

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
July 16, 2012

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 Right-of-Way
7. FY13 Budget Update
8. Requests to Name Facilities
9. Important Dates
10. Public Comment
11. Other Items
12. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on July 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chair Chris Whitmire, Vice Chair Tawny McCoy, Sue Fox, and Cindy Petit were present. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris; Jenny Hunter; Dr. Scott Elliott; SRO Greg Stroup; Jeremiah Reed, *Transylvania Times*; Than Axtell, *Hendersonville Times-News*; Sarah Lutz, City of Brevard; and Marty Griffin. Mrs. McCoy led in a moment of silence and Mrs. Petit led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He reported that Mrs. Norman was absent due to a work conflict.

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting agenda for July 16, 2012 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
Marty Griffin reported that former student Thomas Siniard had been injured in a land mine explosion in Afghanistan. He is recovering at a hospital in Germany.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

GOOGLE BLOG FEATURES TCS

Transylvania County Schools was featured by Google in their official blogspot announcements at the first day of the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) Conference in San Diego on June 25, 2012. TCS was mentioned as one school system that is planning to use the Google Chromebook as an effective and affordable 1-to-1 educational tool.

VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE

At a recent hearing on the virtual charter school litigation, Judge Jones supported the position of the North Carolina School Boards Association and most school boards in

the state by reversing the Administrative Law Judge's decision to approve the charter application of North Carolina Virtual Academy. He held that only the State Board of Education has the authority to grant a charter. The result of this ruling is that North Carolina Virtual Academy will not be permitted to operate in North Carolina. It remains to be seen whether NCVA will choose to file an appeal.

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. There were no new names.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the minutes from the June 18, 2012 meeting and the personnel report for July 16, 2012 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Request for Right-of-Way**

Dr. McDaris reported that the City of Brevard would like the Board of Education to grant a 30-foot right-of-way along Elm Bend Road to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The right-of-way would be used to construct a sidewalk near Brevard Elementary School as a part of the City's Pedestrian Plan. The Board reviewed a proposal from City Manager Joe Moore as well as views of the proposed right-of-way and sidewalk route. Sarah Lutz, Planner and Assistant Zoning Administrator, gave an overview of the project and answered questions from the Board. She explained that the new sidewalk would be constructed along Elm Bend Road from the intersection of Hwy 276 to Delphia Drive. It would replace the existing sidewalk in front of Sapphire Manor. Board members were in agreement that the proposed sidewalk would improve safety for pedestrians and for children walking or biking to school. Ms. Lutz reported that the City is also talking with DOT about the possibility of designating a portion of Elm Bend Road as a school zone to further increase safety. ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board unanimously granted the 30-foot right-of-way to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

7. **FY13 Budget Update**

Dr. McDaris reported that on June 11, the Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to cut the school system's budget allocation for the 2012-2013 year. He expressed concern that although the Board of Education had previously been asked by the County Commissioners to be frugal and build up its fund balance to assist the county in meeting the hole that would be left by the loss of EduJobs funding, the increase in fund balance was now being used by some commissioners as a justification for cutting funding. Dr. McDaris stated that this move by the commissioners effectively reverts the school system's operating budget to the level of two years ago. He pointed out that the increase in fund balance was made possible by cost savings measures such as further delaying needed projects and purchases, selling scrap metal, and an unforeseen increase in state Title I funds—an increase that was based on rising poverty rates in the county. He stated that the school system has the largest aging infrastructure in the county, nevertheless, its facilities continue to be patched and underfunded. He added that our teachers will continue to do their best with nothing, while Transylvania continues to outperform other, better-funded systems. He stated that in his opinion, that is something that should be invested in.

Chairman Whitmire stated that this action by the Commissioners sends a message that when one does a good job, one is taken advantage of. He pointed out that Commissioner Daryle Hogsted, who did not attend last year's first joint meeting where fund balance was discussed, predicated his motion to cut funding on the fact that the school system's fund balance grew. Mr. Whitmire commented:

"To have the facts that we placed half of our federal EduJobs money for FY12 into reserve for FY13 in addition to receiving more poverty money from the state used against us shows an utter lack of understanding of what constituted our fund balance and a total disrespect for planning ahead for FY13. Please note that this intent was vetted in two joint meetings in March 2011 and May 2011 with the Commissioners. On a related note, I challenge all to review the county's annual audits to see some interesting growth in the county's fund balance for the two previous reports available, FY11 and FY10. These reflect a growth in county fund balance of approximately \$990,446 for FY11 (ref. FY11 Annual Audit, page 24), one of the most challenging economic years of the modern era, and a growth of approximately \$423,581 for FY10 (ref. FY10 Annual Audit, page 22). These gains occurred despite Commissioner end-of-year budget amendments reflecting deficit spending of \$1,597,008 for FY10 and \$1,453,922 for FY11, NOT GAINS. In other words, just a few weeks after showing huge deficit spending for both FY10 and FY11, the county's fund balance actually GREW! For any taxpayer, these are questions that need to be addressed, especially when you turn around and cut one of the most effective and efficient education systems in the state. It is a mockery of the truth to use fund balance as an excuse not to fund us when FY12 planned savings were reserved in order to survive known shortcomings in FY13. To take us backward to the level of two years ago in funding categories that directly affect the classroom is very disturbing, and it is unexplainable." He gave a reminder that the Board of Education's requests for a joint meeting had been denied repeatedly this year by the Commissioners.

8. Requests to Name Facilities

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board had received a request to name the field at the Rosman High School stadium in honor of William J. Cathey, Jr., in recognition of his efforts to establish the RHS football program. Last winter, the Board had received a request to name a gym floor at RHS in honor of another individual. At its planning retreat on February 7, 2011, the Board had discussed the naming of school facilities. At that time, members reviewed a number of policies on naming facilities from other districts and considered establishing a local policy. It was agreed to table the matter and revisit it at another time.

The Board discussed the new request. Mrs. McCoy pointed out that the policies from other districts were directed mainly toward naming new facilities. She stated that she did not think naming parts of existing facilities (i.e., floors, fields, etc.) was a good idea. Mrs. Fox pointed out that there are many individuals deserving of recognition, and questioned how one would decide which person is more deserving than another. Mr. Whitmire commented that due to the number of potential honorees, the Board might run out of floors and fields and wings before running out of people. Mrs. McCoy suggested that as an alternative to naming facilities, these types of recognitions be incorporated into the Rosman High School Alumni Hall of Fame. She and Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the Hall of Fame idea, which started as a YouthSpeak project in Julie Queen's class, had grown to encompass recognitions of not only school individuals but also community members. There was consensus that the Board would not begin naming facilities or

parts of facilities, and instead would refer requests of this type to the Hall of Fame as the most appropriate vehicle for recognition. Chairman Whitmire requested that the Board receive a report on the RHS Hall of Fame at a future meeting.

9. Important Dates

July 23-26 NSBA Southern Region Conference, Biloxi, MS
 Aug. 1-2 TCS Administrators' Retreat, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Rogow Room
 Aug. 6 Resume regular 5-day schedule
 Aug. 6-7 New Teacher Orientation, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rogow Room
 Aug. 7 NCSBA Webinar, "Fair Labor Standards," 1-2 p.m.
 Aug. 8-10 Teacher Workdays
 Aug. 10 Elementary "Meet the Teacher" Night, 4:00 p.m., BES, PFES, RES, TCHES
 Aug. 13 First Day for Students
 Aug. 14 NCSBA Webinar, "Campaign & Political Speech on School Grounds"
 Aug. 20 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
 Aug. 21 NCSBA Webinar, "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act," 1-2 p.m.
 Aug. 23 NCSBA Webinar, "Basic Sexual Harassment Law for School Employees"
 Sept. 3 Labor Day Holiday
 Sept. 12 Early Dismissal
 Sept. 17 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., Rogow Room
 Sept. 27 NCSBA District 8 Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Polk County
 Oct. 2 NCSBA Webinar, "Cyberlaw: Bad Behavior Online," 1-2 p.m.
 Oct. 15 Teacher Workday
 Oct. 15 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
 Oct. 17-19 NCSBA Annual Law Conference, Asheville

Chairman Whitmire invited members to attend a candidate seminar to be held by the Public School Forum on July 20, 2012 at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Other Items

No other items were discussed.

12. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the Board went into closed session at 7:22 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter (superintendent's annual evaluation), pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) and 115C-319-321. Present in the closed session were Mr. Whitmire, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Fox, and Mrs. Petit. No action was taken. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board reconvened in open session at 9:20 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
July 16, 2012**

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

Licensed Personnel

Allison Baum, Teacher, BMS, effective June 25, 2012
Nancy Collins, Teacher, BMS, effective June 21, 2012
Sharon Hedgepeth, Teacher, BES, effective August 10, 2012
Rebecca McCord, Teacher, BHS, effective June 19, 2012

Classified Personnel

Karol Clayton, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective July 6, 2012
Carolyn Neill, Custodian & Bus Driver, BHS, effective July 31, 2012
Michael Owens, Part-Time Custodian, BES, effective June 26, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Cody Ashe, Teacher & Coach, BES, effective August 8, 2012
Debbie Cooper, Part-Time Teacher, BES, effective August 8, 2012
Anna Harris, Part-Time Teacher, BES, effective August 8, 2012
Barbara Hartsoe, Part-Time Reading Intervention Specialist, PFES & RES, effective August 14, 2012
Lily Kirk, Teacher, RMS & RHS, effective August 8, 2012
Matthew Kirk, Teacher, BMS, effective August 8, 2012
April Nelson, Teacher, BMS, effective August 8, 2012
Jason Ormsby, Assistant Principal, RMS & RHS, effective July 17, 2012 (two-year contract)
Jacob Raines, Teacher, BHS, effective August 8, 2012
Charlotte Roberts, Teacher, BES, effective August 8, 2012
Lewis Whiteside, Interim Teacher, BMS, effective August 8, 2012
Mary Ellen Whittle, Part-Time Reading Intervention Specialist, BES & TCH, effective August 14, 2012
Cynthia Zimmerman, Media Coordinator, PFES, effective August 8, 2012

Classified Personnel

Mary Connelly, Bus Driver, TCS, effective August 13, 2012
Melissa Golden, Distance Learning Facilitator, BHS, effective August 8, 2012
Margaret Joseph, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 8, 2012
R. Dale Whitlock, Bus Driver, TCS, effective August 13, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Jennifer Sensabaugh, from Teacher, RMS, to Teacher, BMS, effective August 8, 2012

Classified Personnel

Susan Hoxit, from Part-Time Teacher Assistant (50%), RES, to Teacher Assistant (100%), RMS & RHS, effective August 8, 2012

Kevin Merrill, from Teacher Assistant, RMS & RHS, to Distance Learning Facilitator, RHS, effective August 8, 2012

- 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 Child Nutrition Workers

None