

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
May 18, 2020**

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. Policy 2302, Remote Participation in Board Meeting
7. Bond Update
8. Superintendent's Update
9. Important Dates
10. Public Comment
11. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on May 18, 2020 at the Morris Education Center. In accordance with the new remote meetings statute from the General Assembly (signed into law May 4, 2020), the meeting was conducted remotely and public access was not permitted. The public was invited to view the meeting livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/transylvania.schools/live>. Persons wishing to make public comment were invited to email their comments to Jenny Hunter at jhunter@tcsnc.org by 1pm on May 18 in order to have their comments read during the meeting as appropriate within board guidelines.

Ron Kiviniemi led in a moment of silence. Chairman McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order. She reported that she had attended a webinar on remote meetings and that (1) all members must identify themselves before speaking, and (2) all votes would be roll call votes for this and future remote meetings. The following individuals were in attendance (* indicates remote attendance).

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair*
Courtney Domokur*
Marty Griffin*
Alice Wellborn*

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chris Campbell*

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times*

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent*
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services*
Missy Ellenberger, Director, Curriculum & Instruction*
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator*
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services*
Blake Tesnow, Technology Specialist*
Kelly Cook, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting agenda for May 18, 2020 was unanimously approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Dr. McDaris read a comment submitted from Barbara Masters: “Thank you for all you’re doing for our young people. I was sitting here thinking about what our young people are going through now and looking at what is ahead of them, so I thank you for all you do for them. God bless all that have a part in our school system.”

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following item:

TC SCHOLARS AND MEMORABLE EDUCATORS

Although Transylvania County Schools was not able to hold its annual Scholars Recognition banquet this year, we would like to recognize the 148 sophomores, juniors, and seniors from Brevard High School and Rosman High School who earned distinction as Transylvania County Scholars and Junior Marshals for the 2019-2020 year. We also want to recognize the 29 individuals who were named as “Memorable Educators” by the senior class of 2020. Our congratulations to all the honorees.

RHS Sophomores	RHS Juniors	RHS Seniors
Kenneth Bryan Aiken	Madelyn Elizabeth Barton*	Brennan Patrick Chapman
Dani Jaida Ansari	Luke Benson Hawk*	Skylar Brook Harrison
Cassidy Faith Ayers	Gabrielle McKinnley Hightower*	Alexis Tenille Leonard
Taegan Paige Berkshire	Ashley Brinell Hoxit	Callie Pearl Owen
Trista Nicole Bryson	Lilly Ann Johnson*	Leanne Renee Owen
Jessica Reagan Chappell	Joshua Samuel Kupras*	Morgan Hope Owen
Nadia Caresse Foster	Nathaniel David Mahoney	Kacie LeAnn Owen
Jasmine Cynthia Grooms	Brooklyn Lynette Myers	Grant Hamilton Reese
Collin Michael Jones	Colton James Newman*	Abby Nicole Warren
Leana Hope Kitchen	Cheyenne Danielle Sanders*	Alexander David Weemhoff
William Lee McNeely	Robert Heath Sanders*	Sebastian Orion Williams
William Gage Morris	Amber Nicole Shook	
Patricia Jade Nofsinger	Tyler Blake Stamey	
Kelci Lauren Owen		
Kristen Brooke Owen	<i>*Junior Marshals</i>	
Nadia Christine Revis		
Skyler Dawn Shelton		
Christopher Isaac Weemhoff		
Britney Nicole Zachary		

BHS Sophomores	BHS Juniors	BHS Seniors
Allison Grace Bailey	Lilah Elizabeth Altemose	Clark Harsen Axtell
Alexandra Stacey Belamide	Pearl Maelyn Brown*	Lenora Anne Bandhauer
Carla Marie Bolanos	Robert Allan Brown	Tristen Elizabeth Berry
Hannah Grace Casey	Paul Meijers Cabin*	John M. Brewer
Kathryn Lee Elizabeth Clark	Cassidee LeAnn Cali	Madeline Claire Dierauf
Emma Leigh Coye	Marli Brooke Cohen*	Gabrielle Reid DiLemme
Townsend Goodrich Dierauf	Sarah Grace Cudd	Raegan Nichol Eggleston
Berlin Casey Draegen	Andrew Joseph Eberhardt	Madeline Elizabeth Hall
Sneha Salome Foster	Molly Sarah Fennessy*	Kaitlyn Nichole Hatem
Isabelle Sorrell Freeman	Abigail Emilee Field	Jane Elizabeth Holland
Jaden Criswell Geor	Madelyn Grace Foster	Alessandra Mae LaRose
Evan Michael Grant	Graham Henry Green*	Rachele Nicole Marziale
Taylor Alisha Grieves	Kathryn Leslie Hart*	Maxwell Tripp McCarty
Noah Canyon Hensley	Susannah Grace Jelley	Taylor Brooke Miner
Taylor Katelyn Hunter	Caroline Grace Jones	Lila Madison Newman
Erin Gail Huter	Aniela Lane	Joysan Jolene Osteen
Samuel McKee Kessinger	Isaiah James Lefler*	Sofia Maria Pandolfo
Jess Elizabeth Kimzey	Anna Russell Long	Margaret Harty Peterson

6. Policy 2302

Dr. Brian Weaver reported that the North Carolina School Boards Association issued a special policy update in response to Senate Bill 704, NC Session Law 2020-3, signed by Governor Roy Cooper on May 4, 2020. A section of that legislation creates new G.S. 166A-19.24, which authorizes school boards and other public bodies to conduct remote meetings during emergencies declared by the Governor or General Assembly in accordance with certain statutory procedures. The law is effective immediately. The update amends board policy 2302, Remote Participation in Board Meetings, to comply with the new requirements. It also authorizes quasi-judicial hearings (i.e., student discipline hearings, employee grievances or dismissal hearings) to be conducted remotely. Dr. Weaver recommend that the board temporarily suspend its normal two-meeting approval process and approve the policy at this meeting.

Attorney Campbell stated that all written communications among members (i.e., email, text, chat, or other feature) during a remote meeting are public record. He recommended that board members and staff assume that all texts and emails can become public records as well. Chairman McCoy asked about procedures if a member has to leave the meeting temporarily. Mr. Campbell explained that a member must give notice if they have the leave the meeting and it must be reflected in the minutes. If a member does leave for part of the meeting, he/she will not be eligible to vote on whatever was discussed while they were gone. He also explained the board has the authority to decide how many remote meetings a board member may attend per calendar year and may vote to extend that number if a member has an emergency situation. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, pursuant to policy 2450, the board voted unanimously to temporarily suspend the normal policy adoption process as described in policy 2420 and approve policy 2302, Remote Participation in Board Meetings, as revised. Chairman McCoy commented that some of the examples from other boards that were discussed in the webinar she attended were hard to believe. She thanked the board for its professionalism.

7. Bond Update

Norris Barger reported that the School Bond Construction Committee met recently via a remote meeting. We are about halfway through the design development stage. Team meetings are scheduled for May 27 and May 28 with Vannoy Construction and Clark Nexsen Architects to begin matching scope of work with initial cost estimates. The board will get the first GMP (guaranteed maximum price) soon and should have contractor pricing by spring 2021. Board attorney Chris Campbell stated that the GMP contract with the CMAR (Vannoy) protects the board from any cost overruns. He gave a reminder that this project represents a complicated set of tasks with a lot of moving parts that are being done in multiple phases at two different locations over an extended period of time. It is necessary to find the optimal time to nail down prices for each of the phases. Mr. Barger reported they have started work on a draft timeline for the board, stakeholders and the public. He noted that with the schools shut down, contractors have had more access to the buildings for study. Chairman McCoy stated that she wants to be sure that we do not forget the staff input that was put on hold. Mr. Barger stated that we need to have this meeting with Vannoy to discuss scope and dollars before we can sit down with staff to discuss specifics such as sinks and other items. Mr. Kiviniemi asked when in the process the bonds are typically issued. Mr. Campbell reported that the county has hired a bond counsel, but he does not know where they are in the issuance process. He will request a timeline. Mr. Barger reported that an estimate of bond expenditures was included as part the board's five-year capital plan. The county has set aside \$6 million as a bond reserve, and we have spent approximately \$1 million so far from that reserve.

8. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- **Graduation** - The majority of seniors at Brevard High and Rosman High have voted to hold a graduation ceremony at a later date. There were several options offered, all of which received some support. At this time, a date has not been set. The Brevard Music Center is closed, meaning the location may have to be the football stadiums. We continue to receive suggestions from some students and parents. These are welcome and appreciated. Unfortunately, many of the suggestions would be in violation of current rules for social distancing and mass gatherings. As conditions change, possibilities may open up. All types of mass gatherings will be subject to the rules in place at the time as designated by the local health department, the Governor, and DHHS. We know that things may be different in other states, but we will abide by the rules for North Carolina. The announcement today that a preschool-aged child in our county has tested positive for COVID-19 further highlights the importance of safety and social distancing.
- **Re-Entry** - There are several taskforces and other groups working on re-entry plans for next year (and probably beyond). Dr. McDaris is one of four superintendents on the Schools Reopening Instructional Planning and Scheduling Workgroup, and he is co-chairing the Superintendent's Association Remote Learning Taskforce. Re-entry discussion is robust and there are many issues that have to be considered. For example, it would be difficult to rearrange desks six feet apart, or to seat students six feet apart on a school bus. One option (among many) being discussed is A/B days (50% of students attend on Day A, and 50% attend on Day B). Changes in phasing may change the discussion, especially when more information is available.

Mrs. Domokur asked if re-entry would be a local decision or a state decision. Dr. McDaris and Mr. Campbell confirmed that the Governor has the authority to open/close schools, and the State Board of Education will give guidance that local boards would follow. Mrs. Domokur reported that her son's preschool has set a rule that if a student travels out of state, they must wait two weeks before coming back. She asked if that would be the case for students in grades K-12. Dr. McDaris reported that school districts have not received that level of guidance yet.

Chairman McCoy emphasized that as we await further rules and guidance, it is difficult to make decisions for a situation that none of us have never faced before. Information is changing hour by hour. She added that she has a niece graduating this year, and feels for the seniors, their families, and other students for what they are missing. She assured everyone that the board cares about the graduates and all students and wants to be a part of celebrating their achievements and preparing them for the future.

9. Important Dates

The board will return to its once-a-month meeting schedule beginning in July. Regular meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.

May 25	Memorial Day holiday
June 1	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 4	Last pupil day
June 5	Teacher workday
TBA	DRS, RHS, and BHS Graduations
June 8-10	Teacher workdays
June 15	4-day summer schedule begins
June 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

10. Public Comment
None

11. Other Items

Dr. McDaris reported that the FY21 budget request that was submitted to the county manager last week included a new mower for Brevard High School baseball/softball. Since then, we have learned that the Brevard Blue Devil Club has agreed to purchase the mower. Dr. McDaris recommended that the board remove the mower line item from its capital budget, after which he will submit an amended document to the county. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board voted unanimously to remove the BHS mower from the capital needs request and to reduce the capital request by the cost of the mower, \$8,690.

Mrs. Wellborn asked if the last student day would be changed to June 3. Dr. McDaris reported that there has been no decision to change the current calendar and that June 4 would remain as the last student day. Mr. Kiviniemi asked whether elementary and middle schools have set dates for parents to turn in student devices and pick up personal items. Dr. McDaris reported they are working on it. Some devices will remain with students during the summer to help combat summer learning drain. Chairman McCoy asked Dr. McDaris if he feels the end date for students to turn in work has been well communicated. Dr. McDaris stated that he thinks it has been. He reported that remote learning will continue through the last day, and other learning opportunities will be offered during the summer thanks to partners such as the Transylvania County Library. These opportunities will be listed on the district website.

Mr. Griffin asked if there is any information from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association about re-starting school sports. Dr. McDaris reported that the NCHSAA is working to develop plans, but is awaiting more guidance from the Governor's office just like everyone else. Band and other activities will be local decisions based on uniformity with other districts and the Governor's guidelines.

Chairman McCoy expressed thanks to staff for all they are doing during this very unusual time. She thanked the IT department for their work and noted that our early commitment to technology was a wise and important investment.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
May 18, 2020**

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Stanley Owens, Jr., Custodian and Bus Driver, PFES, effective May 30, 2020

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

Licensed Personnel

Annie Burgess, Teacher, BES, effective August 12, 2020

Classified Personnel

Jonathan Orr, Custodian & Bus Driver, RHS, effective July 13, 2020

Dominique Owen, Custodian & Bus Driver, BES, effective July 13, 2020

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

Licensed Personnel

Michael Kirst, Assistant Principal, PFES, to Principal, BES, effective July 1, 2020

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