

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
July 22, 2024**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
5. Technology Purchase
6. CHDV Grant School Board Awareness Certification
7. 41 Confederate Lane Property
8. Facilities
9. Title IX Update
10. Important Dates
11. Other Items
12. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on July 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Tanya Dalton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 11 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kimsey Jackson, Chair
Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair
Tawny McCoy
Bryan O'Neill
Chris Wiener

STAFF:

Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent/HR
Kerry Putnam, Director, Facilities; CTE
Audrey Reneau, Director, Federal Programs
Tessa Brown, Public Information Officer
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Anna Gillespie, Campbell Shatley

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. O'NEILL, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting agenda for July 22, 2024 was unanimously approved as presented.

2. **Public Comment**
Chairman Jackson reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Steve Keate – As you consider the recently revised Title IX regulations, I respectfully offer the following thoughts. The new regulations represent a direct assault on women and girls, undermine free speech rights, contradict the will of the voters of North Carolina, and frankly defy common sense. They have been pushed down our throats by a small group of progressives advancing radical gender theory. Does any reasonable person doubt that were these regulations were put before a referendum in North

Carolina or Transylvania County, they would fail miserably? The answer is obvious. As elected school officials you have a tough job. Sometimes more difficult than others. The federal department of education has now put you in such a position with the Title IX changes. As you consider the will of the voters of North Carolina and Transylvania County, protect the United States Constitution and do the right thing. Please say no to new Title IX regulations and do not implement them.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. Fletcher shared the following good news:

Summer Feeding Update 2024

The Transylvania County School Nutrition department served 3,983 breakfast meals, 4,812 lunch meals, and 584 snacks during the month of June for an average of approximately 260 children per day. This reflects an increase of 43% for breakfasts served and 8% for lunch meals served compared to last summer. The opportunity to serve multiple meals to children at our open sites, through home deliveries or the pick-up option, has really helped our families.

Egolf Motors Back to School Bash - July 13

Egolf Motors of Brevard hosted a Back to School Bash on Saturday, July 13, with games, music, a 50/50 raffle, fire truck, police car, ambulance, school bus, the Transylvania County Bookmobile, So Dough! Sweets & More, plus a collection of donated school supplies. Sponsors for the event included Bowman's Custom Woodwork, Whisky Throttle Customs, Advance Auto Parts, Isaac Allen-White Squirrel Realty, Foggy Bottom Cabins, Hawg Wild, Headwaters Outfitters, Donny Cantrell-Chase Insurance, Brevard Diner, and Tidal Wave. All proceeds were designated for Transylvania County Schools. Our thanks to Egolf Motors and the many sponsors for their generous support.

Tanya Melton Receives Regional CTE Award

Transylvania County School's Tanya Melton recently received the 2024 CTE Curriculum and Instructional Management Coordinator of the Year Award for the Western Region. Congratulations to Mrs. Melton!

TCS Staff Attend WRESA Leadership Conference

Transylvania County teachers and leaders enjoyed two days of learning at the annual Western Regional Educational Service Alliance (WRESA) Summer Leadership Conference in June. Paige Capps, PFES Teacher; Amanda Lewis, PFES Principal; Carrie Norris, Chief Academic Officer; Sarah Reid, RHS Teacher; Nichole Cash, BES Assistant Principal; Jessica McCall, BMS Principal; and Heather McNeely, RHS Teacher, attended sessions designed to strengthen strategies and skills for school leaders.

4. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. O'NEILL, the following consent items were unanimously approved:

- A. Minutes of the March 18, 2024 meeting
- B. Minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting
- C. Minutes of the April 15, 2024 closed session
- D. Minutes of the May 6, 2024 meeting
- E. Personnel report for July 22, 2024 (see attached)

5. **Technology Purchase**

IT Director Chris Whitlock requested approval for a purchase of 550 Chromebooks for Brevard Middle School students per the district's four-year equipment replacement plan. The \$210,777.88 purchase will leverage the NC 204A State Contract and the TIPS Technology Solutions Products and Services Contract #230105. Board approval is required for purchases in excess of \$90,000. The quote from Trafera has been reviewed by the board attorney. Mr. Wiener asked when the district had last purchased new computers. Mr. Whitlock reported that 500 computers were purchased last summer per the equipment replacement plan. Mr. O'Neill asked for a review of the four-year replacement plan. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the board unanimously approved the purchase of 550 Chromebooks from Trafera in the amount of \$210,777.88.

6. **CHDV Grant School Board Awareness Certification**

Dr. Brian Weaver reported that the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has applied for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles (CHDV) 2024 grant funding for a new electric school bus for Transylvania County Schools. As part of the process, an awareness certification form is required to signify that local boards of education have been informed that their school system is receiving an electric school bus. The form had to be signed by the board chair and transportation director and returned by July 12 to maintain funding eligibility.

Dr. Weaver reported that Transylvania County Schools currently has one electric bus with a second bus on the way (no delivery date yet). This third bus would be the final. Transportation Director Keith Wilmot believes that three electric buses is enough due to our county's elevation. The first bus has 10,000 miles. There have been no issues. There are charging stations at BHS and PFES. The stations are free to us through the grants. The bus is charged each day after its morning route. It takes approximately four hours to recharge at a quarter charge. Range is approximately 140 miles. The bus would be able to run an early release day route without charging if necessary. Wear on tires, brakes, etc., is about the same as for diesel buses. The A/C unit is located on top of the bus, so clearance is different than for a regular bus. The most notable difference is that the electric bus is very quiet. School buses are rotated out at 10 years or 225,000 miles.

7. **41 Confederate Lane Property**

Board Attorney Anna Gillespie gave a review of the property located at 41 Confederate Lane which has been declared a public nuisance and vested to the Transylvania County Board of Education by the court. A resolution was provided for the board's consideration that would declare the property surplus. By declaring the property surplus, the property could be offered to the Board of Commissioners for acquisition. If the commissioners decline the offer, the board may authorize the superintendent to market the property for sale. Any offer for purchase would be presented to the school board for further action.

Mr. Wiener objected to declaring the property surplus and recommended that the board consider other options before selling to an investor who may buy it and build an \$800,000 home there. He feels the board should try to create opportunities for teacher housing by restoring the property and building rental houses. Mrs. McCoy observed that the property appears to be in very poor shape. She also pointed out that the board does not have the available money to build houses. Mrs. Dalton stated that she feels the neighbors are sick of watching the property deteriorate and also expressed concern about the board potentially serving in the role of landlord.

Mr. O'Neill agreed with Mr. Wiener that it would be worthwhile to speak with a general contractor about what would be involved in subdividing the property for two or three houses. Chairman Jackson stated that he was intrigued by the idea. Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Dalton cautioned that this idea should be fully vetted before making any commitments. MR. WIENER MADE A MOTION to table the resolution and request that staff seek other options for property for the board's consideration. MR. O'NEILL SECONDED, and the motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. **Facilities**

Director Kerry Putman presented the following service agreements, quotes and contracts for information and approval.

MSS Annual Service Agreements

- Building Automation Systems - \$26,064.00 (information)
- Fire Alarms - \$11,514.00 (information)
- HVAC - \$141,826.27 (approval)

ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the service agreement with MSS Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$141,826.27 per year for HVAC service coverage was unanimously approved.

Replacement Ceiling Tiles (Districtwide)

- Home Depot - \$17,857.94 (information). Mr. Putnam reported this was the lowest quote received.

Brevard High School Arch Repairs for Cafeteria and Old Gym

- Piper Roofing quote, schematic, engineering report, and contract (approval)

Mr. Putnam reviewed the scope of the project. He reported that these are preventative measures only to extend the life of the arches; they will not repair the existing dry rot and damage. Dr. Fletcher reported that a copy of the contract was sent to the county for possible approval at tonight's commissioner meeting. ON A MOTION BY MR. O'NEILL, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the contract with J.A. Piper Roofing Company in the amount of \$105,717.50 for the Brevard High School arch repair and metal capping project was unanimously approved.

Project Amendments

Dr. Fletcher presented two project amendments for Fund 4 Capital. The amendments address items the board requested funding for this year from the county commissioners and boilers at PFES, RMS/RHS, and BMS. The board sees certain projects as a higher need than the initial rankings indicated. Chairman Jackson observed that the board did not ask for a wrestling building at any point. He stated that our schools have numerous athletic teams and they manage to schedule around each other. He went on to say that we also have no facilities for swimming or track and field, but the board cannot be expected to give every team its own building when there are many more urgent needs. Dr. Fletcher reported that the board had voted to remove the wrestling building from the list; however, the county manager asked to leave it on the report in order to help pull more funding from the Local Government Commission. Mr. Jackson emphasized that he is not against athletics. It teaches cooperation and teamwork and skills not learned in the classroom. But we must be conscious of the cost. The wrestling building was a recommended "think about for the future" item on the Axios report, not a critical project.

Mr. O’Neill asked if there are any Title IX issues associated with not having a wrestling facility. Dr. Fletcher stated there are none. Mr. O’Neill added that he could not see how in good conscience anyone would recommend a wrestling facility over all the other repairs that are urgently needed. Mrs. Dalton restated that it was only included on the report to get more funding from the LGC at the request of the county manager. The board never asked for it or agreed to it. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, Project Amendment No. 1 and Project Amendment No. 2 were unanimously approved as presented (see attached).

Recommendation to Hire Project Manager

Dr. Fletcher presented a recommendation to consider hiring a project manager to oversee the bond projects. She reported that it is not possible for Mr. Putnam to be “boots on the ground” for the bond projects every day with his other full-time duties as CTE director and regular facilities director. She would like to ask the county to use part of the bond funding to pay for the position as the school system cannot afford to fund the position on its own. Board members were in support of hiring a project manager to protect the board’s interests if the county is going to have its own project manager. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the board unanimously authorized the superintendent to begin the process for hiring a project manager to oversee the bond-funded capital projects.

9. Title IX Update

The board reviewed the following Title IX update from the Campbell Shatley *Summer 2024 Advisor*, dated July 8, 2024:

The North Carolina School Boards Association is currently working on policy updates regarding pending Title IX changes; however, these recommended changes are not yet available. Last week, a preliminary injunction was issued in federal court in Kansas which may apply to most North Carolina schools. The injunction would prohibit enforcement of the new Title IX regulations and suspend consideration of many of the policy updates. At this time, we are still waiting to see what schools are impacted and what policy changes are recommended. Finally, despite the uncertainty with the new regulations, all of North Carolina remains subject to relevant Fourth Circuit decisions involving Title IX which require a case-by-case analysis based on the relevant facts.

Board Attorney Anna Gillespie gave an update on the Kansas court decision. She reported that plaintiffs include organizations outside of North Carolina. The deadline has been extended to July 26, 2024 for one of the organizations to provide the names of schools. It is not known at this time which schools will be impacted by the injunction. Campbell Shatley is recommending that all of its clients hold off on any action until more is known. Dr. Brian Weaver reported that the NCSBA policy updates came out on Friday. It was recommended that staff work with legal counsel before presenting the updates to their boards. Mr. Wiener requested copies of the policy updates.

10. Important Dates

July 31 - Aug. 1	TCS Administrator Retreat	2 days	Grande Ole Station, Lake Toxaway
Aug. 19	Regular five-day schedule resumes		

Aug. 19 – 23	Teacher workdays		
Aug. 19	New Teacher Orientation	8 am – 4 pm	BRCC Transylvania Campus Rm 160
Aug. 19	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Aug. 26	First student day		
Sept. 2	Labor Day holiday		
Sept. 16	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Oct. 4	Noon dismissal - students		
Oct. 21	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Oct. 31, Nov. 1	Teacher workdays		
Nov. 5	Election Day		
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day holiday		
Nov. 18	REGULAR MEETING	6:00 p.m.	MEC
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving break		

11. **Other Items**

None

12. **Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. DALTON, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board entered closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-318.11 subsection (a)(1) to discuss confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321 (superintendent's annual performance evaluation); and subsection (a)(3) to discuss matters covered by attorney-client privilege. Following a brief recess, the closed session convened at approximately 7:18 p.m. Present in the closed session were board members Kimsey Jackson, Chair; Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair; Tawny McCoy; Bryan O'Neill; and Chris Wiener. Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent, and Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent, were present for a portion of the closed session. Board Attorney Anna Gillespie was also present for the closed session. At approximately 8:07 p.m., BY MOTION MADE BY MRS. MCCOY AND SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board adjourned closed session and returned to open session.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. O'NEILL, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
July 22, 2024**

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

Licensed Personnel

Danielle Ardito, Teacher, PFES, effective July 18, 2024
Katerina Canter, Teacher, RMS & RHS, effective July 31, 2024
Rebecca Peele, Teacher, RMS, effective July 18, 2024
Linda Underwood, Teacher, PFES, effective September 30, 2024

Classified Personnel

William David Corn, Plumber, Plant Operations, effective August 30, 2024
Gabrielle Juba, Chief Finance Officer, MEC, effective July 12, 2024
Leslie Odom, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective July 8, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Catherine Benton, Teacher, BES, effective August 19, 2024
Jonas McCanless, Teacher, RMS & RHS, effective August 19, 2024
Jennifer Speckman, Teacher, RMS, effective August 19, 2024
Melinda Stinson, Assistant Principal, BHS, effective August 1, 2024
Kala Wyatt, Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2024
Susan Wyatt, Teacher, RMS, effective August 19, 2024

Classified Personnel

Kristi Ferguson, Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective August 20, 2024
Nicki McDaniel, Distance Learning Coordinator and In-School Suspension Supervisor, BHS, effective August 20, 2024
Jessica Montoya, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective August 20, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Travis Buchanan, from Teacher, BES, to Teacher, BMS, effective August 19, 2024
Melissa Lindsey, from Teacher, BES, to Teacher, BMS, effective August 19, 2024
Tanner Pettit, from Teacher, RMS, to Teacher & Coach, BES, effective August 19, 2024
Kyle Worley from Teacher, PFES, to PreK Coordinator, BES, effective August 1, 2024

Classified Personnel

None

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 & Tutors

None

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

None