

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
July 24, 2023**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Board of Education Vacancy
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
7. Technology Purchase
8. Capital Reserve Study Update
9. BRCC Strategic Capital Planning Committee
10. Important Dates
11. Other Items
12. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on July 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chairman McCoy led in a moment of silence and Tanya Dalton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 45 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Kimsey Jackson, Vice Chair
Tanya Dalton
Chris Wiener

STAFF:

Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent
Mick Galloway, BHS Principal
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Chris Clark, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chris Campbell, Campbell Shatley

MEDIA:

Dan DeWitt, Brevard NewsBeat

1. Approval of Agenda

MR. WIENER MADE A MOTION to switch Items 2 and 3. MRS. DALTON SECONDED, and the motion passed unanimously. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting agenda was approved as modified.

2. Board of Education Vacancy

At the June 19 meeting, two nominees for appointment to the vacant board seat received two votes apiece and no majority was reached. Chairman McCoy the floor for nominations. MR. WIENER NOMINATED William Hemphill for appointment to the board. MR. JACKSON NOMINATED Bryan O'Neill for appointment to the board. There were no other motions and nominations were closed. The vote for Mr. Hemphill was defeated 1:3 (FOR: Wiener; AGAINST: Dalton, Jackson, McCoy). The vote for Mr.

O'Neill passed by a 3:1 majority (FOR: Dalton, Jackson, McCoy; AGAINST: Wiener). Bryan O'Neill briefly was welcomed to the dais and introduced himself to the assembly. It was noted that Mr. O'Neill will not be eligible to vote on any matters before the board until he is sworn in. Chairman McCoy thanked all of the candidates and nominees for their willingness to serve.

3. **Public Comment**

Chairman McCoy reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Alice Wellborn – I was really pleased to see the school board vacancy on the agenda. Boards work best when several points of view are presented. TCS has a strong history of excellence and support from the community. We have a lot to be proud of. But we can't rest on our reputation. School systems fall apart quickly unless the whole community supports the schools and decisions are made based on sound educational practice. More than 50 years of research shows that substandard school buildings negatively affect students, learning, teachers and morale. A community that is satisfied with dilapidated buildings does not value education. Leaders who allow that make a statement about their values.

Melissa Howell – I was an educator for 29 years at Brevard Middle School. I welcome Dr. Lisa Fletcher. You should set and demonstrate expectations for students and staff. Attire is important. After 29 years of blood, sweat, and tears, I was disappointed that a board member congratulated us in shorts and tee shirt at our retirement recognition. Board members should dress in an appropriate manner. On April 24, Transylvania County Schools held the STEAM Expo. It represented lots of time and work on the part of students and teachers to show off all the great things we do. All of the schools had booths. Administrators from every school were there plus central office staff. I did not witness any board members there. I realize that many of you don't have students, but it was a time to be a good model. Be there when their hard work is showcased.

Cassie Broshears – North Carolina faces an education state of emergency due to staffing and teacher vacancies. There were at least 34 vacancies in our district as of this morning. The average teacher salary is \$45,000. Enrollment in the education field has dropped by a third. Teachers sometimes are vilified by members of the board. The state board dropped longevity for teachers and eliminated masters pay. Affordable housing here is non-existent. Instead of running on platforms of book banning and guns, I ask that we address this. Why aren't we talking about this? When was the last time you had a conversation with a teacher who is leaving? If we don't recruit and support teachers, anything else we do is irrelevant.

4. **Good News Report**

Dr. Lisa Fletcher thanked the community for the warm welcome she has received. She thanked Officer Clark for securing the meeting and shared the following good news:

Cod.org Conference at BHS

Transylvania County Schools hosted a week-long Code.org training conference at Brevard High School on June 26-30. The conference was held in conjunction with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at NC State University to provide training and certification in computer skills to teachers from across the state. Thanks to the district IT team and the staff at BHS staff for helping to coordinate this event.

Summer Feeding Update

The Transylvania County School Nutrition department served 2,346 breakfast meals, 4,427 lunch meals, and 1,029 snacks during the month of June. This averages to approximately 250 children per day. School Nutrition Director Janette Broda expects these numbers will decline somewhat due to vacations and other activities in the months of July and August.

NCASBO School Bookkeeper Training

Finance Officer Gabi Juba is offering school bookkeepers an opportunity to train and earn School Treasurer certification through the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials (NCASBO) this fall. This is a great opportunity to learn and network with peers and NCASBO instructors. The certification is optional this year, but will become mandatory in the near future.

“Meet & Greet” Reception for New Superintendent - Aug. 10

Chairman McCoy reported that the board will host a “Meet & Greet” reception for Dr. Lisa Fletcher on August 10 from 4-6 p.m. at the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center, 221 Mills Avenue, Brevard. Everyone is invited to come by and meet Dr. Fletcher, the new superintendent of schools.

5. Former Students in the Military

The board recognized 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. Dr. Fletcher invited any veterans in attendance to stand and be recognized for their service.

6. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the consent agenda consisting of the minutes listed below and the personnel report for July 24, 2023 (see attached) were unanimously approved. Chairman McCoy announced that David “Mick” Galloway has been named as the new principal for Brevard High School.

April 3, 2023 closed session	May 6 and May 8, 2023 closed sessions
May 1, 2023 closed session	May 15, 2023 meeting
May 5, 2023 meeting	May 15, 2023 closed session
May 5, 2023 closed session	May 25, 2023 meeting
May 6 and May 8, 2023 meeting	

7. Technology Purchase

Director Chris Whitlock requested approval to purchase 500 Chromebooks for Rosman High School and Rosman Middle School students in accordance with the district’s four-year technology equipment replacement plan. Board approval is required for purchases in excess of \$90,000. The \$191,616.25 purchase will leverage the NC state contract. Attorney Chris Campbell reported that state contract is one of the exceptions to the bid laws because vendors on state contract have already been vetted by the state. During discussion, Mr. Wiener recommended altering the equipment replacement schedule to keep the newest devices at the high schools in order to meet the technology needs of students working on more complex tasks. Dr. Fletcher indicated that she and Mr. Whitlock would look at this. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the board unanimously approved the purchase of 500 Chromebooks from Trafera in the amount of \$191,616.25, pending review and approval by the board attorney.

8. Capital Reserve Study Update

Dr. Fletcher reported that representatives from Axias, Inc., the company that has been hired to perform the county’s building conditions assessment, is beginning its review of school facilities this week. Lead Assessor David Evans gave a briefing earlier today at the Education Center with Dr. Fletcher, Plant Operations Supervisor Jason Merrill and others in attendance to review the schedule and process. Dr. Fletcher reported that Mr. Merrill did an excellent job answering questions and giving history on our facilities. He and others will accompany the assessment teams. Chairman McCoy reported that the purpose of the assessment is to bring a report back to the capital committee that was established by the board of education and the county commissioners so they can assess needs and bring a full report back to both boards for funding streams and the bond.

9. BRCC Strategic Capital Planning Committee

Before his retirement, Dr. Jeff McDaris served as the Transylvania County Schools representative on the Blue Ridge Community College Strategic Capital Planning Committee. The county has reached out to request that the board appoint a replacement. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, Dr. Lisa Fletcher was unanimously appointed to the BRCC Community College Strategic Capital Planning Committee.

10. Important Dates

Aug. 7	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Aug. 10	TCS Administrators’ Retreat	7:30am – 3:30pm	BHS Media Center
Aug. 10	“Meet & Greet” Reception for Dr. Lisa Fletcher	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Mary C. Jenkins Community Center
Aug. 21	Regular 5-day schedule resumes		
Aug. 21-25	Teacher workdays		
Aug. 21	New Teacher Orientation	8:00 a.m.	Rogow Room, Trans. Co. Library
Aug. 21	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Aug. 28	First pupil day		
Sept. 4	Labor Day holiday		
Sept. 4	NO MEETING		
Sept. 18	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC

11. Other Items

Mr. Jackson stated that he is still very concerned about the sidewalk in front of BHS and wants repairs to be completed before school starts. Dr. Fletcher stated that she will reach out to the City of Brevard.

Mr. Wiener requested that the board establish a monthly report from School Resource Officers on law enforcement activities in the schools. He feels this will increase public awareness of the needs we are trying to address.

Mr. Wiener welcomed Dr. Fletcher and stated that he has looked forward to this ever since Dr. McDaris announced his retirement. He believes that now is the time for the

school board and the county commissioners to work on the bond and requested that a joint meeting be scheduled as soon as possible to resolve the bond issue.

Mr. Wiener requested an audit on graduation. He stated that he has heard of students with excessive absences or poor EOC performance who were nonetheless promoted to the next grade level or allowed to graduate.

Chairman McCoy welcomed Mr. O'Neill to the board and stated that she looks forward to working with him.

12. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-318.11 subsection (a)(1) to prevent disclosure of confidential employee personnel information pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-319-321, and subsection (a)(3) to consult with an attorney retained by the board to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body. Attorney Chris Campbell advised that board member O'Neill not participate in a closed session until he is sworn in. Following a brief recess, the closed session convened at approximately 7:22 p.m. Present in the closed session were board members Tawny McCoy, Chair; Kimsey Jackson, Vice Chair; Tanya Dalton; and Chris Wiener. Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent; and Attorney Chris Campbell were also present. No action was taken in the closed session, and at approximately 7:34 p.m., BY MOTION MADE BY MR. WIENER and SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the board adjourned closed session and returned to open session.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
July 24, 2023**

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

Licensed Personnel

Mary Abigail Ammons, School Social Worker, BES & PFES, effective June 26, 2023
 Allyn Anderson, Teacher, PFES, effective July 13, 2023
 Lydia Davis, Speech Language Pathologist, PFES, effective June 27, 2023
 Scott Strickler, Principal, BHS, effective July 3, 2023
 Tonya Treadway, Assistant Principal, BHS, effective July 27, 2023
 Lewis Whiteside, Teacher, BMS, effective July 11, 2023

Classified Personnel

April Aiken, Custodian, BMS, effective June 19, 2023
 Jennifer Maupin, SELF Therapist, BES, effective July 7, 2023
 Heather Strickler, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective June 29, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

Karen Montgomery, Teacher & Coach, RMS, effective August 21, 2023
 Elizabeth Shober, Reading Specialist, PFES, effective August 22, 2023

Classified Personnel

Josiah Richardson, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective August 22, 2023

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

Licensed Personnel

Nijayah Cruell, from Distance Learning Coordinator and In-School Suspension Supervisor, BHS, to Teacher, BHS, effective August 21, 2023
 David Galloway, from Assistant Principal, BHS, to Principal, BHS, effective July 5, 2023
 Tonya James, from Exceptional Children Compliance Coordinator, BES-based, to Exceptional Children Director, MEC, effective August 1, 2023
 Tanner Pettit, from Teacher Assistant, BHS, to Teacher, RMS, effective August 21, 2023
 Sara Plum, from Teacher, BHS, to Exceptional Children's Program Compliance Coordinator, BMS-based, effective June 16, 2023

Classified Personnel

Stacy Fisher, from Custodian & Bus Driver, BHS, to Child Nutrition Worker
 Keith Wilmot, from Supervisor, Bus Garage, to Director of Transportation, MEC, effective July 1, 2023

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 School Nutrition Workers

None