

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
July 20, 2015**

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. NCSBA Policy Updates
7. Policy:
 - A. JHCB, "Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission"
 - B. 4110, "Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission"
8. Alternative Accountability Model for DRS
9. Student Attendance Report
10. Local Board Training Credit
11. Technology Purchase
12. FY16 Budget Update
13. Superintendent's Update
14. Important Dates
15. Public Comment
16. Other Items
17. Closed Session (Property Matter)
18. Closed Session (Superintendent's Annual Evaluation)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on July 20, 2015 at the Morris Education Center. Cindy Petit led in a moment of silence and Betty Scruggs led the Pledge of Allegiance. Tawny McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to approximately three guests, the following were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Cindy Petit, Vice Chair
Marty Griffin
Ron Kiviniemi
Betty Scruggs

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

MEDIA:

Park Baker, Transylvania Times

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Gibbs, Director, Human Resources
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Brian Weaver, Director, 6-12 Curriculum/Instruction
Audrey Reneau, Director, K-5 Curriculum/Instruction
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Leca Chapman, Director, Career/Technical Education
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator
April Gaydosh, Principal, BES
Jennifer Anderson, Principal, BHS
Scott Thomas, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the meeting agenda for July 20, 2015 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following item:

GOLDEN LEAF SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Golden LEAF Foundation awards 215 scholarships to promising students from rural North Carolina communities. This year, two Rosman High School seniors, Michael Bagwell and Carli Batson, each received a four-year \$12,000 scholarship. As part of this scholarship program, students are eligible to participate in leadership activities and summer internships through the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL). The CCL is among the top four entities in the world for leadership training, and it supports rural communities by providing student internships in rural counties. Michael plans to attend Appalachian State University and major in parks and recreation management. Carli plans to attend Brevard College and major in chemistry, with a goal of attending veterinary school after college.

Dr. McDaris thanked SRO Thomas for being at the meeting and recognized new TCS principals April Gaydosh and Jennifer Anderson.

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 MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting and the personnel report for July 20, 2015 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. NCSBA Policy Update

Jim O'Rourke, Attorney with the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA), provided training on the board policy manual conversion based on the NCSBA Policies to Lead the Schools (PLS). He reported that the revision process will take one to two years to complete. The new manual will contain approximately 300 policies, making it twice as large as the current manual. There will be a greater delineation between policies and regulations, and fewer regulations in order to allow the school system to respond to changes more quickly. Mr. O'Rourke explained that the superintendent would develop any administrative procedures necessary to implement board policies. Mr. O'Rourke reviewed correlation tables for the old and new policies and explained that all current policies will remain in effect until each policy has been superseded by the new PLS-based policy or rescinded. The first batch of new policies will be presented in August. The Board reviewed a draft resolution for adoption at the next meeting to inform employees, students, parents and community members about the policy conversion process.

Mr. Griffin expressed concern that there were no local policies addressing the use of defibrillators, AEDs or other emergency procedures. Jeremy Gibbs reported that state statutes cover these procedures, and Attorney Donnahoo added that all statutes do not need to appear in policy because the law always applies.

Mr. O'Rourke suggested that the Board consider appointing a committee to review the new policies. He gave a reminder of the webhosting services offered by NCSBA and encouraged members to attend the NCSBA School Law Conference in October and the Annual Conference for Board Member Development in November.

7. Policy

Jeremy Gibbs presented two policies as first read information. Policy JHCB, "Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission," was recommended for rescission. It will be replaced by Policy 4110, "Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission," which contains the newly expanded and modified state vaccine requirements that went into effect on July 1, 2015. Action on the policies will be requested at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked if there is any proof or documentation required from families that claim vaccine exemptions due to religious beliefs. Mr. Donnahoo stated that the exemption must be based on a bona fide religious belief; however, there is no proof component under current state laws. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that as a former principal, he feels that some parents claim vaccine exemptions based on personal objections and not religious reasons. Citing the outbreak of whooping cough that occurred in the county last year, Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he would like to see fewer vaccine exemptions granted.

8. Alternative Accountability Model for DRS

In December 2014, the state released four new options for participation in the accountability model for alternative schools:

1. Option A. Alternative schools can participate in school performance grades as defined by G.S. § 115C-83.15; or
2. Option B. Alternative schools can return data/results back to students' home schools and received no designations; or
3. Option C. Alternative schools can participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model; or
4. Option D. The alternative school may propose its own accountability model for approval by the State Board of Education.

Brian Weaver reported that Davidson River School has selected Option C (the same as last year) for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board had no questions.

9. Student Attendance Report

At its meeting on May 18, the Board requested a report on student attendance, citing concerns about the number of students who exceed 10 absences per year, whether or not those students earn credit, and whether the numbers of students who exceed the limit is increasing, decreasing, or remaining steady. Brian Weaver presented data for the 2014-2015 year and discussed the following points:

- In the recent past, the average state attendance rate has been 95%. TCS has a projected attendance rate of 95.9% for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Attendance is tracked differently among elementary and secondary schools. Elementary and middle schools track attendance using daily attendance. A student is not marked absent if they were in attendance for half the school day. High schools record attendance by period/block attendance.

- For the 2014-2015 school year, the majority of elementary and middle school absences occur in the 4-9 range. High school absences mostly occur in the 4-9 range and the 10-20 range. High schools have a higher trend of students incurring more than 20 absences.
- For the upcoming school year, data to track includes lawful versus unlawful absences, retentions due to excessive absences, and outcomes for compulsory attendance charges.

Board members expressed concern about the number of students who miss more than 10 days. Mr. Weaver stated that it is important to change students' perceptions that the first five absences are "free." Some students run into problems when they use up five absences and then experience an illness or other event that causes them exceed the limit. Dr. McDaris noted that although absences and tardies at the elementary level are typically not the fault of the child since they must rely on adults for transportation, the value of daily school attendance is being set during those early years and will carry over through the course of the child's school career. Mr. Kiviniemi noted that the local attendance policy was last revised in 2006 and is due for review.

10. Local Board Training Credit

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board approved an application for 4.5 hours of local CEU credit for Tawny McCoy's participation in the "Career Academy for Educators" training event on June 15, 2015.

11. Technology Purchase

Chris Whitlock reported that student devices at RHS and RMS would be replaced this fall with 700 new Dell Chromebooks per the district's computer refresh schedule. A request for proposals was issued and three vendors submitted bids. Trinity3 Technology submitted the low bid of \$289 per Chromebook, which includes the device, charger, license and a four-year accidental warranty. Mr. Whitlock reported that he has been pleased with Trinity's service in the past, noting that that the company pre-configures each unit with the district's wireless password so that devices are ready to go out of the box, saving local IT staff hours of extra work. Other bidders only offered a three-year warranty and no pre-configuration. Mr. Whitlock reported that this a budgeted expenditure and no additional funds are requested.

The Board asked what would be done with the old equipment. Mr. Whitlock reported that it would be used supplement repair parts for the BMS computers, which are due for replacement next year. Mr. Griffin asked how well students take care of the devices. Mr. Whitlock reported that approximately 14-16% of units get damaged each year. This figure is below the industry expectation. He reported that most breakage occurs at the middle school level and during home use. Mrs. Petit asked whether leasing computer equipment would save money. Mr. Whitlock reported that they have not looked at leasing options because the school system keeps its equipment for so long. Mr. Kiviniemi calculated that the Chromebooks would cost approximately \$72 per unit. There was no further discussion, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of 700 Chromebooks from Trinity3 Technology for \$202,300 plus tax.

12. FY16 Budget Update

Norris Barger and Dr. McDaris gave updates on the 2015-2016 budget. Dr. McDaris reported that there is still no approved state budget; the House and Senate have now resumed work after taking time off earlier in the month.

Mr. Barger reported that the county commissioners funded \$1.6 million of the school system's \$2.1 million capital outlay request for 2015-2016. He presented an updated list of capital needs and reviewed the projects and repair items that will have to be postponed due to the \$510,000 funding shortfall. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that he was very disappointed that the commissioners did not provide the full amount of capital funding needed, observing that withholding \$510,000 seems hard to justify when the county is sitting on a \$20 million fund balance. Mr. Kiviniemi added that he sees the commissioners' failure to fully fund the Board's capital outlay request as a dereliction of duty considering the schools' aging infrastructure. Mrs. Petit agreed with Mr. Kiviniemi, stating that she has seen some of the same items recur on the capital needs list for the past seven years. Mrs. Scruggs pointed out that most of the unfunded items are basic needs such as parking lot repaving, and remarked that it reflects poorly on the county and the school system when parents have to drive over potholes every day. Mr. Barger reported that maintenance crew members recently cleaned the coils on a 30-year old air handler to try and get a little more life out of the unit. Mrs. Scruggs asked Mr. Barger to convey the Board's commendations to the maintenance staff for the great job they do keeping old equipment running. Chairman McCoy asked Mr. Barger to keep the Board informed as these items are addressed. Mr. Barger reported that the first draft of the new master facilities plan may be ready for review next month.

13. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The NC House and Senate have each appointed conferees for the 2015-2016 budget negotiations. Representative Chris Whitmire will serve on the compromise committee.
- Both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate have passed their versions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and will now be negotiating a compromise version. Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina successfully ran an amendment that would change the way Title I funds are allocated. The Burr amendment collapses the four different formulas currently used to determine Title I funding into one formula. The new formula could result in approximately \$73 million additional Title I funds for North Carolina schools.
- In approximately two weeks, students will be returning to campus for football practice, band camp, and other preparations for the 2015-2016 year.

Dr. McDaris expressed thanks to Mr. Donnahoo and the central office administrators for their expertise in all they do.

14. Important Dates

Aug. 13	Administrators' Retreat, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Rogow Room
Aug. 17	Resume regular 5-day schedule
Aug. 17	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Aug. 18	New Teacher Orientation, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Gorges State Park Visitor Center
Aug. 19-21	Teacher workdays

Aug. 24 First student day

15. **Public Comment**

None

16. **Other Items**

Mr. Kiviniemi asked the superintendent for more information about a recent item in the *Transylvania Times* regarding the Brevard College track. Dr. McDaris reported that Transylvania County Schools has not been able to host a regional track meet for years due to lack of a regulation-size track. Many BHS and RHS athletes practice on the Brevard College track, and some must train out of the county. Brevard College has a newly resurfaced track and would like to make additional improvements for field events. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Patton of Brevard have developed a proposal for track and field improvements at the college and presented it the county commissioners. As a part of their proposal, the Pattons had asked Brevard College president David Joyce and Superintendent Jeff McDaris for their signatures on a letter endorsing the project and its benefits to the college, school system, and the community. Dr. McDaris reported that the news article indicated that there was some reluctance on the part of Brevard College and the Board of Education to contribute to the project on a fund sharing basis. Dr. McDaris stated that he was puzzled by that statement seeing as how the Board has never discussed this matter at any time at any meeting. Chairman McCoy directed the superintendent to investigate and report back.

Mr. Kiviniemi asked what the proposed track improvements would cost. Dr. McDaris reported that the project is estimated at \$172,000. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that the Board would be foolish not to take advantage of this opportunity, and recommended inviting representatives from the other two boards to meet and discuss the proposal. Mr. Griffin pointed out that the commissioners would have to give the Board of Education the money for the school system's portion, which the school board would in turn give back to the county. Mrs. Scruggs noted a recent upsurge in track and field participation, and Dr. McDaris discussed the potential economic benefits that track meets can bring to a community.

Speaking as a parent, Leca Chapman reported that in the four years her daughter ran track at Rosman High School, she never once competed at her own school. Ms. Chapman further reported that her daughter rarely practiced on the college track because so many other teams practice there; instead, she practiced on the day of the meet at the rival school's track. Ms. Chapman stated that her daughter might have qualified for a college track scholarship had she had a place to practice locally. She reported there is a great deal of frustration among Rosman athletes and their parents regarding the lack of track and field facilities.

Frank Patton addressed the Board and asked that they read the next edition of the *Transylvania Times* for further coverage on this issue. The Board thanked the Pattons for all of their support and contributions to the school system.

17. **Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the Board went into closed session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss a property matter, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5). Present in the closed session were Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Petit, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Scruggs, Dr. McDaris, Mr. Barger and Attorney Donnahoo. The Board discussed the potential sale of property for a right of way. No action was taken in the

closed session. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. SCRUGGS, the Board reconvened in open session at 8:56 p.m.

Dr. McDaris reported that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has offered to purchase .347 acres of land owned by the Board of Education on Sugarloaf Road. The NCDOT has finalized plans to build a two-lane bridge across Nicholson Creek to make school and other travel safer, and has offered the Board \$7,500 for the property. In order to sell the property, the Board must declare the property surplus and, pursuant to state law, offer it to the County Commissioners at \$7,500 or more. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously approved a resolution declaring a portion of the property on Sugarloaf Road as surplus and authorizing the disposal of said property in accordance with statutory requirements (see attached).

18. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the Board went into closed session at 9:01 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 Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Petit, Mr. Kiviniemi, Mr. Griffin, and Mrs. Scruggs. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board reconvened in open session at 10:02 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. SCRUGGS, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
July 20, 2015**

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

Licensed Personnel

Rebecca Columbo, Teacher, BHS, effective July 15, 2015
Marilyn Edie, Teacher, DRS, effective August 1, 2015
Samantha Franco, Teacher, PFES, effective June 30, 2015
Melissa Redden, Teacher, BES, effective June 30, 2015
Andrew VonCanon, Teacher, BHS, effective July 31, 2015

Classified Personnel

Mary Matheson, Teacher, RES, effective June 30, 2015
Dillard Revis, Custodian & Bus Driver, RHS, effective July 10, 2015

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

Licensed Personnel

Jan Bennett, Part-Time Reading Specialist, TCH, effective August 19, 2015
Dolores Brown, Teacher, BES, effective August 19, 2015
Amanda Huggins Chapman, Teacher, BMS, effective August 19, 2015
Michelle Edwards, Teacher, BMS, effective August 19, 2015
Anne Hardy, Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2015
Stacey Makings, Teacher, RES, effective August 19, 2015
Emily McGraw, School Counselor, BMS, effective August 19, 2015
Jeffrey Micchelli, Teacher, BMS, effective August 19, 2015
Amanda Newland, Teacher, RES, effective August 19, 2015
Graham Pate, Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2015

Classified Personnel

Charles Chapman, Bus Driver, TCS, effective July 21, 2015
Shane Foreman, Custodian & Bus Driver, RES, effective August 11, 2015
Teresa Galloway, Custodian & Bus Driver, RHS/RMS, effective August 3, 2015
Christopher Johnson, Bus Driver, TCS, effective July 21, 2015
David Monteith, Bus Driver, TCS, effective July 21, 2015
Sonja Novovesky, Bus Driver, TCS, effective July 21, 2015
Jordan Phillips, Bus Driver, TCS, effective July 21, 2015

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

Licensed Personnel

Jennifer Bolt, from Teacher, BMS, to TCS Transition Coordinator, based at BHS, effective August 19, 2015
Alissa Cook, from Teacher, RES, to Teacher, RMS, effective August 19, 2015
Kerry Putnam, from Principal, BMS, to Director of Exceptional Children/Federal Programs, MEC, effective TBD
Tonya Treadway, from Lead Teacher, BMS, to Assistant Principal, BMS, effective August 3, 2015

Classified Personnel

Frank Leahy, from Teacher Assistant, BES, to Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 19, 2015
Dale Merrill, from Teacher Assistant, PFES, to Teacher Assistant, BES, effective August 19, 2015
Trudy Riddle, from Teacher Assistant, RES, to Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 19, 2015

Barbara Stewart, from Teacher Assistant, BMS, to Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 19, 2015

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

Licensed Personnel

Jennifer Bost, Teacher, BMS, GCBDB family leave effective August 19, 2015 through June 14, 2016

Trina Hendricks, Teacher, BHS, short-term disability leave effective June 30, 2015 through June 29, 2016

Classified Personnel

Linda Watkins, Child Nutrition Worker, short-term disability leave effective March 25, 2015 through March 24, 2016

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

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Yarimar Aponte-Rhan

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON SUGARLOAF ROAD, BREVARD, NC 28712, AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, Chapter 160A, Article 12 of N.C. General Statutes authorizes the Transylvania County Board of Education (Board) to dispose of surplus property; and

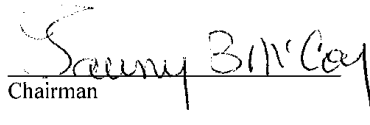
WHEREAS, the Board desires to dispose of a portion of the real property located on Sugarloaf Road, Brevard, North Carolina, and further described in Attachment A;

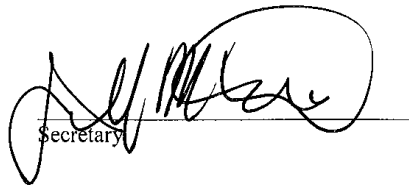
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transylvania County Board of Education that said property is hereby declared surplus, and that the Superintendent is hereby authorized to offer said surplus property in accordance with statutory requirements to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners at a price greater than \$7,500; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon rejection of said offer by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners, the Superintendent is hereby authorized to sell said property to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) under the following terms:

- The sale price shall be \$7,500, with the NCDOT responsible for all costs of transfer, including surveys, attorney's fees, deed recording, and other fees.
- Said property shall be sold on an "as is" and "where is" basis and the Board makes no guarantees nor assumes any responsibility for said property.
- The NCDOT shall be responsible for relocating any fencing, gates, or other structures that are currently on said property to a location determined by the Board.

APPROVED by majority vote of the Transylvania County Board of Education this the 20th day of July 2015.


Chairman


Secretary