senior Projects, 3:30 p.m., BHS
May 27	BHS Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
Jun. 7	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Jun. 11	DRS Graduation, 1:00 p.m., DRS
Jun. 11	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
Jun. 12	RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center
Jun. 15	Last pupil day
Jun. 16-17	Teacher Workdays
Jun. 18-25	Summer School
Jun. 21	REGULAR MEETING/Recognition of Retirees, 6:30 p.m., BMS

Chairman Whitmire asked whether the DRS graduation ceremony would be relocated in the event of rain. Dr. McDaris reported that buses would be available to move the event to the Transylvania County Parks & Recreation facility if needed. Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the date for DRS senior projects was recently changed from May 21 to May 20.

Mr. Barger reported that the County Manager Artie Wilson has suggested 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 for the Board of Education to present its budget request to the Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Fox noted that she has a conflict on that date, but could probably work it out. Chairman Whitmire asked Mr. Barger to confirm with Mrs. Fox and communicate the Board's agreement to Mr. Wilson. He requested that the agenda for the joint meeting include ample time for presentation and public comment.

**13. Other Items**

The Board reviewed the calendar resolution as revised by Mr. Sutton. After making further changes, ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY the Board unanimously approved the calendar resolution as amended (see attached).

**14. Public Comment**

Larry Chapman, candidate for county commissioner, commended the Board for its efforts to meet the needs of students and teachers. He encouraged members to call on commissioners whenever emergency facility situations such as roof leaks occur. Additionally, Mr. Chapman invited school groups to participate in the Memorial Day Parade and activities that will be held in downtown Brevard in conjunction with White Squirrel Festival.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
May 17, 2010**

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

Licensed Personnel

Mark Barnes, Teacher and Coach, BHS, effective June 11, 2010  
Sharon Hooper, Lead Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2010  
Sonya Morris, Teacher, PFES, effective June 18, 2010  
Margaret Selle, Teacher, PFES, effective July 1, 2010

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Jeff Bailey, Teacher and Coach, BHS, effective June 16, 2010

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Travis Buchanan, from Teacher, BMS, to Teacher, BMS, and Driver's Education Instructor, TCS, effective May 18, 2010  
Heidi Morgan, from Teacher and Coach, BES, to Teacher and Coach, BHS, effective August 20, 2010  
Jamie Reid, from Teacher and Coach, RHS, to Teacher and Coach, RHS, and Driver's Education Instructor, TCS, effective May 18, 2010

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

Cristina Gibbons  
Julia Taylor Hilty

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None

*For Information:*

The administrators named here are eligible for renewal of their contracts:

Greg Carter, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2014  
James Holmes, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2014  
Donna Raspa, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2014

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

Ashton Barton, Teacher, RMS  
Allison Baum, Teacher, BMS  
Margaret Bayne, Media Coordinator, RES  
Suzanne Bice, Teacher, BHS  
Beth Branagan, Social Worker, DRS  
Benjamin Briggs, Teacher, BMS  
Christy Bryson, Teacher, RHS  
Tamara Carbuhn, Teacher, BES & PFES  
Linda Carrillo, Teacher, RMS & RHS  
Luanna Carter, Career Development Coordinator, BHS  
Catherine Childress, Teacher, BES  
Marlene Cronin, Teacher, BES  
Angela Davidson, Teacher, PFES  
Ange Davis, Teacher, BMS  
Patrick Davis, Teacher, BHS  
Marie Dean, Teacher, RES  
Clare Desmelik, Teacher, BHS  
Jessica Edney, Teacher, BHS  
Carrie Elmore, Teacher, BHS  
Kelley Eyster, Teacher, BMS  
Sara Germanaro, Teacher, PFES  
Michael Ginnane, Teacher, BHS  
Maura Goodrich, Teacher, RHS  
Meredith Guice, Teacher, BES  
Adria Hardy, Teacher, BHS  
Dan Harris, Teacher, BHS  
Kristy Hasman, Teacher, RMS  
Sharon Hedgepeth, Teacher, BES  
Trina Hendricks, Teacher, BHS  
Derrick Huggins, Teacher and Coach, RES  
Holly Jones, Teacher, RHS  
Anna Klosek, Psychologist, RES & TCH



Jessica Levesque, Teacher, DRS  
Keri Mann, Teacher, RES  
Jennifer McCall, Teacher, RMS  
Dolly McCall, Teacher, BHS  
Mark McCann, Teacher, BHS  
Connie McGaha, Teacher, BES  
Carolyn McKee, Teacher, BES  
Jacquelyn Miller, Teacher, BES  
Dustin Morgan, Teacher, RMS  
Heidi Morgan, Teacher and Coach, BES  
Tammy Morris, Teacher, BES  
Julie Nederveld, Teacher, RES  
Claire Olinik, Teacher, RMS & RHS  
Brooks Owenby, Teacher, BHS  
Shannon Patton, Teacher, RHS  
Scott Phelps, Media Coordinator, TCH  
Melissa Redden, Teacher, BES  
James Reid, Teacher and Coach, RHS  
Kristine Renner, Media Coordinator, BMS  
Megan Robertson, Teacher, RES  
Dusty Robinson, Teacher and Coach, RHS  
Katrina Ronneburger, Teacher, BHS  
Stacey Seefeldt, Counselor, BHS  
Sarah Shawver, Counselor, RHS  
Debora Smith, Teacher, PFE  
Rivers Smith, Teacher, BMS  
Lisa Smith, Teacher, BMS  
Brooke Snipes, Teacher, PFE  
Heidi Spradlin, Teacher, BMS  
Kevin Spradlin, Teacher, BHS  
Erik Wahus, Teacher, BHS  
Eve Walker, Teacher, PFE  
Bridgette Whitlock, Teacher, BHS  
Aaron Whitmire, Teacher, RMS & RHS  
Matthew Witt, Teacher and Coach, RHS  
Catherine Zandecki, Teacher, BMS

**RESOLUTION OF CONCERN  
REGARDING SCHOOL CALENDAR LEGISLATION  
AND THE HANDLING OF CALENDAR WAIVER REQUESTS  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS inclement weather required Transylvania County Schools to close its schools to students for twelve days during the winter season of 2009-2010; and

WHEREAS inclement weather closings and delays in Transylvania County Schools disrupted a total of twenty-five regularly scheduled student attendance days during the winter season of 2009-2010; and

WHEREAS current school calendar legislation does not adequately consider historical or geographical information regarding typical winter weather patterns; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction determines which calendar waiver requests are allowed to be heard by the North Carolina State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina State Board of Education is the governing body charged with hearing and acting upon school calendar waiver requests under current North Carolina law; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction elected not to even inform the North Carolina State Board of Education of Transylvania County Schools' calendar waiver request; and

WHEREAS Transylvania County Schools' waiver request was submitted for consideration by the North Carolina State Board of Education with the best interests of its students and their education in mind; and

WHEREAS the spirit and procedure ensuring due process and voice before the North Carolina State Board of Education was interrupted and denied to Transylvania County Schools by the actions of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS Transylvania County Schools holds current school calendar legislation to be detrimental to the sound, basic education of its students guaranteed to them by the North Carolina State Constitution because it:

- Forces local schools and all the students they serve into unpredictable schedules and circumstances that substantially undermine the continuity of their educational programs and experiences,
- Inhibits high school students from accessing community college and university courses as a result of incompatible academic calendars,

- Limits opportunities for meaningful professional development and preparation by local teachers and other educational personnel; and


WHEREAS the United States is in direct competition with other nations throughout the world to ensure its economic viability and the success of its citizens both now and in the future,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education does hereby express its dissatisfaction and deep disappointment over the reckless treatment of its school calendar waiver request by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education strongly encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to adopt and enact legislation to restore control of the school calendar to locally elected boards of education who best understand the needs, expectations, and circumstances of their local communities and the constituents they serve.

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

  
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Superintendent