

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
June 16, 2014**

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. High School Math
7. FY15 Budget Update
8. FY15 Interim Budget Resolution
9. Policy:
 - A. GCN, "Evaluation Process for Licensed Employees"
 - B. GCL, "Plans for Growth and Improvement of Licensed Employees"
10. Facilities Study Proposals
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 June 16, 2014 at the Morris Education Center. Ron Kiviniemi led in a moment of silence and Sue Fox led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Mrs. Petit was on vacation with her family. In addition to approximately four guests, the following board members, staff, and media representatives were in attendance:

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; Audrey Reneau, Director of K-8 Curriculum & Instruction; Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator; Adria Hardy, Teacher; and Officer Kathy McKenzie, Transylvania County Sheriff's Department

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for June 16, 2014 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

GRADUATION 2014

Twenty-two students from Davidson River School received high school diplomas in a ceremony held on Wednesday, June 4 on the DRS lawn. On Friday, June 6, the 158 members of the Brevard High School Class of 2014 were awarded diplomas in front of

a packed house at the Brevard Music Center. On Saturday, June 7, Rosman High School's 86 graduates received diplomas in front of hundreds of family members and well-wishers at the Brevard Music Center. Rosman High School graduates were awarded collectively more than \$500,000 in college scholarships. Brevard High School graduates were awarded over \$2 million in college scholarships.

4. **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. One new name, Caleb Rice, had been added to the list.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED MR. ROGERS, the minutes from the June 2, 2014 meeting and the personnel report for June 16, 2014 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **High School Math**

Dr. Scott Elliott surprised Brevard High School teacher Adria Hardy with the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) Outstanding Secondary Math Teacher Award for Transylvania County Schools. Each year, the NCCTM recognizes one deserving 6-12 math teacher from each LEA who best exemplifies success in motivating students to excel in mathematics. Mrs. Hardy accepted the award to a round of applause.

7. **FY15 Budget Update**

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board of Commissioners recently voted 3:2 to approve the Board of Education's budget request for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. He reported that the House budget proposal has been released and contains less severe cuts to education than the Governor and Senate versions. Mr. Barger presented a document comparing all three of the legislative budget proposals. Chairman McCoy stated she was glad to see that neither the Senate nor the House versions contain the shifts of worker compensation and torts claims to LEAs that the Governor had proposed. Dr. McDaris reported that while the Senate proposes a larger pay raise for teachers if they give up career status, the House version has a smaller raise but does not address career status. Mr. Barger noted that the House budget does not include the proposed cuts to transportation or driver's education. Mr. Kiviniemi asked about a state cut of \$43 million to classroom teachers. Mr. Barger explained that is a cut to a planned increase, not a cut to current staffing.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked about the overall age of the TCS bus fleet. Dr. McDaris reported that several TCS buses are quite old. He explained that the diesel engines used in North Carolina school buses typically last a long time; however, the bigger concern is the wear and tear on bus chassis, brakes, and other parts from daily travel over steep mountain roads.

Dr. McDaris reported that state legislators hope to finalize the FY15 budget by July 4. He reported that the Board of Commissioners have a public hearing on the FY15 county budget scheduled for June 23 with a final vote on June 30.

8. **FY15 Interim Budget Resolution**

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board typically adopts an interim budget resolution each June in order to pay salaries and normal operating expenses after June 30 until the adoption of a final budget resolution for the new fiscal year beginning July 1. ON A MOTION BY MR. ROGERS, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the interim budget resolution for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was unanimously approved (see attached).

9. Policy

The policies listed below were presented as first-read information on June 2. Dr. McDaris reported there were no new changes to the policies.

Code	Title	Status	Action Requested
GCN	Evaluation Process for Licensed Employees	revised; 2 nd read	approve
GCN/AFC-R	Professional Educator Evaluation Process	to be rescinded; 2 nd read	approve
GCL	Plans for Growth and Improvement of Licensed Employees	new; 2 nd read	approve

Mr. Kiviniemi expressed concern about the increased load that would be placed on school administrators as a result of teachers no longer having career status. He reported that teachers with career status were eligible for one evaluation a year. Without career status, the number of evaluations would increase to three per teacher per year, and each evaluation is a very time and labor intensive process. There was no further discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously approved policies GCN and GCL as presented and rescinded policy GCN/AFC-R.

10. Facilities Study Proposals

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board has received proposals from nine architectural firms to perform a school facilities study for TCS. He recommended that the Board hear presentations from the following four firms: Architectural Design Studio (ADS), Padgett and Freeman, Moseley Architects, and Clark Nexsen.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked about the time frame for a bond referendum. Dr. McDaris reported that starting to prepare now for the November 2015 ballot would be a very aggressive time frame. He reported that a county-wide property tax re-evaluation is slated for 2016; therefore he believes it would be best to plan for the 2017 ballot. Mr. Barger agreed that at this point, 2015 would not be feasible based on county manager's proposed timeline. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that without a bond issue within the next 1-2 years, a significant increase in capital funding would be needed to address the pressing capital needs of the schools. Dr. McDaris noted that the last bond should have been paid off by now but was refinanced. Mr. Barger reported that the county's remaining debt re-payment amount would diminish steadily until the final payoff in 2018.

Chairman McCoy reported that the Board of Commissioners has broached the idea of commissioning a comprehensive study of the school system and county government and would like to have 2-on-2 meetings to discuss the matter. She reported that the commissioners have money set aside for a study, but have not officially voted on it. She stated that she agrees the two boards need to have this conversation. Mr. Kiviniemi agreed that the Board should address the issue as a political reality.

Mr. Rogers stated that prior to the meeting, he had spent several hours gathering his thoughts regarding a facility study and had penned them down in order to articulate his rationale in support of a comprehensive study (see attached statement). That said, MR. ROGERS MADE A MOTION "to come together to form a 2-on-2 joint partnership committee consisting of two Board of Education members, two County Commissioners,

the Superintendent of Schools, and the County Manager to develop a plan of action in hiring a professional firm, to be paid for by the County Commissioners, that specializes in comprehensive studies of North Carolina school districts that would include, but not be limited to, future enrollment, security, a financial review of curriculum needs, salary study, and structure of future educational needs. Upon the completion and review of such a study, the Board of Education would then develop a plan that could implement some, none, or all of the recommendations in order to meet the needs and challenges of an ever-changing environment in our county and public education in order to provide the very best education for all students in Transylvania County. After this plan is identified and strategic goals are in place, the Board of Education would then hire an architectural firm to re-visit our Master Plan and make revisions in order to move forward in trying to obtain support from the community for a bond referendum in order to bring facilities up to current standards as well as make change as needed to provide extraordinary infrastructure so that students can be lifelong achievers.” Mr. Rogers stated that he believes doing a facilities study first would be like putting the cart before the horse. For the purpose of discussion, MR. KIVINIEMI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked Mr. Rogers if it is his assertion that the Board should do a facilities study only after deciding what, if any, recommendation(s) from a comprehensive study to adopt. Mr. Rogers affirmed. Chairman McCoy stated that it is her understanding that the county has the money to pay for an Evergreen study for the county and the school system; they have not officially designated it within their budget; and they would like to discuss the option with the school board. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he could agree to that proposal provided that the firm chosen to do the study is mutually agreeable to the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners. Mrs. McCoy stated that she could support having a 2-on-2 committee to discuss the idea and agreed that if the Board of Education pursues an operational study it should choose the firm. She gave a reminder that information was presented at the June 2 school board meeting regarding a firm that could perform an operational study. She stated that all five board members should be involved in this decision, and Mr. Rogers stated that he would not object to tabling his motion until the next meeting. Mr. Kiviniemi and Mrs. Fox indicated they had no objections to tabling the motion. Mr. Barger stated that whichever option the Board chooses and whether or not it pursues a bond referendum, it is urgent to obtain an updated facilities study/master plan in order to facilitate capital planning via the annual county appropriation and/or other means. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board tabled Mr. Rogers’ motion until the next meeting when all five Board members are present.

Chairman McCoy stated that the Board needs to update its master facilities plan every five years for regular capital budgeting purposes and determining projects for a possible bond. MR. KIVINIEMI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, to accept the superintendent’s recommendation to invite Architectural Design Studio (ADS), Padgett and Freeman, Moseley Architects, and Clark Nexsen to give presentations for a system-wide facilities study. Dr. McDaris asked whether the Board would be under any monetary obligation by having the firms come and present. Mr. Barger reported there would be no financial obligation until the Board signs a contract for services. He explained that the Board would not be expected to select a firm at the time of the presentations; the presentations would be simply an opportunity to see what each firm could offer and for the Board to ask questions. Mr. Barger pointed out that a facilities study by its very nature would include enrollment projections and other operational components because a firm would need this information to develop a realistic and effective plan. The Board discussed a time frame for the presentations. Mr. Barger suggested that each firm be allotted 30 minutes to present and another 15 minutes for questions and answers.

Mr. Rogers asked how the Board's budget development process next year would differ from the last two years. Mr. Barger explained that the Board has been operating from its existing five-year master facilities plan which is now out of date. He gave as an example that five years ago the schools did not have the 1:1 computer initiative, the threat of losing teacher assistant positions, or the plethora of state curriculum changes. Mrs. McCoy stated that the Board did not spend a lot of time on capital discussion this year due to its two-year capital funding agreement with the commissioners. She gave a reminder that at this time last year the Board was looking at the likelihood of a bond referendum in 2015, before the question of school consolidation was raised. Mr. Rogers stated that he did not understand how a facilities study would impact the 1:1 initiative or staffing levels. He stated that his motion for a comprehensive operational study would delay but not prevent bringing firms in to present, and that he was simply trying to save time and resources by not doing something out of order. He asked how the Board would pay for a facilities study. Mr. Barger reported there is a professional services line item in Fund 2 that would cover the costs. He noted that the presentations would not include discussions of cost; fees would be negotiated once a firm is selected.

Chairman McCoy asked about a potential loss of credibility should the firms come and present and then be told the facility study would be delayed in favor of a larger operational study. Mr. Kiviniemi mentioned an "offer good until" provision. Mr. Barger explained that the proposals include cost estimates that would not change significantly within the next six months or so.

Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he would like to move ahead with the presentations in order to have some guidance for FY16 capital planning which begins in February. Mr. Rogers stated that he sees no harm if the Board wants to hear the presentations, but he still thinks the studies would be out of order. Mrs. McCoy asked Mr. Rogers if he wants an operational study and a facilities study. Mr. Rogers stated that he thinks they need to be aligned together. Mrs. McCoy stated that if the Board does both studies, the two firms would have to be able to work together. Mr. Rogers stated that he would vote in favor of hearing the proposals, but would not vote to select a firm before the Board has first done a comprehensive study. MRS. MCCOY CALLED THE VOTE, AND THE MOTION TO INVITE THE FIRMS TO PRESENT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. The Board discussed scheduling and agreed to hold one special meeting to hear all four presentations. Ms. Hunter was asked to poll the Board members for their availability in the month of July or as soon thereafter as can be arranged.

11. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- Fresh fruit and vegetable grant awards were announced by the state, but Transylvania County was not selected. Very few school districts in the Western region qualified to receive the grants, which went predominantly to districts with the highest free and reduced rates.
- Transylvania County Schools will once again be excluded from the state's low wealth and small school supplemental funding.
- The Department of Public Instruction has completed its annual monitoring review of Title I and other federal grants and found TCS to be in full compliance.
- Jessica Webb, DRS teacher, has been named to the Governor's Teacher Network for 2014-2015. The Teacher Network is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the state's Race to the Top program.
- By next summer, Child Nutrition may be able to offer the summer feeding program at a higher reimbursement rate.

- A number of TCS students are participating in the Sheriff Department's Shield Camp this summer.

Mrs. Fox reported that 21 teachers participated in the 2014 Career Academy that was held earlier in the month. She thanked Dr. Scott Elliott for providing a great experience for all involved.

12. Important Dates

Beginning in July and continuing through January, the Board of Education will return to its regular once-monthly meeting schedule. Business meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

June 23-25	NCSBA Summer Leadership Seminars, Atlantic Beach
June 26-27	NCSBA Policy Conference, Atlantic Beach
July 3	Holiday
July 21	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 12	TCS Administrators' Retreat, 7:30 - 5:00, Rogow Room
Aug. 14	New Teacher Orientation, 9:00 - 4:00, Gorges State Park Visitor Center
Aug. 18	Resume regular 5-day schedule
Aug. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 25	First pupil day

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Other Items

In the interests of full disclosure, Chairman McCoy reported that Rogers Masonry would be performing work on the BHS softball/baseball concession stand project. She stated that Mr. Rogers is donating all labor and equipment and would receive no payment from the Board.

Chairman McCoy extended best wishes to Dr. Scott Elliott as he begins his new job as Superintendent of Watauga County Schools effective July 1. She stated that he will be greatly missed. Mr. Kiviniemi reminded Dr. Elliott that the highway to Boone runs both ways if he changes his mind. Mr. Rogers thanked Dr. Elliott for his years of service to Transylvania County Schools and wished him all the best. Mrs. Fox stated that Watauga is very fortunate indeed to be getting Dr. Elliott's experience and knowledge.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. ROGERS, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
June 16, 2014**

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

Licensed Personnel

Carrie Kirby, Instructional Technology Facilitator, TCS, effective July 1, 2014

Brooks Owenby, Teacher, BHS, effective June 10, 2014

Mary Ellen Whittle, Part-Time Reading Intervention Specialist, BES & TCHES, effective June 2, 2014

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Stephanie Farge, School Psychologist, PFES, effective August 18, 2014

Pamela MacDonald, Teacher, TCHES, effective August 18, 2014

Erika Mayhew, Teacher, PFES, effective August 18, 2014

Morgan Mitchem, Teacher, PFES, effective August 18, 2014

Marlon Morris, Teacher, BHS, effective August 18, 2014, and Coach, BHS, effective July 1, 2014

Elizabeth Privette, Teacher, BES, effective August 18, 2014

Classified Personnel

Jonathan Byers, Part-Time Temporary Student Employee, Building Futures Program, effective June 17, 2014

Jonathan Russell, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 18, 2014

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

Licensed Personnel

Rebecca Dinsdale, from Teacher Assistant, PFES, to Interim Teacher, PFES, effective August 18, 2014 through June 12, 2015

Toni Haley, from Teacher, BMS, to Teacher, BES, BMS and BHS, effective August 18, 2014

Jo Ellen Hamilton, from Lead Teacher, BES, to Lead Teacher, RMS & TCHES, effective June 17, 2014

Mareen Hankala, from Teacher, BMS, to Teacher, RMS and RHS, effective August 18, 2014

Hannah Souther, from Teacher Assistant, PFES, to Teacher, PFES, effective August 18, 2014

Brian Weaver, from Principal, RHS, to Director of Middle and High School Curriculum, MEC, effective July 1, 2014

Classified Personnel

Tom Anderson, Behavioral Specialist, BMS, to Behavioral Specialist, BHS, effective August 18, 2014

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

Licensed Personnel

Erin Creasman, Teacher, PFES, GCBDB leave, effective August 18, 2014 through June 12, 2015

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None

FOR INFORMATION

The licensed employee named here is eligible for a one-year renewal of their contract:

Stefanie Tomlin, Teacher, BES and PFES, effective August 18, 2014

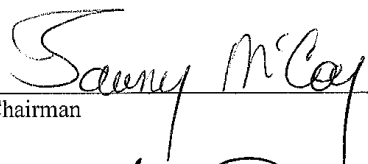
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

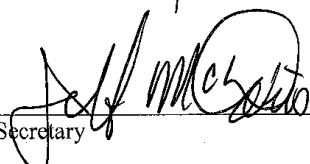
INTERIM BUDGET RESOLUTION

2014-2015

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, that interim appropriations be made available for the purpose of paying salaries and the usual and customary expenses of the Transylvania County Schools for the period beginning July 1, 2014, until adoption of the 2014-2015 Budget Resolution. Interim appropriations so made and expended shall be charged to the proper appropriations in the Budget Resolution.

Passed by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education on the 16th day of June 2014.


Chairman


Secretary

Comments and Motion for 2 on 2 BOE/CC
Re. Bond Issue
Mike Rogers
BOE Meeting 6.16.14

Fellow Board members, I believe we need to seriously consider the process, structure and long term ramifications of a "Facility Only Study" and the effect on our students, citizens and schools as we discuss firms who administrate, design and provide architecture on a "brick and mortar" analysis only. The entire premise of this dialogue has come as a result of a possible \$20 million bond. I'd like to challenge us to consider a hypothetical illustration as part of our constructive discussion and future planning in order to continue to provide a quality education for students and having them College/Career ready with a broad range of course selection prior to graduation. If our county were thriving with high paying jobs and an influx of families moving into the area with small children, would we proceed with the same planning process which include facilities only? Would it make sense to hire an architect to do a facilities study only and not project future enrollment, study the structure of our county, availability of funds, job market demand and availability of classes to a broad range of students? I believe the answer would be no.

In January 2014, I ask the Superintendent questions regarding current enrollment and based solely upon those numbers developed a "liberal projected enrollment" chart which shows a current decline in the lower grades and a projected smaller high school ADM enrollment in as little as six to seven years. Based upon our current enrollment figures, we as publicly elected, appointed and hired figure heads owe the proper means and resources to our children, future students, teachers and taxpayers to hire an outside, unbiased source to do a comprehensive study before we consider spending \$20 million taxpayer dollars.

We have many of our schools which need long overdue renovation and upgrades. Without a thorough study, we put our facilities, students and staff at great risk of a potential bond failure and further prolonging these necessary changes. With a bond passage, we risk misappropriating our hard earned money by possibly missing the mark in areas which need investment of capital funds the most. We owe our students and citizens of Transylvania County the due diligence necessary to plan professionally for their future. We do my 5 yr old son and 3500 more children a disservice by not adequately planning for their future.

I'm not sure what this thorough, comprehensive study may reveal but trust we can glean from their professional expertise. This is neither suggesting nor eliminating consolidation but rather encourages us to be visionary with the opportunity to brainstorm of how to provide an improved, superior, learning environment for every child in Transylvania County with more CTE, Arts and AP choice through an improved structure which could still include both high school facilities with a direct educational approach before spending \$20 million dollars without a good plan.