

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
August 18, 2008**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Public Comment
2. Good News Report
3. Former Students in the Military
4. Student Art Gallery
5. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
6. Non-Faculty Coaches
7. Bully-Free Task Force Report
8. Petition Requesting a Contiguous Annexation
9. Offer to Purchase Timber
10. Capital Projects Update
11. Policy
 - A. JI (Wireless Communication and Electronic Devices)
 - B. JECA (Private/Home Schools – Enrollment)
 - C. JH (Safe Surrender of a Newborn Baby)
 - D. IIBH (Electronic Stored Information Retention)
 - E. GCJ (Certified Staff Time Schedules)
 - F. GCN/AFC (Professional Educator Evaluation System)
 - G. GCNA (Voluntary Resignation for Professional Employees)
12. Policy IK
13. Important Dates
14. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on August 18, 2008, at the Morris Education Center. Present were Mike Rogers, Vice Chairman; Bill Cathey; Jenni Pogue; and Chris Whitmire. Also present were Dr. Sonna Lyda, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant, and approximately 40 staff members, guests and media representatives. Mr. Cathey gave the invocation and Mrs. Pogue led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. (Chairman McCall joined the meeting later.)

1. Public Comment

David Williams, Brevard Middle School Principal, spoke on behalf of elementary and middle school principals regarding proposed changes to Policy JI. He read a prepared statement supporting the proposed ban on wireless communication devices in elementary and middle schools, but asked that no hardship allowance be included in the policy. He gave two reasons: 1) There is no lack of other communications available for students; and 2) Principals will be inundated with requests for exceptions to Policy JI, resulting in a disproportionate amount of principals' time and energy being devoted to this issue at the expense of all else. Accepting hardship petitions and granting waivers would see the numbers of requests grow exponentially, ultimately undermining the intent of the policy. He also pointed out that the necessity of repeatedly denying hardship requests could alienate families and hinder attempts to build cohesive school

communities. He asked that if the Board keeps the hardship waiver as part of Policy JI, they provide additional clarity by adding two words to the sentence at the bottom of page 1 to read: "All hardship requests will be reviewed by the principal and the decision will be made based on the **documented** health and safety **needs** of the student."

David McNeill, Emergency Management Services Director, expressed concerns about the proposed changes to Policy JECA and asked the Board to consider tabling the policy for further review. He stated that the changes create a hardship for dually enrolled students by making it more difficult for them to participate.

Betsy Blackburn, parent, expressed similar concerns about Policy JECA. She fears that the proposed changes will prohibit her home-schooled sons from participating in high school band. She asked that the policy be tabled and revisited at a future time.

2. **Good News Report**

Dr. Lyda reported the following items:

- New Teacher Orientation (August 18-19, 2008) is off to a good start.
- The week of September 7-13, 2008 is slated to be Graduation Awareness Week in North Carolina. A proclamation by Governor Mike Easley will be forthcoming.
- Rosman High Teacher Stacie Dotson is attending the "Becoming Witnesses" Holocaust Seminar in Germany and Poland, sponsored by the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. While abroad, she and others will post blogs on the NCCAT sponsored website www.becomingwitnesses.com.
- House Bill 2436 authorized the State Board of Education to allocate state funds to support the Plant Operation Section. This means they will no longer be receipt supported, and that will enable DPI to provide service for the entire state. Furthermore, they will be refunding those LEA's that have paid for the services for FY2008-2009.
- Two-hundred four high school students registered for 406 courses with Blue Ridge Community College this year. This represents an increase over last year of 148 students in 304 courses--good evidence that guidance counselors and the schools are helping students successfully transition to community college.
- Welcome to Tracie Hebrock, reporting for the *Rosman Chronicle*.

3. **Former Students in the Military**

The Board reviewed the list of former TCS students who are serving or have served in the U.S. Military. Two new names, Shania Thomas and Chip Patterson, have been added to the list. Vice Chairman Rogers expressed appreciation to the all of the soldiers and their families for their dedication and sacrifice.

4. **Student Art Gallery**

At the June 2 meeting, the Board had expressed concerns about the Hardie-Panel siding that was proposed for the exterior walls of the student art gallery. Architect Doug Harris had offered to research other materials and recommend another option at a future date. At tonight's meeting, Mr. Harris presented his findings and gave a recommendation for cement board exterior walls with rain screen installation. The cement board features factory finished panels with through color and durable finish and provides clear contrast between materials, supporting the design concept. The rain screen installation provides a weather resistant and efficient cladding system, a drainage plane similar to brick

masonry wall, and uses standard construction methods. A mock-up panel showing both the brick and panel construction can be erected on site to show the character and detail of the planned construction. Board members discussed the features of the cement board/rain screen, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. POGUE, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the Board approved the cement board with rain screen installation for the exterior walls of the student art gallery.

5. Consent Agenda

Dr. Lyda presented a revised personnel report for August 18, 2008 (see attached). Mr. Whitmire requested that the personnel report be removed from the consent agenda to the end of the meeting to allow more time for review. ON A MOTION BY MR. CATHEY, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the Board approved the minutes of the July 15, 2008 and July 21, 2008 meetings.

6. Non-Faculty Coaches

ON A MOTION BY MR. CATHEY, SECONDED BY MRS. POGUE, the following non-faculty coaches for fall sports 2008-2009 were approved:

D. J. Walker, BHS Football
Terry Anders, RHS Football
Lorena Uriarte, BMS Volleyball (Head)
Jessica Whitmire, BMS Volleyball (Volunteer Assistant)
Pat Carrington, BHS Tennis
Derek Wilbanks, BHS Women's Golf

7. Bully-Free Task Force Report

Lisa Anderson presented a report and recommendations from the Bully-Free Task Force. She reviewed the task force roster and subcommittees, presented the district action plan, and discussed proposed revisions to Policy JFC-R (Student Conduct and Discipline), curriculum resources and materials, and a list of mini-articles for the newspaper. Included in the comprehensive district action plan are new avenues for students to confidentially report acts of bullying, mandatory training for school resource officers, education of students and staff in bullying awareness, and an information session on September 17, 2008 with Dr. Richard Spurling, author of "It's Time to Be Bully Free!" Board members commended the new anti-bullying initiatives and thanked the task force members for all their hard work. Mr. Whitmire also urged principals to be more consistent in enforcing the rules.

8. Petition Requesting a Contiguous Annexation

Norris Barger presented a petition requesting annexation of five acres of Gillespie Circle property into the City of Brevard in order to access city water/sewer. ON A MOTION BY MRS. POGUE, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the Board unanimously approved the petition requesting a contiguous annexation of the Gillespie Circle property into the Brevard city limits. Mr. Barger reported that the Planning Board would review the petition in November, and City Council approval could take place in December. Mr. Whitmire reported that the Community Land Trust is close to having a working set of bylaws.

9. Offer to Purchase Timber

At the May 19 meeting, Norris Barger presented an offer from Rosman resident, Tommy Clayton, to purchase and harvest timber on approximately five acres of Live Project

property located above Rosman High School. Board members had requested more information on the value of the timber. Mr. Barger reported that he has walked the property with a local timber expert. The timber is mostly white pine and poplar. Mr. Clayton has offered \$80 per 1,000 board feet. Mr. Whitmire reported that his research revealed timber prices to be considerably higher than Mr. Clayton's offer. He suggested the Board consider an easement for the property with an eye toward possible teacher housing in the future. There was some discussion about the viability of the site for building. Mr. Barger noted that timbering the property, if done properly, should not prohibit future construction. He recommended that the Board table any action on the offer until September or October in order to review long-term plans for the property.

Teresa McCall joined the meeting.

10. Capital Projects Update

Norris Barger gave a status report on capital projects. A question was raised about RHS greenhouse parking. Mr. Barger reported that this project would hinge on the outcome of the Hogsed property.

Mr. Whitmire asked about wheelchair-accessible bathrooms in the west wing at RES. Architect Mike Cox reported that the school exceeds the number of facilities required by building code, but not in the wing specified. Mr. Whitmire's concern was that disabled students be able to visit the bathroom alone. He suggested installing push-button doors or combining water closets **in one boys' and one girls' bathroom in the back (western) wing of the school.** Vice Chairman Rogers asked that the administration research options and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Barger presented a bid tabulation for the RES bus parking/playground project. He reported that the low bid from Moore & Sons was still over budget. After value engineering, a revised site plan was developed. Mr. Whitmire objected to the proposed plans due to the reduction in size of the play area. He suggested that another area be considered. He also had concerns about the bus parking location and proximity to the school. He asked if the administration had considered how the Hogsed property would impact parking. Mr. Barger discussed how various projects and fund sources are interconnected. There was considerable discussion with Mike Cox and Mason Sexton about the various project options. No resolution was reached, and it was agreed to table action on the project until a special called meeting, tentatively scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on September 3, 2008.

The Board took a five-minute recess.

11. Policy

Revised Policy JI (Wireless Communication and Electronic Devices) was presented for approval. Dr. Williams reviewed the latest revisions. Board members debated at length the issue of hardship exceptions for elementary and middle school students. Mr. Cathey did not favor any hardship exceptions, saying it would put a terrible burden on principals. Mr. Whitmire could see the need for some hardship exceptions and remarked that principals have the responsibility and duty to make the tough decisions. He was supportive of the suggestion from Principal Williams to include the words "documented" and "needs" into the hardship clause should the clause remain. Mrs. Pogue, Mrs. McCall, and Mr. Rogers did not support hardship clauses for elementary and middle school students. Mrs. McCall remarked that these new revisions to Policy JI had been

necessitated by lax enforcement of the original policy. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCALL, SECONDED BY MR. CATHEY, the Board voted 4:1 to approve revised Policy JI with the removal of the hardship exception clause for elementary and middle school students (FOR: Cathey, McCall, Pogue, Rogers; OPPOSED: Whitmire).

Revised Regulations JECA-R and Exhibit JECA-E1 (Private/Home Schools – Enrollment) were presented for approval. No changes were made since the first read on July 21. There was much discussion regarding how the proposed changes regarding content course testing might impact dually enrolled home school students. Dr. Williams explained that new state testing regulations required the change in local policy. Board members were reluctant to approve the proposed changes and considered 1) voting on the new section separately and returning the rest to committee for clarification; or 2) postponing revision until 2009-2010. Dr. Lyda gave a reminder that the offer of dual enrollment is a local board decision. A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. POGUE, to amend the second to last sentence of JECA-R to read “may” instead of “will” was defeated 3:2 (FOR: Whitmire, Pogue; OPPOSED: Cathey, McCall, Rogers). Mrs. McCall expressed concerns about moving too fast on the policy, and thought a better policy might result if more time were taken. She would like to see all students under one, not two, sets of rules. After much discussion, ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCALL, SECONDED BY MR. CATHEY, the Board voted 3:2 to approve the revisions to JECA-R as necessitated by the state, with the provision that parents be fully informed of the change and the difference between content and non-content courses, to be followed by a full policy review for the next school year (FOR: Cathey, McCall, Rogers; OPPOSED: Pogue, Whitmire). Mr. Whitmire requested that a user-friendly set of guidelines be developed to show parents and students which courses are considered to be content courses and the obligations for taking a content course. Dr. Scott Elliott offered to work on a brochure. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCALL, SECONDED BY MR. CATHEY, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised Exhibit JECA(1) as presented.

New Policy JH (Safe Surrender of a Newborn Baby) was presented for approval. No changes were made since the first read on July 21. This policy is mandated by the state. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MRS. POGUE, the Board voted 4:1 to adopt the policy (FOR: Cathey, Pogue, Rogers, Whitmire; OPPOSED: McCall).

New Policy IIBH (Electronic Stored Information Retention) was presented for approval. No changes were made since the first read on July 21. ON A MOTION BY MR. WHITMIRE, SECONDED BY MR. CATHEY, Policy IIBH was approved.

Revised Policy GCJ (Certified Staff Time Schedules) was presented for approval. No changes were made since the first read on July 21. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCALL, SECONDED BY MR. CATHEY, Policy GCJ was approved as presented.

Revised Policy GCN/AFC and Regulations GCN/AFC-R (Professional Educator Evaluation System) were presented as information. Dr. Bo Williams reviewed the revisions. Mr. Whitmire stated that the draft as written presents an extreme negative tone and connotation. He requested the following changes:

GCN/AFC

- Emphasize training mentality versus “cut and replace” mentality.

- First new bullet, include “TCS will emphasize training and endeavor to enable its teaching professionals with the means to overcome teaching weaknesses.”
- Bullet No. 2, last line, after documentation, to include positive as well as negative items.

GCN/AFC-R

- Last page, fifth line, change two full workdays to five full workdays. (Dr. Lyda recalled that the Board had agreed on five days at the policy work session.)
- Last sentence in red, add after comments “insure all questions are answered to the signed satisfaction of the employee.”

Chairman McCall and Mr. Cathey requested that any changes go first to the board attorney for review and that action on the policy be postponed pending his recommendations. She gave a reminder that specific concerns should be addressed to the superintendent or the full board.

New Policy GCNA (Voluntary Resignation for Professional Employees) was presented as information.

The Board took a five-minutes recess.

12. Policy IK

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCALL, SECONDED BY MR. CATHEY, the Board deferred discussion of Policy IK (Student Accountability for Academic Achievement) and Policy GCNA until the October meeting due to the lateness of the hour. Mr. Whitmire noted that state testing standards should be known by October 2008. He would like to see Policy IK reflect state mandates and nothing more. Mr. Cathey disagreed, saying the Board should maintain higher standards.

13. Important Dates

Aug. 11-14	RMS 6 th Grade Academy	8:30 – 11:30 am	RMS
Aug. 18-19	New Teacher Orientation	9 am – 3 pm	Cradle of Forestry
Aug. 21	BES Open House	4:30 – 6:00 pm	BES
Aug. 21	PFES “Meet the Teacher” Night	4:30 – 6:00 pm	PFES
Aug. 21	RES Open House	4:30 – 6:30 pm	RES
Aug. 21	TCH Open House	5:00 – 7:00 pm	TCH
Aug. 21 – 22	Teacher Workdays		
Aug. 25	First Day Students		

Sept. 1	Labor Day; Teacher Workday		
Sept. 15	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	Transylvania Co. Library
Sept. 23	RHS Open House; Drug Awareness Program; Hot Dog Dinner	5:30 – 7:30 pm	RHS
Sept. 24	Parent Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC
Sept. 25	Superintendent's Communication Council	3:45 p.m.	MEC
Sept. 25	<i>NCSBA District 8 Fall Meeting</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Bethel Elementary, Canton</i>
Sept. 26	Student Advisory Council	7:30 a.m.	MEC

14. Other Items

ON A MOTION BY MRS. POGUE, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the revised personnel report for August 18, 2008 was approved.

Vice Chairman Rogers expressed thanks and appreciation to administrators and principals for the outstanding work they do every day.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. CATHEY, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCALL, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
8/18/08**

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

Licensed Personnel

Kelly Brannock, Media Coordinator, RES, effective July 24, 2008
Meredith Gray Carpenter, Teacher, BHS, effective September 6, 2008
Amanda Moss, Teacher, BHS, effective, August 29, 2008
Darrell Rogers, Teacher, BES, effective June 17, 2008
Patricia Smith, Teacher, RHS, effective August 6, 2008

Classified Personnel

Erica Arbogast, Part-Time Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 9, 2008
Hilary Blackwell, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective August 11, 2008
Ruth Bradshaw, Part-Time Teacher Assistant, effective August 9, 2008
Nancy Frady, Part-Time Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 9, 2008
Chesnea Lance, Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective August 6, 2008
Jana Manaker, Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective August 4, 2008
Judith McDougall, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective August 4, 2008
Jason Plummer, Part-Time Teacher Assistant, DRS, effective August 13, 2008
Shelley Robbins, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective August 12, 2008
Suzanne Smith, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective July 17, 2008

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

Licensed Personnel

Susie Ankeny, Interim Teacher, BMS, effective August 21, 2008 through January 15, 2009
Grace Bannerman, Interim Teacher, RMS and RHS, effective August 21, 2008 through October 27, 2008
Peggy Bayne, Media Coordinator, RES, effective August 21, 2008
Michael Dolan, Teacher, BES, effective August 21, 2008
Carrie Elmore, Teacher, BHS, effective September 8, 2008
Crystal Holland, Teacher, BES (50%) and PFE (50%), effective August 21, 2008
Jessica Levesque, Part-time Teacher, DRS, effective August 21, 2008
Heidi Morgan, Teacher and Coach, BES, effective August 21, 2008
Brooks Owenby, Teacher, BHS, effective August 21, 2008
Dustin Morgan, Teacher, RMS, effective August 21, 2008
Stephanie Sizemore, Teacher, TCH, effective August 21, 2008
Brooke Snipes, Teacher, PFES, effective August 21, 2008
Jessica Stepp, Teacher, BHS, effective August 21, 2008
Adam Westhouse, Teacher, RHS, effective August 21, 2008

Classified Personnel

Marquessa Chappell, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 21, 2008
Amanda Meyer, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective August 21, 2008
Wendy Taylor, Student Advocate, BMS & DRS, effective August 21, 2008

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

Licensed Personnel

Robert Dinsdale, from Teacher, BES (50%) and PFES (50%), to Teacher, PFES (100%), effective August 21, 2008

Jo Hamilton, from Teacher, RMS, to Lead Teacher, BES, effective August 19, 2008

Lystra Keever, from Teacher, TCH, to Teacher, RES, effective August 21, 2008

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Meg Buchanan, unpaid leave pursuant to local Board policy GCBDB, effective August 21, 2008 through January 15, 2009

Megan Monk, unpaid leave pursuant to local Board policy GCBDB, effective February 23, 2009 through June 17, 2009

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Marsha Casey, Central Connecticut State University (Master's Degree, Reading Education; Sixth-Year Degree, English Education)

Julie Chrisman, University of North Carolina at Asheville (Bachelor's Degree, Economics)

Cathy Greene, Blue Ridge Community College and Greenville Technical Community College (Certificates, Various Fields of Study)

Dana Mason, Mars Hill College (Bachelor's Degree, Business Administration)

Virginia Mendenhall, University of Illinois (Bachelor's Degree, Education)