

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
July 17, 2017

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
 - C. Accountability Model for DRS
 - D. Copier Lease Contract
 - E. Designation of School Treasurers
6. Technology Purchase 2017-2018
7. Policy:
 - A. 4000 Series Part A: Students
 - B. Policies 2110 and 2115
 - C. Policies Requiring Committees & Reports
8. Student Handbooks 2017-2018
9. FY18 Budget Update
10. Capital Funding Options
11. Resolution in Support of Community Relations Board
12. Superintendent's Update
13. Important Dates
14. Public Comment
15. Other Items
16. Closed Session (Personnel Matter; Legal Matter)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on July 17, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. Ron Kiviniemi led in a moment of silence and Tawny McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to three guests, the following board members and staff were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Marty Griffin
Betty Scruggs McGaha
Alice Wellborn

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Brian Weaver, Senior Director, Human Resources
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
Chad Owen, School Resource Officer

MEDIA: John Lanier, Transylvania Times

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting agenda for July 17, 2017 was revised to move item no. 11, Resolution in Support of Community Relations Board, to item no. 6.
2. **Public Comment**
Kathleen Barnes, representing NAACP, urged the board to approve the proposed resolution in support of the new Community Relations Board.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

SUMMER SCHOOL 2017

In June, 175 elementary students attended 12 days of the Summer Reading Camp held at all four elementary schools. With strong focus on reading and math, the students were able to increase their proficiency levels in grades 4 and 5 on the re-administration of the EOG. Many third graders completed their portfolios. The classes were small with an average of 10 students per teacher. Thanks to students and teachers for their hard work, and thanks to Ingles of Brevard for donating popsicles to celebrate after testing.

OUR FIRST STEM CAMP

Transylvania County Schools will hold its first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Camp for 30 rising 4th, 5th and 6th graders at Blue Ridge Community College during the week of July 17-21. The theme is Exploring Space. Students will engage in a variety of intensive and engaging problem solving STEM activities such as building and launching rockets, landing rovers on the moon without crashing, programming robots, and other stellar activities. Campers will also have the opportunity to talk with a person who builds rockets for NASA. Thank you to Blue Ridge Community College for their partnership and allowing us to use their campus. Two outstanding TCS teachers, Justin Ausburn and Vincent Warren, will lead the STEM camp. Dr. McDaris reported that 46.3% of TCS students say they plan to pursue STEM-based careers, according to *My College Options*.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT AT DRS

The Summer Enrichment Program at Davidson River School is underway. Students are participating in academic as well as enrichment activities to meet a myriad of needs. Some are earning credit through online recovery programs; others are getting intensive math help or a jump start on a fall credit. Several rising freshman are even beginning their high school careers. In addition, students are participating in Career Academy trips in partnership with BRCC Career Coach Kevin Spradlin. This week's trip will be to Sylvan Sport to learn about Adventure Gear.

TAKING SHAPE AT PFE

Pisgah Forest Elementary School was happy to receive new tables for its outdoor classroom, which were assembled and delivered by Plant Operations. For the school improvement goal of making the school more visually engaging, PFE received a generous offer from former student Julia Lusk and two other students, Gelena Cortez and Josie Seymour, from the Brevard High School Art Guild. With art supplies provided by the school, the girls donated hours of design work and painting to brighten up the walls and corridors of the school.

BES IN RALEIGH FOR A+ TRAINING

Brevard Elementary School instructional staff is spending the week in Raleigh training together to join the network of A+ Schools in North Carolina. Students learn better when they are challenged to use the full range of their talents and intellectual abilities to address authentic and complex academic tasks in professional and real-life events. The A+ Schools Program is a whole-school model that views the arts as fundamental to teaching and learning in all subjects. Implementation is made possible through a grant from the NC Arts Council and NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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 on the list.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the following items were unanimously approved:

- A. Minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting
- B. Personnel report for July 17, 2017 (attached)
- C. Selection of option C as the accountability model for Davidson River School for the 2017-2018 year, per NCSBE Policy ACCT-038
- D. 36-month copier lease contract with Toshiba Business Systems
- E. Designation of three school treasurers: Cindi Foreman at DRS, Lisa McDaris at TCH, and Kim Nanney at BHS

6. Resolution in Support of Community Relations Board

Dr. McDaris reported that the Brevard City Council has recently established a new Community Relations Board to fill the gap left by the dissolution of the former Human Relations Council. He presented a resolution in support of the new board for consideration. All were in agreement that the new board would be a positive step forward for the community. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously approved the resolution supporting the Community Relations Board of Brevard (see attached).

7. Technology Purchase 2017-2018

Chris Whitlock requested approval of the purchase of 780 Chromebooks and 14 charging carts from Trinity LLC for the upcoming school year. He reported that the devices will be used at Brevard Elementary School and Pisgah Forest Elementary School and would put a cart of Chromebooks in each grade 2-5 classroom and four Chromebooks in each kindergarten classroom. Mr. Whitlock noted that the devices are not intended to go home with students. He reported that the IT department was able to leverage a state RFP and a federal RFP to obtain better pricing on the purchase. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the board approved the \$224,822 purchase from Trinity LLC for the 2017-2018 year.

8. Policy

Brian Weaver presented four new policies from the 4000 Series Part A (Students) for approval and five old policies for rescission. He reported there had been no changes to the policies since the first reads. After brief discussion, ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the policies listed below were unanimously adopted and rescinded as indicated below.

4000 Series (Part A): Students			
ADOPTED		RESCINDED	
4001	Equal Educational Opportunities	AC; AC-R; JB	Non-Discrimination; Equal Educational Opportunities
4125	Homeless Students		
4150	School Assignment	JECBB; JECBB-R	Assignment of Students to Out- of-District Schools
4155	Assignment to Classes		

Mr. Weaver presented two revised policies for second-read approval. The policies had been revised in response to Session Law 2016-44, *An Act to Change the Election Method of the Transylvania County Board of Education from Nonpartisan to Partisan*. There were no questions, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVIENIMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, policy 2110, Board Member Elections, and policy 2115, Unexpired Term Fulfillment, were approved 4:1 as presented (FOR: Kiviniemi, McCoy, McGaha, Wellborn; AGAINST: Griffin).

Mr. Weaver reported that the board had previously requested a list of the new policies that would require a periodic report to the board and/or the appointment of committees. He presented a compilation of such policies and noted that the list would be further updated as more new policies are adopted this fall. The board reviewed the list. Mrs. McGaha requested that a schedule for the periodic reports be developed and presented at the September meeting.

9. **Student Handbooks 2017-2018**

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs presented the draft student handbook for the 2017-2018 school year. He explained that the formerly separate handbooks for elementary and secondary have been combined into one central template constructed around board policy. The handbook will be printed and distributed to all students, posted on the website with search functions, and made available in Spanish. Board members were appreciative of having one handbook for grades K-12 to improve consistency. Concerns about student cell phone use and dress code were discussed. Mr. Weaver noted that cell phones and dress code would be addressed within upcoming policies. Chairman McCoy emphasized that students should adhere to the dress code at all school functions, not just during the school day. Mrs. Scruggs wanted to be sure that parents are called when a student violates dress code. Dr. Gibbs explained that enforcement issues would be addressed within the superintendent's regulations.

10. **FY18 Budget Update**

Norris Barger and Dr. McDaris gave an update on the 2017-2018 budget. Dr. McDaris reported decreases in state funding of 3 classroom teacher positions; \$25,000 in central office administration; 5 months in CTE positions; \$2400 in AIG funding; and \$2000 in instructional materials. Mr. Barger reported that the local expense increase all went to mandated salary, benefits and retirement increases. He reported that the local deficit would be mostly covered through attrition, reassignments and other cost savings. The final budget resolution for 2017-2018 will be presented for approval at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Griffin asked if the board could do anything about Mission Health's plan to leave the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina insurance network on October 5, 2017. He

expressed concern about the effect of this decision on school system employees and retirees, most of whom would have to seek medical services from Pardee or Park Ridge Hospitals instead of Transylvania Regional Hospital. Dr. McDaris explained that this issue is not under the school system's control, but he hopes that Mission and BCBS will reach a compromise agreement before the deadline.

11. Capital Funding Options

Dr. McDaris reported that the board is reviewing funding options, including a bond, for \$93 million in school facility needs. He reported that he has met with each board member individually to discuss community questions about consolidation, and it is the unanimous consensus of the board to maintain all nine schools based on research, data and analysis. The board's next steps will be to decide the amount of the bond, the date of the ballot (primary or general election), and develop a resolution to present to the county commissioners asking for the bond to be placed on the ballot. Following that, the board will campaign to build support, focusing on the specific needs at each school and the benefits to students and the community. Kevin Smith reported that he has been gathering information from Brunswick County Schools which recently held a successful bond campaign. Mr. Smith reported that the public phase of a campaign can be done in as little as three months. Board members are in the process of talking with commissioners individually to keep them informed.

12. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- Due to recent heavy rainfalls, our buildings are experiencing more roof leaks. This includes the Education Center. Dr. McDaris and Mr. Barger are looking at some projects that may come in under bid, possibly freeing up some funds to address the leaks.
- The NC General Assembly will return for one of two called short sessions on August 3. Although no specific agenda has yet been announced, legislators could take up a variety of matters during the sessions. The General Assembly is currently set to reconvene again under their joint resolution on September 6.
- North Carolina's Pre-K program for 4-year-olds, established 15 years ago, has produced learning gains for children, sometimes well into elementary school, according to a new report from UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. Researchers found that children enrolled in NC Pre-K made better than expected gains in language, literacy, math, general knowledge and social skills into kindergarten, giving them a boost as they started school.
- TCS has 22 new hires thus far for the upcoming school year. This is a smaller number than in some years past.
- A meeting was held recently for teachers interested in pursuing National Board Certification. Fifteen teachers have expressed strong interest and will likely be pursuing.

13. Important Dates

Aug. 1-2	Administrators' Professional Development Retreat, 7:30-4:00, TCH
Aug. 3	NCDPI Digital Learning Regional Summit, 7:30 - 4:00, BHS

Aug. 7	SPECIAL MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 14	Regular 5-day schedule resumes
Aug. 17	New Teacher Orientation, 9:00 a.m., Rogow Room
Aug. 17-18	Teacher workdays
Aug. 21-22	Teacher workdays
Aug. 21	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 23	First student day
Sept. 4	Labor Day holiday
Sept. 18	REGULAR MEETING
Sept. 20	Early dismissal for students, 12:00 p.m.

Dr. McDaris reported that he is considering options for staff during the total solar eclipse on August 21. He is concerned that traffic in and around Brevard and Rosman on that day will be gridlock as thousands flock to the county to view this once-in-a-lifetime event.

14. Public Comment

There was no other public comment.

15. Other Items

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Owen for attending the meeting.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked how the school system would fund art, music and PE positions for 2018-2019 once the one-year delay in the General Assembly's class size bill has expired. Dr. McDaris reported that state lawmakers have indicated they intend to re-address this issue before the year is up. He reported that the administrative team is working on a plan to meet staffing needs, which may include use of some local funds.

16. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the board went into closed session at 8:11 p.m. to (1) consult with the board attorney regarding a legal matter, and (2) discuss a confidential personnel matter (superintendent's annual evaluation), pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1), 143-318.11(a)(3), and 115C-319 through -321. Present for the legal matter were Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mrs. McGaha, Mrs. Wellborn, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Donnahoo. Mr. Donnahoo and Dr. McDaris stepped out while board members addressed the superintendent's annual evaluation. No action was taken in the closed session and, ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board reconvened in open session at 10:08 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
July 17, 2017**

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

Licensed Personnel

Sonja Hopkins, Teacher, BES, effective July 13, 2017
Chelsey Montgomery, Band Director, RMS & RHS, effective June 30, 2017
Charlotte Roberts, Teacher, TCHES, effective June 16, 2017
Auburn Smith, Teacher & Coach, RHS, effective June 16, 2017
Sabrina Taylor, Teacher, BES, effective July 13, 2017
Wesley Whitman, Teacher & Coach, RHS, effective June 16, 2017

Classified Personnel

Cindy Kiser, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective July 13, 2017
Melissa Robinson, Office Support, BES, effective June 19, 2017
Margaret Stone, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective June 13, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Leesa Anderson, Interim Teacher & Coach, RMS & RHS, effective August 17, 2017
Katerina Canter, Band Director, RMS & RHS, effective August 1, 2017
Taylor Evans, Interim Teacher, PFES, effective August 17, 2017
Margaret Joseph, Teacher, TCHES, effective August 17, 2017
Timothy Masterson, Teacher, RES, effective August 17, 2017
Laura Stack, Teacher, RHS, effective August 17, 2017
Kimberly Wynn, Teacher, RHS, effective August 17, 2017

Classified Personnel

Callin Driver, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective August 18, 2017
Cindi Foreman, Office Support, DRS, effective July 10, 2017
Kim Garrett, Office Support, BES, effective August 1, 2017

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

Licensed Personnel

Paul Fedorczyk, from Teacher Assistant, BMS, to Teacher, BMS, effective August 17, 2017
Barbara Grimm, from Teacher, PFES, to Instructional Coach, BES, effective August 1, 2017

Classified Personnel

A. Christopher Galloway, from Bus Driver, TCS, to Custodian & Bus Driver, RES, effective June 1, 2017

- 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
Martha Snow

Substitute School Nutrition Workers
Debra Smith

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Education (the "board") has a strong interest in fostering and supporting good relations between all persons in our community; and

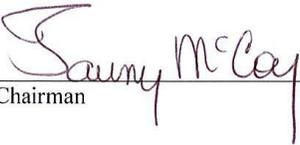
WHEREAS, the board believes that in our community and throughout our nation, our differences and our diversity have always been and continue to be among our greatest strengths, and should be celebrated as a part of our local and national heritage; and

WHEREAS, the board believes that a Community Relations Board structured, empowered, operated, and managed consistent with the Statement of Organization and Purpose attached hereto, will be a positive force in our community; and

WHEREAS, the board believes that Transylvania County, the City of Brevard, and the Town of Rosman represent an open and welcoming community which desires to embrace all who are living within it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education hereby endorses the creation of a Community Relations Board and agrees to be an additional sponsoring entity, with authority to appoint members to the Community Relations Board as per the attached Statement of Organization and Purpose.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of July 2017.



Chairman



Secretary