

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
May 18, 2015**

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. Administrative Procedure: Student Accountability
7. Student Handbooks 2015-2016
8. School Violence Report
9. Local Board Training Credit
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Public Comment
13. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:35 p.m. on May 18, 2015 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Marty Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to three guests, the following board members, staff, and media representatives were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Marty Griffin
Ron Kiviniemi
Betty Scruggs

MEDIA:

Park Baker, Transylvania Times

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Brian Weaver, Director, 6-12 Curriculum/Instruction
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum/Instruction
Alan Justice, Director, Safe Schools/Transportation
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator
Andrew Shook, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the meeting agenda for May 18, 2015 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
Elisa Morehouse, parent, expressed concerns about physical education in the schools. She spoke about how regular physical activity can promote academic achievement and improved behavior by allowing students to burn off excess energy. She believes that discipline approaches such as in-school suspension would be more effective if, instead of having energetic and/or frustrated students sit in cubicles, the students could be allowed to run or otherwise move around. Mrs. Morehouse stated that regular physical activity should not be just for students who make the athletic teams. She urged making physical education a classroom priority by take regular breaks for physical activity,

incorporating physical activity directly into daily lessons, and incorporating exercise into discipline. Chairman McCoy thanked Mrs. Morehouse for her comments.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

ALL-STATE CHORUS

Brevard High School students recently participated in the North Carolina All-State Chorus in Raleigh on May 1-2. Congratulations to Tori Miller, Sean Dambax, Jessie Nelson, Michael Melendez, Lauren Kline, Sam Johnson, Emily Sheffield, and Joseph Tweed on their achievement.

DRS MURAL PROJECT

Davidson River School's artist-in-resident, Nachin Bone, recently completed a new mural painting project with DRS students and staff entitled, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." To create the mural, aspiring seniors painted hot air balloons with personal, inspirational messages and themes. Younger students painted butterflies into the scene, tying this project with a previous mural entitled, "Without Change, There'd Be No Butterflies." DRS staff participated by painting inspiring words and messages on ceiling tiles near the mural.

SAFE DATES AT DRS HELPS FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Safe Dates class at Davidson River School, as a final project, created posters based on what they learned about the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. The posters were displayed around the school and also used at the SAFE booth during a recent community event.

HEALTHY KIDS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM AT DRS

Davidson River School recently received a WNC Healthy Kids mini-grant, which they used to design a six-session afterschool program that ran from April 28 through May 14. The activities and incentives included three 30-minute sessions on group prep and goal setting, one hour-long incentive session for students who attended 5 of the 6 sessions, weekly goodie bags, door prizes consisting of cosmetology services from Blue Ridge Community College and various "healthy cooking" products, and classes on hip-hop choreography, healthy cooking, yoga, Taiko drumming, and Cross Fit.

EXTENDED STOP ARMS

Transportation Director Alan Justice recently received word from the state transportation director that Transylvania County Schools has been selected to pilot five of the new extended stop arms for school buses. Mr. Justice and Mr. Wilmot are looking forward to this opportunity to offer enhanced bus safety for our students.

Dr. McDaris recognized the student artwork from Rosman High School that was on display in the board room and welcomed SRO Shook to the meeting.

4. Former Students in the Military

In recognition of Memorial Day on May 25, 2015, the Board read aloud the names 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 McCoy stated that the Board is proud and honored by these individuals' service to our country.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the minutes of the May 4 and May 7, 2015 meetings and the personnel report for May 18, 2015 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Administrative Procedure: Student Accountability**

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board recently waived policy regulations IK-R, "Student Accountability for Academic Achievement," for the current school year and the next due to ongoing policy changes from the State Board of Education. Brian Weaver reviewed the administrative procedure that has been developed to take the place of policy IK-R. Mr. Weaver reported that summer school will be offered in June to students who do not score at least a Level III on an EOG or EOC test so that they may retest and be eligible for course credit or promotion. Waivers will be available under certain circumstances. To be eligible for a waiver a student must attend summer school and participate in retesting. The new administrative procedure will be included in the 2015-2016 student handbooks. Audrey Reneau reported that Summer Reading Camp will be offered in July for students who have not met the Read to Achieve requirements. Approximately 60 students overall are expected to participate in the 2015 summer sessions.

7. **Student Handbooks 2015-2016**

Audrey Reneau presented the elementary school draft handbook for 2015-2016. She reported that the school system is still hoping to find a partner for the afterschool program. Mr. Kiviniemi asked about a new rule asking parents not to bring in outside food from restaurants when eating lunch at school with their children. Mrs. Reneau reported that the schools want to encourage parents to participate in the school lunch program with their children rather than bring in fast food, pizza, etc. Mr. Griffin asked for clarification regarding parents' rights to "opt out" regarding technology. Mrs. Reneau reported that parents may choose for their child to not have Internet access using school computers. Parents may also opt out of allowing photos of their child to be used on school websites or other public media. Board members asked for an update on smart boards. Dr. McDaris reported that a new shipment of smart boards has just been delivered to BES. Mr. Barger reported there are still some teachers that want smart boards but do not yet have them. Mr. Kiviniemi requested a breakdown of the number of smart boards across the school system and the number of teachers who want them and do not have them. Mrs. Scruggs asked about Personal Education Plans (PEPs). Mrs. Reneau gave an update.

Brian Weaver reviewed the changes to the uniform student handbook for middle school and high school for 2015-2016. Mr. Kiviniemi asked about the new 10-point grading system and what impact lowering the passing grade from 70 to 60 would have on the overall pass/fail rates. Mr. Weaver stated that it would be hard to predict as teachers may adjust their grading practices to align with the new system. Mrs. Scruggs stated that she has general concerns about attendance and would like to have a report at a future meeting regarding the number of students who adhere to 10 or fewer absences per year, how many exceed 10 absences, how many earn credit, and whether the numbers of students who exceed the allowable maximum is increasing, decreasing, or remaining steady. Dr. McDaris reported that at the elementary level, excessive absences or tardies are typically the fault of the parent for not getting the child to school. He reported that excessive absences may be referred to the court system; however, because the courts are overburdened, legal measures to address the problem are unlikely.

Mrs. Reneau reported a new feature for the handbooks—an informational tear-out page listing all of the social media channels, links and apps for parents to get important news and information about the schools.

8. School Violence Report

Alan Justice gave a summary of the School Violence report for 2013-2014. Transylvania County Schools had 17 reportable acts, most of which were for possession of controlled substances. The number of short-term suspensions has declined over the last three years. School resource officers are doing excellent work, with 1855 student contacts, 129 home visits, 763 parent contacts, and 60 D.A.R.E. classes taught.

In health and safety news, the schools had more than 100 fire and safety drills. There were two evacuations—one due to a minor science lab accident and the other due to burned popcorn—and two Code Red lockdowns. The annual Rosman High School after-prom lock-in was another big success. In addition to controlled access systems in TCS buildings, panic alarms (similar to bank alarms) were installed in the schools and central office. The anonymous tip line had 22 contacts with 8 of those resulting in text messages. Most of the messages were bullying concerns and one was a safety concern. Mr. Justice noted that the new athletic trainers have been invaluable in helping to keep student athletes safe. Out of the 349 student drug tests performed, 8 were positive. Seven of the 8 were for marijuana and one was for pills. The School Health Advisory Council focused efforts this year on procedures to reduce the amount of class time missed due to head lice and getting information to parents on ways to combat head lice at home. Mr. Kiviniemi asked Mr. Justice to send a copy of his report to board members.

Mr. Justice gave an update on transportation services. He reported that the three students who were injured in December by a motorist who drove around a bus stop arm are all back in school and doing well. Since that incident, local bus stops have been reevaluated to look at the feasibility of making them all door side stops. To do so would significantly increase the ride time for some students. Mr. Justice reported that bus drivers will be using hand signals next year as an added safety precaution. Five TCS buses are currently equipped with stop arm cameras. Thanks to the cameras, four motorists who ran stopped school buses were all found guilty in court. Mr. Justice stated that he is looking forward to getting the new extended stop arms. Each new stop arm will extend 6 feet across the road.

Transylvania's transportation efficiency rating was 100 percent again this year. Mr. Justice commended the outstanding work of the transportation staff. He also gave a demonstration of "Buster the Bus," a safety education tool that is hugely popular at the elementary schools. Buster is provided through a grant from DPI. Mr. Griffin requested an update on the new bus driver training. Mr. Justice reported that the new state training procedures will be geared more toward driving big trucks than school buses. Training will be a longer process with a more difficult exit exam. Potential school bus drivers must also meet local physical standards for safety purposes.

9. Local Board Training Credit

Dr. McDaris reported that N.C.G.S. § 115C-50 requires all local board members to receive a minimum of 12 clock hours of training annually. To meet this requirement, members can attend training activities throughout the year that are sponsored by the North Carolina School Boards Association. They may also participate in local, non-sponsored training activities. Applications for local, non-sponsored credit require board approval. ON A MOTION BY MRS. SCRUGGS, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the

Board approved the following applications for local, non-sponsored training credit for the 2014-2015 year:

4/30/15	NCACC, "County's Role in K-12 Public Education"	Scruggs	5.5 hours
5/07/15	Chris Campbell, "Board Member Roles & Responsibilities"	Scruggs	2.5 hours
5/07/15	Chris Campbell, "Board Member Roles & Responsibilities"	McCoy	2.5 hours
5/07/15	Chris Campbell, "Board Member Roles & Responsibilities"	Petit	2.5 hours
5/07/15	Chris Campbell, "Board Member Roles & Responsibilities"	Griffin	2.5 hours
5/07/15	Chris Campbell, "Board Member Roles & Responsibilities"	Kiviniemi	2.5 hours

10. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The House budget for 2015-2016 has been released. The budget proposal may help address a salary inequity issue for school administrators that has made it possible in certain circumstances for some new principals or assistant principals to earn less pay than some teachers at their schools.
- The board attorney has recommended moving certain items such as ROTC funding from Fund 8 to Fund 2 due to legal maneuvering by state legislators to open up even more protected funding to charter schools. Mr. Barger reported that this could be handled by amending the superintendent's budget request to the county manager. He noted that the total dollar amount of the FY16 budget request would remain the same. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Board voted unanimously to grant permission for the superintendent to amend his FY16 budget request letter to the county manager to reflect a transfer of ROTC funds from Fund 8 to Fund 2. Mr. Kiviniemi asked if a similar measure would be needed to protect funding for school nurses and SROs. Dr. McDaris reported that the county funds those positions differently.
- A reminder that Monday, May 25, 2015 (Memorial Day) will be a student makeup day. All schools will have activities to commemorate this important day.
- Dr. McDaris announced that he will have a new title in December—grandfather. He stated that he and Lisa are thrilled about becoming first-time grandparents. Board members congratulated Dr. McDaris on his happy news.

11. Important Dates

May 20	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 21	Scholars Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS
May 25	Makeup day for Feb. 24
June 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 11	Last student day (noon dismissal)
June 11	DRS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., DRS Lawn
June 12	Teacher workday
June 12	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center

June 13	RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center
June 15	Begin 4-day summer schedule
June 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
July 2	Holiday
July 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 13	Administrators' Retreat, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Rogow Room
Aug. 17	Resume regular 5-day schedule
Aug. 17	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 18	New Teacher Orientation, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Gorges State Park Visitor Center
Aug. 19-21	Teacher workdays
Aug. 24	First student day

*The Board will resume its once-a-month meeting schedule in July. Regular business meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center, unless otherwise noted.

12. Public Comment

Mrs. Morehouse restated some of her concerns regarding incorporating exercise into student discipline. She stated that some students get ISS for being late to school, and she feels it is unfair to punish students for tardiness when it is the parent's fault for not getting them to school on time. She would like to see this issue addressed in a more positive way.

13. Other Items

Chairman McCoy reported that the next Board of Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for May 26, and budget workshops have been set for June 1 and June 4. She recommended that the Board consider changing its meeting on June 1 to another date or an earlier time so that members may attend the budget workshop. The Board discussed options, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, voted to move the June 1, 2015 business meeting to June 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center.

Chairman McCoy commended Dr. McDaris and Norris Barger for their budget presentation to the county commissioners on May 11. She also commended the "Teacher of the Year" awards luncheon that was held on May 15, particularly the outstanding video presentation highlighting all nine of the school-level teachers of the year.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
May 18, 2015**

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

Licensed Personnel

Eileen Garvey, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2015
Jennifer McCall, Teacher, RMS, effective June 12, 2015
Rebecca Pardue, Part-Time Literacy Specialist, BES, effective June 12, 2015
Hanna Woody, Counselor, BMS, effective June 12, 2015

Classified Personnel

Vesta Hogsed, Custodian & Bus Driver, RHS, effective June 30, 2015

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

Licensed Personnel

April Gaydosh, Principal, BES, effective June 15, 2015
Jonathan Gaydosh, Teacher, BHS, effective August 19, 2015

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Leesa Anderson, from Teacher & Coach, BHS, to Teacher, BMS, effective August 19, 2015
Michael Jordan, from Teacher, BHS, to Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2015

Classified Personnel

Adam Holcomb, from Temporary Part-Time School Bus Mechanic, TCS, to School Bus Mechanic, TCS, effective June 1, 2015
Donald Ramey, from Bus Driver, TCS, to Custodian & Bus Driver, BES, effective July 1, 2015

- IV. APPROVE THE LEAVES OF ABSENCE RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Jennifer Kelly, Teacher Assistant, BHS, GCBDB leave, effective August 19, 2015 through June 14, 2016

- V. APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES:

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None

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

Jeffrey Bailey, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019
 Arleca Chapman, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019
 Melonie Harris, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019
 Audrey Reneau, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019
 Donna Wilde, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019

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

Aimee Adams, Teacher	Maureen Hankala, Teacher
Angela Adcock, Teacher	Adria Hardy, Teacher
Catherine Addler, Teacher	Anna Harris, Teacher
Leesa Anderson, Teacher & Coach	Dan Harris, Teacher
Todd Anderson, Athletic Director & Teacher	Samuel Head, Teacher
Cody Ashe, Teacher & Coach	Melony Hipp, Teacher
Emily Atkinson, Teacher	Alyse Hollingsworth, Instructional Technology Facilitator
Justin Ausburn, Teacher	Sonja Hopkins, Teacher
Bethany Bagwell, Teacher	Susan Hoxit, Teacher
Grayson Barton, Teacher	Jodi Huggins, Teacher
Stephanie Bell, Teacher	Tonya James, Teacher
Monica Bickford, Teacher	Madeline Johnson, Teacher
Katie Bland, Teacher	Emilie Johnson, Teacher
Hannah Bleckley, Teacher	Holly Jones, Teacher
Jennifer Bost, Teacher	Margaret Joseph, Part-Time Teacher
Alexis Brigman, Teacher	Tammy Kiser, Teacher
Roderick Brown, Teacher	Chelsea Lambert, Teacher
Cori Bryson, Teacher	Janna Laughridge, Part-Time Counselor
Jessica Buhrman, Teacher	Amanda Lewis, Teacher
Luanna Carter, Career Development Coordinator	Pamela MacDonald, Teacher
Nichole Cash, Teacher	Jennifer Malo, Teacher
Evanthia Cavros, Part-Time Teacher	Erika Mayhew, Teacher
Rebecca Chmelar, Teacher	Jessica McCall, Teacher
Kristi Clark, Teacher	Tanya McCall, Teacher
Renee Compton, Teacher	Megan McGee, Teacher
Heather Cornwell, Teacher & Coach	Megan McLauchlin, Part-Time Teacher
Corey Cunningham, Teacher & Coach	Charles Megown, Teacher
Laura Dawson, Teacher	Jacquelyn Miller, Teacher
Rebecca Dinsdale, Teacher	Shelly Miller, Social Worker
Michael Drake, Teacher	Morgan Mitchem, Teacher
Whitney Ducker, Teacher	Jacob Montgomery, Teacher
Hale Durant, Media Coordinator	John Moore, Teacher
Chelsey Fandrick, Band Director	Kelly Muse, Teacher
Stephanie Farge, School Psychologist	April Nelson, Teacher
Megan Ferguson, Teacher	Caitlin Noonan, Teacher
Heather Finch, Media Coordinator	Andrea Odom, Teacher
Ami Fish, Counselor	Candice Owen, Teacher
Samantha Franco, Teacher	Christopher Owen, Teacher
Joshua Galloway, Teacher & Coach	Jenita Pace, Counselor
Christine Glance, Teacher	Lisa Pauer, Teacher
Brandy Glendening, Teacher	Sara Plum, Teacher
Mary Griffin, Teacher	Moriah Poland, Teacher
Colby Guice, Teacher	Craig Pritchett, Teacher & Coach
Courtney Hagenau, Teacher	Elizabeth Privette, Teacher
Baylee Hale, Teacher	Jacob Raines, Teacher
Jane Hamilton, Teacher	Stephanie Ramsey, Teacher

Sarah Reid, Teacher
Charlotte Roberts, Teacher
Amanda Roberts, Teacher
Scott Russell, Teacher
Thaddeus Sanders, Teacher
Monica Schultz, Teacher
Christine Schwab, Speech-Language
Pathologist
Amber Scott, Psychologist
Kasey Shook, Teacher
Carolyn Smith, Teacher
Hannah Souther, Teacher
Jennifer Speckman, Teacher
Daniel Sprinkle, Teacher
George Sutherland, Teacher
Hallie Thoele, Counselor
Kelci Thompson, Teacher
Erica Thompson, Teacher
Stefanie Tomlin, Teacher
Matthew Tuckey, Teacher
Katherine Wanson, Teacher
Vincent Warren, Teacher
Jessica Webb, Teacher
Lewis Whiteside, Teacher
Wesley Whitman, Teacher & Coach
Jessica Whitmire, Teacher
Ashley Witt, Counselor
Robert Yusko, Teacher
Lena Zaludek, Teacher
Cynthia Zimmerman, Media Coordinator