

**Minutes**  
**Transylvania County Board of Education**  
**May 19, 2014**  
**REVISED**

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. Request for Approval of Non-Sponsored School Trip
7. FY15 Budget Update
8. Petition for a Contiguous Annexation
9. CTE Plan for 2014-2015
10. Resolution Requesting Delay of A-F Report Card
11. Superintendent's Update
12. Important Dates
13. Public Comment
14. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on May 19, 2014 at the Morris Education Center. Sue Fox led in a moment of silence and Mike Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately six guests, the board members, staff, and media representatives listed below were in attendance. Chairman McCoy reported that Mrs. Petit was absent in order to attend her daughter's athletic awards banquet.

*BOARD MEMBERS:* Tawny McCoy, Chair; Sue Fox; Ron Kiviniemi; and Mike Rogers

*STAFF:* Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Scott Elliott, Assistant Superintendent; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Jeremy Gibbs, Director of Human Resources; Audrey Reneau, Director of K-8 Curriculum & Instruction; Tammy Bellefeuil, Director of Student Services; Chris Whitlock, Director of Technology Services; Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator; Marie Dean, Lead Teacher; Kathryn Bailey, Teacher; and School Resource Officer Chad Owen

*MEDIA:* Park Baker, *Transylvania Times*

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, the meeting agenda for May 19, 2014 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**  
Marenda McCall, parent, expressed concerns about her seven-year old's math homework. She stated that she could not help him with the "doubles plus one" math because she was not taught that way. She reported that she had done research which showed the "doubles plus one" math is a part of the Common Core curriculum. She further reported that the Common Core affects everyone, it requires across the board

standards, and it is something she feels the Board needs to be aware of. *Dr. McDaris asked Mrs. McCall if she had talked with her child's teacher about her homework concerns. Mrs. McCall stated that she had not. Dr. McDaris recommended that she do so. He also explained that "doubles" is a teaching strategy that has been in use for some time. It is not a new requirement of the Common Core curriculum.*

### 3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

#### *CTE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR*

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Elliott who has been chosen as the Western Region Career-Technical Education Administrator of the Year. Even though his plate will be extremely full this summer, Dr. Elliott has agreed to represent TCS in the state competition at Summer Conference.

#### *INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE WORLD PROJECT OLYMPIAD*

Congratulations to Joe Roberts and Lauren Tooley who represented NC and received a bronze medal at the International Sustainable World Project Olympiad in Houston Texas for their project "*Screening for VOC producing endophytes in an effort to target biofuel producing fungi.*" Outstanding work! Thanks goes to all involved in the success of this project including the TIME Honors Science Research Program, Transylvania County Schools, NC Cooperative Extension, Eliza Witherspoon, Jennifer Williams, Laura Patch, Kent Wilcox, Mary Arnaudin and Katrina Ronnenburger.

#### *BHS SPANISH CLUB CANNED FOOD DRIVE*

This year the Brevard High School Spanish Club collected a total of 780 canned food items, which will go to Bread of Life and the Sharing House. The Spanish Club walked door to door on Saturday, April 12, and collected 370 cans. The Spanish classes competed to see who could win a piñata party and brought in another 410 cans. Thanks to Clare Desmelik, Spanish Teacher, for organizing this annual event.

#### *DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLAN APPROVED*

The North Carolina State Board of Education has approved the Transylvania County Schools Technology Plan for 2014-2016. This approval qualifies the school district for E-Rate Priority 2 discounts and other possible public and private grant opportunities. The completion of the plan represents a great deal of hard work on the part of the technology staff, teachers and media staff. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure that teachers and students have the resources necessary for productive teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### *BMS PRINCIPAL COMPLETES DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM*

Kerry Putnam, Principal of Brevard Middle School, recently completed the Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program (DLP), a year-long leadership development program for practicing school principals designed and provided by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and UNC-LearnNC. The DLP uses a non-traditional professional development model that is aligned to the performance evaluation standards adopted by the State Board of Education for North Carolina's school leaders. This cohort-based program is designed to limit principals' time away from their schools by allowing them to attend face-to-face sessions once every other month while accessing on-line assignments, materials and coaching in between face-

to-face sessions. Principals engage in a series of authentic activities throughout the year-long experience that are designed to build the capacity of their schools and their own capacity as “distinguished” school leaders.

#### *RANDY BUFORD MEMORIAL LIGHTING SYSTEM*

On May 9 and 10, the Brevard High School Theater Department debuted its brand new auditorium lighting system during two outstanding performances of the musical, “Les Miserables.” Prior to the show, Director Mary Beth Shumate invited John and Mindy Buford on stage to accept the dedication of the new lighting system in memory of their son, Randy Buford (1991-2012), for his dedication to the BHS performing arts department. Mrs. Shumate also recognized Amber Rhodes, a chorus/theater arts student who is battling brain cancer, and in whose honor a generous donation of \$20,000 was made to the Randy Buford Memorial Lighting System by PowerSecure, Inc. Special thanks also go out to the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, John and Mindy Buford, Roger and Jane Shiley, C.A.T.S., and the many other local businesses, community members and organizations who contributed to the BHS lighting system.

#### *BHS CLASS OF 2014 LEGACY*

This year, the Brevard High School Class of 2014 has decided to leave a legacy behind by raising money to donate to the National Cancer Institute for cancer research as their senior gift. For the remainder of the year, students will be collecting for the cause through donation boxes located in many classrooms and booths in the cafeteria lobby on Fridays.

#### *ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS*

Dr. McDaris congratulated the BHS tennis team for their 2<sup>nd</sup> place state finish and the BHS softball and RHS baseball teams for their achievements in the state playoffs.

#### **4. Former Students in the Military**

In recognition of Memorial Day, 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. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED MRS. FOX, the minutes from the May 5, 2014 meeting and the personnel report for May 19, 2014 (see attached) were unanimously approved. **Before moving to the next item, Mr. Rogers asked for the new PFES principal to be announced for the benefit of those in the audience who had attended specifically in order to learn who their new principal would be.** Mr. Gibbs reported that Merrimon Nichols has been named as the new principal of Pisgah Forest Elementary School. Ms. Nichols will replace Mike Bailey who is retiring at the end of the school year.

#### **6. Request for Approval of Non-Sponsored School Trip**

Kathryn Bailey, French teacher at Brevard High School and Rosman High School, presented a request for approval of a non-sponsored student trip to France in June 2016. Approximately 15 students and 2-3 chaperones in addition to Ms. Bailey would be involved, and the nine-day trip would be sponsored by Passports Educational Group Travel. The total cost per student would be approximately \$4,000. Ms. Bailey reported that she would like to get approval at this time in order to give students two summers in which to earn money for the trip. Board members commented that the travel itinerary and information provided by Passports appear to be very thorough and well organized.

Ms. Bailey reported that Passports comes highly recommended by other teachers who have used the company for student trips abroad. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously approved the student trip to France in the summer of 2016 as a non-sponsored educational trip. Mr. Kiviniemi gave a reminder to include disclaimers on all trip-related materials that the trip would be non-sponsored.

7. **FY15 Budget Update**

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board of Education's budget request for 2014-2015 has been submitted to the county manager. He reported that Governor McCrory's proposed budget has been released. It contains two provisions that if approved, could be problematic. The governor's budget proposes to transfer responsibility for workers' compensation claims from the state to the LEA. It also proposes to transfer all liability for tort claims involving yellow school buses to the LEA. The potential costs to local school systems for these items could be enormous.

Mr. Barger reported that the governor's budget proposal includes an average 3.26% pay increase for teachers. The increase ranges from 7.1% for teachers in years 0-6 to 2.0% for teachers in years 13-26. The proposal also includes also an average 2.0% increase for principals and assistant principals, a one-time bonus of \$809 for non-certified employees, and a reinstatement of master's degree pay. House and Senate budget proposals are expected soon.

8. **Petition for a Contiguous Annexation**

Dr. McDaris presented the documents needed to request a voluntary annexation of property by the City of Brevard. Mr. Barger provided a plat view of the portion of the Brevard High School campus that is being considered for annexation. Annexation would bring the entire high school campus under the City of Brevard's jurisdiction. Dr. McDaris explained that annexation would help facilitate the Community Land Trust project and/or continuation of the Live Project by providing access to city water and sewer and help simplify the permit process for any future affordable teacher housing project. He reported that the city is interested in constructing a bike/walking path that would cross the property in question, and being under city jurisdiction would be helpful in the event of any disruptions or problems on the path. The Board discussed the impact of annexation on the BHS agriculture program. Dr. McDaris reported that the land in question is primarily being used for hay; no livestock are kept there. **Mr. Rogers asked if cattle and livestock would be permitted on the property if annexed into the city.** Chairman McCoy requested that the superintendent obtain assurance **from the city** that there would be no negative impact **relating to the ability to raise livestock on the property** if the property is annexed. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously authorized the superintendent to proceed with the petition for annexation once the question of potential impact to the Brevard High School agriculture program has been addressed.

9. **CTE Plan 2014-2015**

Dr. Scott Elliott presented a summary of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) plan for 2014-2015. The full plan is available online. Dr. Elliott reflected on the growth and development of the CTE program over the years, noting that TCS has one of the strongest corps of CTE teachers ever, offering very strong fundamentals. The CTE program has been sharply modernized in recent years, giving traditional programs a new focus to ensure that courses are closely aligned to regional economic conditions and new technologies with the goal of training graduates for high skill, high wage and high

demand jobs. Last year students earned 318 industry credentials, and new industry credential opportunities are being added every year. Board members commended Dr. Elliott for an impressive plan for 2014-2015 and the direction he has given the CTE program over the years. Dr. Elliott thanked the Board for its strong support of CTE, especially providing local funding for some CTE positions, which is something not all boards do. Approval of the CTE plan for 2014-2015 will be requested at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Rogers reported that he had talked with three parents and one student from Rosman who had concerns about certain CTE courses not being offered at RHS. Dr. Elliott reported that although some courses are not offered at RHS, the opportunity is available for Rosman students to take those courses at BHS or Blue Ridge Community College. He explained that it is necessary to balance course offerings at the high school with the middle school curriculum. To provide an extra high school section would take away a section from middle school, and the middle school curriculum is designed to develop the skills needed for high school. Additional staffing would help the situation, but would require additional money.

10. **Resolution Requesting Delay of A-F Report Card**

As requested at the May 5 meeting, Dr. McDaris presented a draft resolution requesting that the state's new A-F report card for schools be delayed for one year to provide adequate time for quality implementation and the establishment of reliable and accurate criteria to be used in determining performance. Chairman McCoy read the resolution aloud. No changes were recommended, and ON A MOTION BY MR. ROGERS, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the resolution was unanimously approved (see attached).

11. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- Several curriculum-related issues are under debate in Raleigh. In addition to the Common Core curriculum, North Carolina has adopted its own Essential Standards. Legislation has been introduced to require North Carolina to opt out of the Common Core curriculum and develop a whole new set of standards (in math and language arts) for 2014-2015. This is concerning as the new school year begins in approximately three months.
- Regardless of what is going on in Raleigh, teachers and students in Transylvania County Schools are closing out another great school year.
- *Education Week* reports that rural schools are growing in enrollment and serving higher numbers of low income, minority and special needs students. The percentage of free/reduced students has increased by five points nationwide. The report lists Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Arizona as the top five states with the greatest need for policymakers to address rural education issues.

12. **Important Dates**

May 20	BHS Band/Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
May 22	BHS Dance Class Performance, 7:00 p.m., BHS Auditorium
May 22, 23	RHS Presents, "Just Another High School Musical," 7:00 p.m., RHS

Auditorium  
May 26 Drop-in Reception for Dr. Scott Elliott, 2:30-5:00 pm, MEC  
May 27 Transportation Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Twin Dragons  
May 29 TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room  
June 2 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  
June 4 DRS Graduation, 11:00 a.m., DRS Lawn  
June 6 BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center  
June 7 RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center  
June 16 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC  
June 23-25 NCSBA Summer Leadership Seminars, Atlantic Beach  
June 26-27 NCSBA Policy Conference, Atlantic Beach

**13. Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

**14. Other Items**

No other items were discussed.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT  
May 19, 2014**

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

Licensed Personnel

Meaghan Dolan, School Counselor, BHS, effective June 10, 2014  
Courtney Domokur Mason, Teacher, TCH, effective June 30, 2014  
Laura Elliott, Teacher, BMS, effective June 30, 2014  
Alyssa Gillikin, Teacher, RMS & RHS, effective June 10, 2014  
Cynthia Koerber, Teacher, BES, effective June 10, 2014  
Elizabeth Shimer, School Social Worker, effective June 10, 2014  
Debora Smith, Part-Time Literacy Specialist, RES, effective May 31, 2014

Classified Personnel

Jo Staton, Custodian & Bus Driver, RHS, effective May 9, 2014  
Julia Touchstone, Occupational Therapist, BES, effective July 1, 2014

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

Licensed Personnel

John Chmelar, Assistant Principal, RMS & RHS, effective June 30, 2014 through June 30, 2016  
Rebecca Chmelar, Teacher, BES, effective June 9, 2014  
Courtney Hagenau, Teacher, BES, effective August 18, 2014  
Samuel Head, Teacher, RMS, effective August 18, 2014  
Merriman Nichols, Principal, PFES, effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016  
Carolyn Smith, Teacher, PFES, effective August 18, 2014

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Wesley Whitman, from Teacher, BHS, to Teacher, RHS, effective August 18, 2014

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

Amanda Huggins Chapman

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, 2014, through June 30, 2018  
John Hart, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2018  
Jason Ormsby, four-year contract, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2018

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

Aimee Adams, Teacher, BHS  
Angela Adcock, Teacher, TCH  
Leesa Anderson, Teacher & Coach, BHS  
Cody Ashe, Teacher & Coach, BMS  
Emily Atkinson, Teacher, BMS  
Bethany Bagwell, Teacher, BHS  
Stephanie Bell, Teacher, RES  
Jennifer Bost, Teacher, BMS  
Cori Bryson, Teacher, BMS  
Jessica Buhrman, Teacher, BHS  
Sarah Carson, Teacher, BHS  
Luanna Carter, Career Development Coordinator, BHS  
Eva Cavros, Teacher, BHS  
Nichole Cash, Teacher, TCH  
Kristi Clark, Teacher, PFES  
Renee Compton, Teacher, RMS  
Heather Cornwell, Teacher & Coach, BMS  
Kelly Cyr, Teacher, PFES  
Michael Drake, Teacher, BMS  
Whitney Ducker, Teacher, PFES  
Hale Durant, Media Coordinator, BHS  
Carrie Elmore, Teacher, BHS  
Chelsey Fandrick, Band Director, RMS & RHS  
Megan Ferguson, Teacher, TCH  
Ami Fish, School Counselor, BES  
Joshua Galloway, Teacher & Coach, RMS & RHS  
Christine Glance, Teacher, RMS  
Brandy Glendening, Teacher, RMS  
Katie Gray, Teacher, BMS  
Mary Griffin, Teacher, BMS  
Colby Guice, Teacher, BHS  
Crystal Gustin, Teacher & Coach, BMS  
Jane Hamilton, Teacher, RES  
Maureen Hankala, Teacher, BMS  
Adria Hardy, Teacher, BHS  
Anna Harris, Teacher, BES  
Dan Harris, Teacher, BHS  
Melony Hipp, Teacher, PFES



Alyse Hollingsworth, Teacher, BHS  
Tonya James, Teacher, BHS  
Emilie Johnson, Teacher, RES  
Holly Jones, Teacher, RHS  
Margaret Joseph, Teacher, RHS  
Tammy Kiser, Teacher, RES  
Chelsea Lambert, Teacher, BMS  
Janna Laughridge, School Counselor, TCH  
Amanda Lewis, Teacher, RMS  
Amanda Lippard, Teacher, BHS  
Jason Lippard, Teacher & Coach, BHS  
Jennifer Malo, Teacher, DRS  
John McDaris, Teacher & Coach, BHS  
Megan McLauchlin, Teacher, BES  
Jackie Miller, Teacher, BES  
Regan Mimken, Teacher, BES  
Jacob Montgomery, Teacher, RHS  
John Moore, Teacher, DRS  
Kelly Muse, Teacher, BMS  
April Nelson, Teacher, BMS  
Candice Owen, Teacher, BHS  
Brooks Owenby, Teacher, BHS  
Tysha Owens, School Counselor, RES  
Lisa Pauer, Teacher, BES  
Kasey Queen, Teacher, RES  
Jacob Raines, Teacher, BHS  
Stephanie Ramsey, Teacher, RHS  
Sarah Reid, Teacher, RMS  
Amanda Roberts, Teacher, RMS  
Charlotte Roberts, Teacher, BES  
Christine Schwab, Speech-Language Pathologist, BES  
Amber Scott, School Psychologist, BES  
Sara Seagraves, Teacher, BHS  
Monica Sees, Teacher, RES  
Jennifer Speckman, Teacher, BES  
Daniel Sprinkle, Teacher, BMS  
Morgan Sprinkle, Teacher, BES  
Hallie Thoele, School Counselor, BHS  
Erica Thompson, Teacher, BHS  
Jessica Webb, Teacher, DRS  
Lewis Whiteside, Teacher, BMS  
Wesley Whitman, Teacher & Coach, RHS  
Aaron Whitmire, Teacher, RMS & RHS  
Ashley Witt, School Counselor, PFES  
Hanna Woody, School Counselor, BMS  
Robert Yusko, Teacher, RMS & RHS  
Lena Zaludek, Teacher, BMS  
Cindy Zimmerman, Media Coordinator, PFES

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly is working with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to further develop and implement a grading system for school report cards; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing dialogue on the measureable goals and outcomes as well as possible changes and modifications for several months; and

WHEREAS, recent recommendations have been brought forth by legislators regarding the future status of the Common Core standards as part of the NC Standards; and

WHEREAS, teachers and school systems have participated in training, preparation, and implementation of the new standards for over two years; and

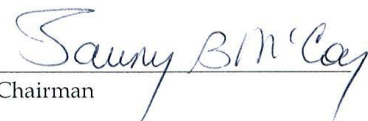
WHEREAS, possible changes in the North Carolina Standards, testing and assessments, and curriculum design may be implemented that would dramatically alter the delivery and assessment of new standards less than three months before the 2014-2015 academic school year begins; and

WHEREAS, the performance grade for both schools and teachers could be dramatically altered with the aforementioned changes; and

WHEREAS, adequate measures of validity and reliability have not yet been established;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND REQUESTED by the Transylvania County Board of Education that the new A-F report card be delayed for one year to provide adequate time for quality implementation and the establishment of reliable and accurate criteria to be used in determining performance.

ADOPTED this the 19<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2014.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary