

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
August 7, 2017**

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Capital Funding Options
3. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on August 7, 2017 at the Morris Education Center. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss capital funding options. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Alice Wellborn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. 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

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator
Kelly Cook, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

MEDIA: John Lanier, Transylvania Times

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for August 7, 2017 was approved as presented.

2. Capital Funding Options

Board members discussed next steps for a bond referendum for school improvements. Approximately \$93 million in needs have been identified. Chairman McCoy expressed thanks to county commissioners for meeting with board members one on one. Chairman McCoy recommended making a decision on when to have a bond on the ballot--during the primary or the general election. Members discussed options, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, voted unanimously to seek a general obligation bond in the 2018 general election, with the amount to be determined at a later date.

Mr. Barger reviewed the potential timeline and Local Government Commission requirements for a bond. Discussion centered on the need for and cost of obtaining architect's drawings to have as visual tools in the bond campaign, and also the possibility of asking county commissioners for help paying for the drawings. Mr. Barger estimated a cost of \$750,000 for drawings for just the high schools. Mr. Barger was asked to obtain a figure from Clark Nexsen for system-wide drawings. Mr. Donnahoo gave a reminder that even though Clark Nexsen did the facility study, the board must issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) and go through the bid process to select an architect before soliciting drawings. There was considerable discussion about the benefits/costs of architect's drawings versus conceptual drawings. Mrs. Scruggs recommended having conceptual drawings focused on learning spaces and how the new improvements will impact

learning and instruction. There was general consensus to obtain a figure from Clark Nexsen for an RFP by August 21. There was also discussion about drafting a resolution for the August 21 meeting.

Mr. Kiviniemi reported that he found some of the financial information provided by the county manager to be lacking in clarity. He requested the following information for fiscal years 2002-2018: (1) how much the county fund balance increased per year; (2) how much the county spent on its own capital projects per year; (3) how much of the projects were funded by general obligation bonds, local obligation bonds, or other means; and (4) the Board of Education’s annual capital request and what was actually provided by the county for each year.

Mrs. Wellborn suggested that the board begin developing its plan/schedule for meeting with community groups. Mr. Smith reported that his discussions with district officials in other school systems indicate that a campaign of more than three months can be counter-productive. Members discussed that the campaign must make it clear that the board supports all nine schools, and include that the board has addressed, researched, and unanimously rejected the idea of consolidation. Guest editorials emphasizing the board’s position and values on this issue were discussed. Chairman McCoy reported that the board has been asked to make a presentation at a commissioners’ meeting.

Mr. Kiviniemi suggested that the board examine best practices for building community support for a bond and potential costs at the next meeting. He stated that he would also like the board to schedule a visit to Asheville Middle School. Board members set a tentative target date of September 18 to finalize the amount of the bond, pending information from architects.

Dr. McDaris reported that a new sinkhole has formed near the five-yard line of the Rosman High School football field. Repairs are underway.

3. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board went into closed session at 7:37 p.m. to consult with the board attorney regarding information that is not a public record (employee personnel files), pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-319 through -321 and 143-318.11(a)(1). Present in the closed session were the board members, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Donnahoo. The board discussed two separate legal matters involving employees. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the board reconvened in open session at 8:22 p.m.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. MCGAHA, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary