

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
June 1, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME
BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Amendment to FY12 Budget Request

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in special session at 8:15 a.m. on June 1, 2011, at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to amend the 2011-2012 budget request to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners. Present were Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Norris Barger, David Sutton, Cathy Childress, Donys Merrill, Dr. Kim Elliott, and John Lanier, *Transylvania Times*. Chairman Whitmire called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting agenda for June 1, 2011 was approved.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Amendment to FY12 Budget Request

Dr. McDaris reported that TCS would receive an increase in federal Title I funds for FY12. This news was a surprise since as recently as two weeks ago it was reported that Title I funds would be reduced. However, the Title I funding formula, which uses non-census data along with unemployment, poverty levels, and free and reduced lunch statistics, determined that TCS qualified for an increase due to its growing free and reduced numbers and the county's unemployment rate. Dr. McDaris remarked that although the extra money will allow the Board to reduce its request to the county, it is "like needing a 20-foot ladder to get out of a hole, and getting a 10-foot ladder. It helps, but you are still in the hole."

Board members discussed the proposed changes to the budget request and also points of emphasis they would like to make at the commissioners' budget workshops. It was noted that the state continues to pass costs along to local units. State legislators have recently backed off from their stance regarding teacher assistant cuts; however, by increasing the amount of discretionary cuts to LEAs they have created the same net effect. Legislators may add five days to the school year which will mean more bus usage, while at the same time cutting transportation budgets and fuel reimbursement rates. Chairman Whitmire remarked that those who are attacking public education at the national level need to understand that their arguments do not hold water when directed at TCS. Our system already operates efficiently and produces excellence.

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board voted unanimously to amend the FY12 current expense budget request from \$1.6 million to \$980,798, reflecting a 10.7% necessary increase in county appropriation. Mrs. Norman asked how many positions would be affected if the system does not receive the full funding request. Dr. McDaris explained that he could not say with certainty until the final

budget is known. The administration is looking at several options. Each position represents an individual decision.

Mr. Barger reported that the air conditioning is working again at PFES. The old chiller will be stripped down for scrap metal.

Mrs. Norman requested an update on the CTE building. Mr. Barger stated that he hopes to take bids in late June. If all goes well, construction could begin mid to late July.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary