

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
June 6, 2016**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Recognition of Retirees 2015-2016
---Reception---
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
7. CTE Plan 2016-2017
8. Student Handbooks 2016-2017
9. Safe Schools / Transportation Update
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Public Comment
13. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on June 6, 2016 at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Betty Scruggs led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Ron Kiviniemi was out of town with family. In addition to approximately 20 guests, the following individuals were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Cindy Petit
Marty Griffin
Betty Scruggs

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Director, Human Resources
Arleca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum & Instruction
Brian Weaver, Director, 6-12 Curriculum & Instruction
Alan Justice, Director, Safe Schools / Transportation
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator
April Gaydosh, BES Principal
Donna Wilde, DRS Principal
B. J. Owens, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for June 6, 2016 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

BHS TENNIS TEAM

Congratulations to the Brevard High School Tennis Team for an outstanding season, winning the Western North Carolina Athletic Conference Championship and second place in the State Championships.

BHS CUSTODIAL TEAM HONORED

At its meeting on May 19, the Transylvania County Retired School Personnel Association honored Brevard High School custodians Anna Brown, Stella Fairchild, Tony Lance, Al Merrill, Ray Meyers, and Steve Tilson. This excerpt from a letter written by retired teacher Susan Bir says it all:

“Many of us have spent a great deal of time at Brevard High School and have seen a school that should be looking quite worn and used-up appear to be just the opposite. Floors sparkle and classrooms look ready for any of the fussiest inspectors. We appreciate that, but that is really not why we invited these hard working professionals to our meeting. We run the Kimzey-Tilson Supply Closet. Part of our work is transporting large boxes of heavy and awkward classroom supplies such as paper towels, reams of copy paper, cartons of hand sanitizer, etc., from our cars, into the school, down the hallways, and into our closet. Twice a month, some of those same supplies must be packed up and transported to our county’s teachers. Often we have needed help from these six custodians. And too often we must interrupt their work. Always, they immediately stop what they are doing and focus on our needs. Cheerfully, as if our work is more important than theirs, each of them solves our problem and takes time to interact with us. We have heard wonderful things about this team. However, we know firsthand that they are the best. We thought you would like to know our experiences with this star- studded crew.”

TCS HOSTS SQUIRREL BOX DERBY

On May 28, the Transylvania County Schools presented the 9th Annual Squirrel Box Derby during the White Squirrel Festival in downtown Brevard. A number of school system employees volunteered their time and effort to help make the derby, always the highlight of the festival, a big success. And not just employees got involved. Brevard Middle School CTE teachers Vincent Warren and Mary Ann Winslow had 100 students in all three grades designing and building six (maybe seven) vehicles for the big race. Many thanks to event sponsors State Farm Insurance, Heart of Brevard, Going Green Builders, Domokur Architects, and Big Frog Custom T-Shirts. Thanks to Kevin Smith for his work coordinating and promoting the event.

“OF THE YEARS” HONOREES

Kristi Clark was named as the Transylvania County Schools Teacher of the Year for 2016-2017 and Amanda Metcalf was named as the Teacher Assistant of the Year at the “Teacher of the Year” Awards Luncheon that was held on May 20 in the Fellowship Hall of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Congratulations to the following educators who were recognized as the “best of the best” for 2016-2017:

Student Services Person of the Year
Beth Branagan, School Social Worker

Media Specialist of the Year
Charlene Cali, BES

Principal of the Year

Jeff Bailey, BMS

Rookie of the Year

Tom Young, DRS

Teacher Assistants of the Year

Al Evans, BES	Wendy Berry, PFES
Patti Lance, BHS	Trudy Riddle, RES
Karen Britt, BMS	Amanda Metcalf, RHS
Paula Fisher, DRS	Renee Avirett, TCH

Teachers of the Year

Jackie Miller, BES	Kasey Shook, RES
John Hogan, BHS	Wes Whitman, RHS
Mary Griffin, BMS	Sarah Reid, RMS
Joe Russo, DRS	Elizabeth Ballard, TCH
Kristi Clark, PFES	

TC SCHOLARS AND MEMORABLE EDUCATORS

On May 19, Transylvania County Schools recognized high school scholars, scholarship winners, and the memorable educators to the class of 2016 at the 33rd Annual Transylvania County Schools Scholars Recognition Evening. The celebration began with a delicious buffet in the Brevard High School cafeteria that was provided by the School Nutrition department, and was followed by the presentation of awards before a full house in the BHS auditorium.

"BIGGEST LOSER" WINNERS

Congratulations to the TCS employees who participated in the "Biggest Loser" weight loss challenge this spring. Although the school system was narrowly edged out of first place by the team from Transylvania County, there were plenty of success stories among the 110 participants. Top prize winners for TCS were Amanda Chapman and Chris Lambert. As the charity of choice, the Boys and Girls Club of Brevard will receive \$550 from the school system and a total of \$720 combined from the school and county teams.

TIME STUDENT SCIENTIST COMPETES IN INTERNATIONAL BIOGENEUS CHALLENGE

Brevard High School TIME 4 Real Science student and International BioGENEius finalist Carver Nichols heads to San Francisco on Sunday, June 5 to compete against fifteen other students from around the world! Carver will be competing in the "Agricultural Sustainability" category with his project "Predicting Graft Compatibility of Kudzu, Soybeans and Garden Peas through Peroxidase Analysis." Three top prizes of \$7500 each are at stake, but the all-expense paid trip for Carver and his mom already makes him a winner.

PFES PRINCIPAL COMPLETES NCPAPA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Merriman Nichols, Principal of Pisgah Forest Elementary School, recently completed the Distinguished Leadership in Practice (DLP) program provided by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association (NCPAPA) in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The DLP program is a rigorous year-long development program for practicing school principals that is aligned to the performance evaluation standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Principals engage in a series of activities through the year that are designed to build the capacity of their

schools and their own capacity as leaders, and attend face-to-face sessions once every other month while accessing online materials, assignments and coaching in between sessions. Congratulations to Ms. Nichols for her achievement.

Dr. McDaris thanked SRO Owens for being in attendance.

4. Recognition of Retirees 2015-2016

Each June, the board recognizes the employees of Transylvania County Schools who have retired or will be retiring during the current school year. Dr. McDaris reported that some of those being recognized have spent their entire careers with the Transylvania County Schools, and some have worked in other school districts in addition to Transylvania. The 13 individuals being honored in 2015-2016 represent a combined total of 347 years of service. The board members and Dr. McDaris presented engraved crystal apples and their thanks, commendations and congratulations to the persons named below in grateful appreciation for their years of dedicated service to public education and the students of Transylvania County Schools.

Transylvania County Schools Retirees 2015-2016			
Denise Danos	Teacher	PFES	30 years
Marilyn Edie	Teacher	DRS	37 years
Kelly Estep	Teacher	PFES	30 years
Terri Hunsicker	Teacher Assistant	BES	11 years
Lynda Jayne	Teacher	BMS	42 years
Karen Kreigsman	Teacher	BES	29 years
Laura Leatherwood	Teacher	PFES	28 years
Gaynelle Owen	Teacher Assistant	RES	9 years
Marion Petterson	Teacher	PFES	23 years
Doris Pressley	Teacher Assistant	PFES	23 years
Shirley Raines	Bus Driver	TCS	36 years
Patty Smith	Office Support	RHS	25 years
Janice Whitmire	Teacher	BHS	24 years

Following the recognitions, the board went into recess at 6:45 p.m. for a brief reception in honor of the retirees. The meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m.

5. Former Students in the Military

The board reviewed 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. There were no new names on the list. Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that this was the anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 1944, when Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France during World War II.

6. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

7. **CTE Plan 2016-2017**

At the May 16 meeting, Arleca Chapman presented the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan for 2016-2017. Ms. Chapman addressed questions from the board. Mrs. Scruggs asked if there was anything in the state curriculum that could allow more students to take upper level health-related courses. Ms. Chapman reported that the state sets a limit of 10 students per course. She added there is also a limited number of places that will accept students for clinicals. Ms. Chapman reported that Tammy Moman at Brevard High School has offered to give up her planning period in order to teach another class of nursing fundamentals. Both high schools strive to maximize the number of students who can get certifications, even offering transportation for a student who wants to attend a class at the other high school. Mr. Griffin asked how many students have to be turned away due to class size limits. Ms. Chapman reported that this year it was seven students. Mrs. Scruggs reported that she had attended the FFA banquet and was impressed by the students' leadership skills. She commented on how closely FFA courses are aligned with the sciences. There was no further discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. SCRUGGS, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Career/Technical Education plan for 2016-2017 was unanimously approved.

8. **Student Handbooks 2016-2017**

Audrey Reneau and Brian Weaver presented the changes to the student handbooks for the 2016-2017 school year. They reported that there would be a large number of changes to the 2017-2018 handbooks based on the new student policies that will be adopted over the coming year.

9. **Safe Schools / Transportation Update**

Alan Justice gave an overview of school safety, transportation, and athletics for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Transylvania County Schools had 30 reportable offenses in the 2014-2015 Consolidated Data Report on Crime/Suspensions/Dropouts. Mr. Justice explained that this number is not a true indicator of the safety of our school system. He emphasized that TCS schools take safety very seriously and are diligent in reporting all offenses. Some districts do not report all offenses. Mr. Justice gave as an example that the Charlotte Mecklenburg district led the state last year in serious assaults, yet they self-reported fewer incidents than Transylvania. Mr. Justice noted that three quarters of the incidents of possession in Transylvania last year were reported by other students.
- Transylvania School Resource Officers made 2500 student contacts during the year and over 1200 parent contacts. The SROs taught 408 classes—something that is unique to Transylvania County. The SROs also worked 309 school sporting events in addition to their community work with coaching, Little League, Boy Scouts, and other organizations. Mr. Justice emphasized how fortunate our county is to have SROs in all schools.
- School DVRs are being updated to allow access online or through phone apps for increased safety and security.

- Mr. Justice commended TCS school bus drivers and mechanics for another great year. He reported that 1676 students rode TCS buses this year.
- Transylvania has been chosen as one of 13 counties to pilot safety belts in some of its buses next year. Drivers will be trained over the summer. Students riding buses that are equipped with safety belts will be required to wear the belts in order to ride.
- Transylvania County Schools has obtained a \$98,000 grant to replace old bus mufflers with diesel particulate filters.
- The extended stop arms that were piloted on five buses this year have been a big success. Mr. Justice hopes that the state will fund extended stop arms for all buses.
- Five more stop arm cameras have been installed. Mr. Justice would like to have them on all yellow buses by 2018.
- GPS tracking will be installed on yellow buses this year and also some activity buses. This will allow crews to pinpoint exact locations in the event of a bus accident or breakdown.
- Mr. Justice is working on a plan to better track damage to activity buses. Some employees in the past have turned in buses without reporting minor accidents.
- Congratulations to the RHS relay team, BHS tennis, and Brevard and Rosman track programs track for great seasons.
- There were three positive results this year during random student drug testing. Last year there were eight positives.

Mrs. Scruggs stated that the DARE graduations earlier that day reinforced how the SROs build relationships, instill values, and help students make positive decisions. She expressed appreciation to the schools, administration, sheriff's department and the county commissioners for their support of the school resource officer program. Chairman McCoy echoed Mrs. Scruggs remarks, pointing out that schools are about providing education for life, and the SROs help teach life lessons.

Mr. Griffin commended all of the student athletes for their participation and positive conduct at games. Dr. McDaris commended our student athletes for their tenacity and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Patton for their efforts on behalf of the Brevard College track. He reported that soon our high schools will have a place to practice field events. Mr. Justice commended the school system's strong coaching staff, reporting that both high schools do an excellent job finding coaches who bring out the best in students.

10. **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The Senate budget is out. The budget now goes to conferees in both chambers to work out a unified agreement to send to the Governor. The House and Senate budgets are very different.

- HB 632, Student Online Protection Act, cleared its final legislative hurdle when the House voted to concur with the Senate's version. The bill prevents third-party vendors who contract with public schools from either (1) releasing personally-identifying student data to other corporations, or (2) using that data for targeted advertising. The bill awaits the Governor's signature.
- HB 242, Charter School Law Changes (formerly titled "White Collar Investigation"). Senate sponsors made various changes to laws governing charter schools in this not-yet-publicly-posted bill. HB 242 directs the State Board of Education to review a charter school's operations once every 10 years (as opposed to the current 5 years).
- HB 1080, Achievement School District, passed the House by an eleven-vote margin (60-49) and now goes to the Senate.
- The Teacher Working Conditions Survey is out. Early analysis shows several state-wide trends: (1) Teachers have declining confidence in how accurately state tests are gauging students' understanding of the material; (2) Teachers cited principals and other leaders at their school as the most important factor when deciding whether they want to keep teaching at their current school; (3) Teachers cited use of time and instructional practices and support as the second most important factors in whether they stay at their school; (4) About 65% of teachers say an effort has been made to minimize the amount of routine paperwork they have to do, compared with 57% in 2014; and (5) A greater proportion of educators agree that state assessment data are available in time to impact instruction as compared to 2014.

11. Important Dates

Dr. McDaris reported that 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, unless otherwise noted.

June 7	Bus Drivers' Appreciation Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Twin Dragons
June 8	Last student day (noon dismissal)
June 8	DRS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., DRS Lawn
June 9, 10	Teacher workdays
June 10	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
June 11	RHS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., Brevard Music Center
June 13, 14	Teacher workdays
June 13	4-day summer schedule begins
June 20	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
July 4	Holiday
July 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 18-19	Administrators' Professional Development Retreat, NCCAT
Aug. 22	Regular 5-day schedule resumes
Aug. 22	New Teacher Orientation, 8:30 - 4:00, Gorges State Park Visitor Center
Aug 22-26	Teacher workdays
Aug. 29	First student day

12. Public Comment

Jerry Hunsicker praised the commitment and dedication of Transylvania County Schools teachers and also commended retired educator John Tinsley and superintendent Jeff McDaris. He pointed out how much the culture has changed over the years, noting that when he was in a member of his high school's shooting team, students kept their rifles in their lockers.

13. Other Items

Mr. Griffin thanked Mr. Hunsicker for his comments about teachers.

Chairman McCoy reported that the board would be scheduling a facilities/bond workshop soon.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary