

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
August 19, 2024**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Closed Session
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Minutes
  - B. Personnel Report
  - C. Non-Faculty Coaches
6. Policy: Fall 2023 PLS Custom Updates
7. Letter to North Carolina General Assembly
8. Facilities
9. Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) Grant Application
10. Nominations for NCSBA Board of Directors 2024-2025
11. Important Dates
12. Other Items
13. Closed Session
14. Letter to County Commissioners and Community (*addition*)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on August 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chairman Kimsey Jackson led in an invocation and Tawny McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 13 guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Kimsey Jackson, Chair  
Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair  
Tawny McCoy  
Bryan O'Neill  
Chris Wiener (*joined late*)

STAFF:

Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent/HR  
Carrie Norris, Chief Academic Officer  
Kerry Putnam, Director, Facilities; CTE  
Courtney Owen, Director, Student Services  
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services  
David Wright, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chris Campbell, Campbell Shatley

MEDIA:

Laura Denon, Transylvania Times

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Jackson amended the agenda to add an item, Letter to the County Commissioners and Community, after the second closed session. MRS. DALTON MOVED to approve the amendment. MR. O'NEILL SECONDED and the agenda for August 19, 2024 was unanimously approved as amended.

**2. Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MR. O'NEILL, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the board entered into 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) at approximately 5:35 p.m. Present in the closed session were board members Kimsey Jackson, Chair; Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair; Tawny McCoy; and Bryan O'Neill (Mr. Wiener was absent). Superintendent Dr. Lisa Fletcher and Board Attorney Chris Campbell were also present in the closed session. At approximately 6:03 p.m., BY MOTION MADE BY JACKSON, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

MR. O'NEILL MADE A MOTION to extend Dr. Lisa Fletcher's employment contract until June 30, 2028 and grant five locally-paid, non-accumulative leave days per year. MRS. DALTON SECONDED, and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comment**

Chairman Jackson reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

**Kim Christopher** – I'd like to speak to you about the capital improvement projects that are commencing in the schools in our county now. In the last year I've read a lot of things, watched name calling, seen accusations in the paper, seen road signs, etc. The wrangling that has been going on has been counterproductive. I want to thank you as a board for all that you have to done to help bring this into a cohesive finality for our community. My husband had 54 years in commercial construction, and of those, he was involved in 42 schools, between new construction and capital improvements. My children were recipients and students in a lot of the schools. So, we know very well what it takes to get to the point where we are now. There were a lot of people, staff changes, there were a lot of contractor changes, there were a lot of RFIs, there are a lot of wrangling for new prices because we know how that came about. I want to thank you, I want to thank the county commission for what you've done. You didn't let go. You didn't let the negative comments dissuade you from your mission. I have seen some of the things have already begun. The people that are working on them are doing a great job. Your facilities manager is doing a great job. As a grandparent, adopted from some kids here, I think it's going to make a tremendous difference for these children. It is a very difficult process, and personally, I don't want to hear any more negative about it. I want to hear positive. Because that's what the children need, that's what the families need, that's what the teachers need. So thank you, and more. We just want more.

**Larry Chapman** – I am not here as a county commissioner but to represent myself. First of all, thank this board for all the work to bringing this thing to fruition where we can move forward. I passed around to the board members an update from the county all the projects and dates that are moving forward that both boards have agreed to with the Axias group. It says all projects are funded with capital or will be funded with the bond. So, thank you. I will leave copies of this if any members of the public want to pick one up. We are moving forward. It is on the county website and county Facebook page. Last week had the pleasure of touring the schools. Of course, I had to leave early and I didn't get to them all. Our schools are not falling in, ladies and gentlemen, despite what's out there in the thing. Yes, we've got work to do. Most of it is stuff that you don't see. It's boilers and roofs and things like that. But I will say I think we've got some work to do on what I consider just cosmetic stuff. You know when you walk up to a school, and it's pretty evident of it up at TC, and you see the front there and a lot of mold up there, I think that if we could just hire some pressure washers to go around and clean the outside of these buildings and paint some gutters. And when you go inside, there are ceiling tiles that haven't been replaced in years, stained where previous leaks have been. You know, just do stuff like that and take care of a lot of the negative impressions that people have of our schools. Just cosmetic stuff. So if we take a look at that and do that, in addition to all this money we're spending on capital improvement, we're off and running. I know it's been a long and arduous task to get where we are. Nobody's fault. All of us are in this thing together. If we can keep these lawyers

out of the picture we'll be doing real good (just kidding—we have them on our side too). So thank you to everyone for all their hard work. Keep it moving. Any questions, our county manager can answer them. Hope to have the bond money flowing in in November.

**Jayne Mallwitz** - Thank you to everyone for all you are doing. It is difficult sometimes in such a politically challenging environment, but know that what you are doing is so important. I came here from a very different state where there was sexualization of children, and drag shows where they taught the children to tip the performers. They were using materials from the Marxist anarchist (inaudible) and teaching 1619. Unfortunately, instead of lifting all children up to the name of equity, they were cancelling higher level programs and lowering the standards for all students. I don't think that's what we need, and I am so grateful that we have this board. Thank you for everything you do.

**David Borman** – It was a pleasant surprise to see the slate of letters to the North Carolina legislature advocating for higher pay for teachers. I was really inspired that you advocated for higher pay for admin, for support staff, for everyone to really make a difference for the entire school system. Thank you for pushing that forward. I do think this is also a moment to be bold. I appreciate asking the state to do more, but I think we can also take this moment to ask our county commissioners to fund our schools at the levels they are increasing. My understanding is that how much they give schools in operating is typically a flat rate. I think it is a moment to ask them to step up and say that if teacher salaries are increasing by 5%, they should increase the amount they support locally by 5%. I encourage you to be bold locally. Our teachers deserve it. Our administrators deserve it. Our custodians deserve it. And I think they would be very pleased to see it happen.

#### 4. **Good News Report**

Dr. Fletcher shared the following good news:

##### ***FREE Breakfast & Lunch for Every Student***

Transylvania County Schools is proud to announce that we are able to offer FREE breakfast and lunch meals to every student again this school year 2024-2025. Also, TCS is moving to EZSchoolPay.com for *a la carte* items such as chips, drinks, and ice cream. Go to [ezschoolpay.com](https://ezschoolpay.com) and register to get started.

##### ***Kathryn Bailey Serves as Ambassador & Presenter at NCBOLD Conference***

Congratulations to Kathryn Bailey, TCS Coordinator for Educational Technology, who served as an ambassador and presenter for the Western region at the recent NCBOLD 2024 Professional Learning Conference for teachers, administrators, media coordinators, technology coaches, and data managers. NCBOLD (North Carolina Beacons of Leader Development) is a part of NCDPI's Office of Digital Teaching and Learning. NCBOLD selected educators with proven track records of delivering high-quality professional learning tied to the state's Digital Learning Competencies to be ambassadors and create innovative sessions to help teachers more effectively integrate digital teaching and learning in their classrooms. Also attending the NCBOLD conference were Mick Galloway, Col. Chuck Megown, Bridgette Whitlock, and Jenni Axtell.

##### ***Volunteers from Local Churches Help Beautify School Campuses***

Thank you to the volunteers from Calvary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church who came out on Saturday, August 3 and gave their time, talents, and resources to help beautify some of our school campuses! [#teachingeveryonetakeseveryone](https://www.instagram.com/teachingeveryonetakeseveryone)

##### ***Grand Olde Station Hosts TCS Administrator Retreat July 31-Aug. 1***

Transylvania County Schools directors, principals, and assistant principals enjoyed getting prepared for the new school year with two days of updates, activities, and

meetings at the Grand Olde Station in Lake Toxaway on July 31-August 1. Many thanks to Mr. Norry Lebrun and Mr. John Nichols for donating time and resources to the group and Mr. Joshua Payne and French Broad River Cattle Farms for feeding everyone at the restaurant. The food was fabulous—they are open seven days a week, 11-9 for lunch and dinner, and even have a food truck for special events—go check out Grand Olde Station with a beautiful view of Lake Toxaway! Mr. Lebrun even took the group out on a boat ride to finish their long days of training. Thank you all for giving to TCS!

[#teachingeveryonetakeseveryone](#)

### ***Sharing House “Back to School” Program – Appointments Available***

The Sharing House of Brevard scheduled back to school appointments for eligible Transylvania County K-12 students from July 29 through August 23. Back to school haircuts were available by appointment on Saturday, August 17. Thank you, Sharing House, for supporting our students. [#teachingeveryonetakeseveryone](#)

### ***Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)***

Parents of future or current college students, how is your student planning to pay for college this fall? It’s time to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for valuable federal and state funds for tuition, fees, and more. The FAFSA helps students to be considered for funds from the Pell Grant, the Next NC Scholarship, and more. These include funds that do not have to be repaid. Apply now at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) to ensure your student is ready for the fall semester.

### ***Blue Ridge Community College Offering Help with FAFSA***

Do you need help completing the FAFSA? Our neighbors at Blue Ridge Community College have offered to help any families with this process, whether or not their student attends Blue Ridge. Visit Blue Ridge in person, contact their Financial Aid office at 828-694-1816, or email [finaid@blueridge.edu](mailto:finaid@blueridge.edu). You may also visit [blueridge.edu/nextnc](http://blueridge.edu/nextnc) for a link to the FAFSA form and more information about the new state scholarship program.

### ***TCS Back to School Convocation – August 20, 2024***

Transylvania County Schools will hold a “Back to School” convocation for staff to kick off the 2024-2025 school year on Tuesday, August 20, from 7:30-10:00 a.m. at Brevard High School. The convocation will feature breakfast, goodie bags, a guest speaker, raffle prizes, and more. Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers and businesses that donated to make this event happen and give us a great start to the school year!

## **5. Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Minutes of the May 20, 2024 closed session
- B. Minutes of the May 20, 2024 closed session
- C. Minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting
- D. Personnel report for August 19, 2024 (see attached)
- E. Non-faculty coaches for fall sports 2024-2025 (see list below)

### **BHS**

Troy Kessinger- Assistant Football  
 Manny Deshateurs- Assistant Football  
 Jeff Rice- Assistant Football  
 Mark Ellenberger- Assistant Football  
 Randy Baron- Head Varsity Soccer

Adam Spencer- Head JV Soccer  
 Caleb Hill- Head Varsity Volleyball  
 Kenneth Barton- Head Women's Golf  
 Jackie Witherspoon- Head Women's Cross-Country  
 Annie Kolk- Head Women's Tennis  
 Hannah Souther- Head Varsity Football Cheerleading  
 Maddie Groves- Head JV Football Cheerleading

### **RHS**

Corey McCall- Assistant Football  
 Kris McCall- Assistant Football  
 Gage Orr- Assistant Football  
 Taylor Perez- Assistant Football  
 Justin Bell- Assistant Football  
 Courtney Cheek- Assistant Football  
 Ronnie Leonard- Assistant Football  
 Brian Chapman- Statistician  
 Rachel Tritt- Head Varsity & JV Volleyball  
 Baylee Bagwell- Assistant Volleyball

### **BMS**

Kyle Justice- Assistant Football  
 Marion Crite- Assistant Football  
 Ally Carlton- Head Women's Cross Country

### **RMS**

Erica Shelton- Assistant Volleyball  
 Megan Johnson- Head Cross Country

## **6. Policy: Fall 2023 PLS Custom Updates**

At the May 20 and June 3 meetings, the board reviewed 18 policies from the NCSBA Fall 2023 PLS (Policies to Lead the Schools) Custom Updates plus one custom update to policy 2310. Nine of the 19 policies were approved on June 17. Some of the policies (4342, 7100, and 8325) had been further revised based on discussion from the June 3 meeting (new changes were shown in green). Dr. Brian Weaver reported that opt-in and opt-out forms have been generated for parents. Board members had no questions, and ON A MOTION FROM MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. O'NEILL, the 10 policies listed below were unanimously approved as presented.

- **1310/4002, Parental Involvement.** Updates information about parental consent for student participation in protected topic surveys to reflect new state law exceptions. Includes minor editorial changes.
- **3610, Counseling Program.** Adds new Section C to reflect statutory requirement to have peer-to-peer student support programs in schools with grades 6 and higher. Adds language regarding early graduate scholarships. Updates the legal references.
- **4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations.** Modifies subsection C.4 to reflect legal requirements in new state law. Updates the legal references.
- **4240/7312, Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety.** Modifies Section D to reflect legal requirements in new state law. Updates legal references.
- **4342, Student Searches.** Includes changes in first paragraph and Section A based on new state law. Updates legal references. (see lines 53-58, 60, and 77)

- **4720, Surveys of Students.** Updates the parental consent information in subsection A.2 to reflect the new statutory exception.
- **7100, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel.** Clarifies the age discrimination standard. Updates a timeframe in Section D regarding criminal history checks of child care providers to comply with statutory changes. Eliminates unnecessary language in Section D. Updates legal references. **(see line 8 for new change)**
- **7510, Leave.** Adds new Section D about paid parental leave. Updates legal references.
- **8325, Daily Deposits.** G.S. 115C-445, which governs daily deposits, has increased the threshold from \$250 to \$1,500. The board may keep the dollar amount currently listed or choose a different amount up to \$1,500. **(No change--see line 5. As recommended by Finance Officer Gabi Juba, the daily deposit threshold will remain at \$250 in order to prevent the accumulation of large sums of money at the schools.)**
- **9125, Participation by Minority Businesses.** Modifies first paragraph to reflect statutory changes to the definition of "minority business." Corrects a typo in subsection B.6.

## 7. **Letter to North Carolina General Assembly**

Dr. Fletcher reported that during its recent short session, the North Carolina General Assembly did not modify the provisions of the education budget that was passed in the 2023 biennium budget (Session Law 2023-134). As the state inflation rate is currently approximately 3.8% and the average raise given to certified and non-certified staff was 3.0%, the outcome of that decision means that most teachers will have a reduction in real dollars when accounting for inflation. Therefore, the Transylvania County Board of Education would like to follow the example of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and urge the General Assembly to increase the pay raise for teachers and other staff. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the board unanimously approved sending a letter to legislative leaders in the North Carolina General Assembly urging the passage of a modified education budget that includes a pay increase of at least 5.0% for certified and non-certified staff at its session beginning on September 9, 2024.

## 8. **Facilities**

Facilities Director Kerry Putnam gave an update on current projects. He reported that most of the work done this summer was for pre-existing items including the wall behind RHS and Phase 1 at BHS. The ceilings at BHS are being painted. Work is proceeding on beam maintenance at BHS. He expects 4-6 more weeks to complete the epoxy work on the damaged areas. Mr. Jackson asked about any potential safety issues with the beams. Mr. Putnam reported that according to the engineer, the load on the beams is being carried by the steel plates. The engineer believes the beams should be good for another five years. Mr. O'Neill asked what happens once the five years run out. Mr. Putnam stated that he is working on a plan.

## 9. **NBPSCF Grant Application**

Dr. Fletcher presented a Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF) grant application in the amount of \$62 million for construction of a combined new main gym and cafeteria at Brevard High School and a new CTE, Exceptional Children, and Performing Arts wing. If the grant is approved by the Department of Public Instruction, more of the bond money could be directed toward needs in other schools. The grant application requires board of education approval and board of commissioner approval

along with the commissioners’ pledge of 5% matching funds. The application deadline is September 13, 2024.

*Mr. Wiener joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m.*

The board commended Dr. Fletcher and staff for their hard work on the application and expressed hope that the grant would be awarded. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant application in the amount of \$62 million. The next step is for Dr. Fletcher to present the application to the commissioners and request their approval.

**10. Nominations for NCSBA Board of Directors**

The North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) is seeking nominations for vacancies on the 2024-2025 Board of Directors. The term of service is two years and members are eligible to serve for two terms. Nominations must be made by the nominee’s board of education by official action and received by NCSBA by October 2, 2024. No members expressed an interest at this time. MR. O’NEILL MOVED to table nominations until the September meeting. MR. WIENER SECONDED and the motion passed unanimously.

**11. Important Dates**

Aug. 19	Regular five-day schedule resumes		
Aug. 19	New Teacher Orientation	8 am – 4 pm	BRCC Transylvania Campus Room 160
Aug. 19 – 23	Teacher workdays		
Aug. 20	TCS “Back to School” Staff Convocation	7:30 – 10:00 am	BHS
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		

**12. Other Items**

Dr. Fletcher reported that Swain County Schools had a hard first day of school today after the death of a much-admired coach over the weekend. She spoke about the positive impact this coach had on her boys and asked everyone to keep the Swain community in their thoughts and prayers.

Dr. Fletcher reported that she had looked into options for teacher housing. Some counties use trusts or a housing organization to provide USDA loans for qualified buyers.

With the second option there is no guarantee that a teacher would be the one selected to receive the loan. Attorney Chris Campbell informed the board that there is an outstanding tax bill of approximately \$1600 on the Confederate Lane property. This would have to be paid out of proceeds derived from any sale of the property.

**13. Closed Session**

ON A MOTION BY MR. O'NEILL, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the board entered into closed session at approximately 7:00 p.m. pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-318.11 subsection (a)(3) to discuss matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. Present in the closed session were board members Kimsey Jackson, Chair; Tanya Dalton, Vice Chair; Tawny McCoy; Chris Wiener; and Bryan O'Neill. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Facilities Director Kerry Putnam, and Board Attorney Chris Campbell. At approximately 7:45 p.m., BY MOTION MADE BY MRS. MCCOY AND SECONDED BY MR. WIENER, the board returned to open session.

Chairman Jackson called the meeting back to order.

**14. Letter to County Commissioners and Community**

Attorney Chris Campbell reported that in closed session the board had discussed legal issues related to a draft correspondence to be sent to the Board of Commissioners and the community on behalf of the Board of Education. The contents of the letter were not discussed in closed session. Chairman Jackson read the draft letter aloud. Mr. Campbell suggested a revision to the sentence order in one of the paragraphs and the board agreed to the revision. ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. DALTON, the letter as revised was unanimously approved via roll call vote. The finalized, signed letter will be sent immediately to the County and also published on the Transylvania County Schools website (see attached).

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. WIENER, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman

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Secretary



**PERSONNEL REPORT**  
**August 19, 2024**

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

Licensed Personnel

Elizabeth Chancellor, Teacher, DRS, effective August 27, 2024  
Lori Holbert, Teacher, BES, effective July 31, 2024  
Emma Hughson, Teacher, PFES, effective August 30, 2024  
Sarah Justice, Media Specialist, RMS & RHS, effective July 31, 2024  
Candace Reese, Education Technology Coach, RES & TCH, effective August 1, 2024

Classified Personnel

Shaunna McCall, Office Support, RMS, effective August 9, 2024  
Dominique Owen, Custodian & Bus Driver, BES, effective July 23, 2024  
Toni Stanley, Distance Learning Facilitator & ISS Coordinator, RHS & RMS, effective August 12, 2024  
Jeanne Washburn, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective July 29, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Tiffany Hurley, Teacher, RMS & RHS, effective August 12, 2024  
Kristen Mirones, Teacher, BHS, effective August 19, 2024  
Andrew Rice, Teacher, RMS, effective August 19, 2024  
Norma Smith, Teacher, RES, effective August 19, 2024  
Mary Brooks Thrift, Teacher, TCH, effective August 19, 2024  
Cassidy Walsh, Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2024  
Rebecca Winans, Teacher, BES, effective August 19, 2024

Classified Personnel

Rhonda Cloutier, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective August 20, 2024  
William Nesselin, Custodian & Bus Driver, BMS, effective August 12, 2024  
Leanne Owen, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective August 20, 2024  
Ethan Talley, SELF Program Counselor, BES, effective August 19, 2024

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

Licensed Personnel

Maureen Hankala, from Teacher, BHS, to Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2024  
Elizabeth Singleton, from Teacher Assistant, TCH, to Teacher, BES, effective August 19, 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

Julie Roberts

Jennifer Sheffield

Hanna Voris

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Hannah Barnett

Tammy Israel



# TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

225 Rosenwald Lane, Brevard, NC 28712-3299  
828-884-6173 | www.tcsnc.org  
Dr. Lisa Fletcher, Superintendent

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

August 19, 2024

Dear Transylvania County Commissioners and Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, and the students we all serve, I have a simple plea. Going forward, let's be fully transparent and work together to repair and renovate the schools.

The School Board has a State Constitutional and statutory duty to determine what is necessary to provide good school buildings. The County Commissioners have the statutory duty to consider our requests and provide funding, so let's do it together.

The School Board proposes the following:

1. Both boards will form a Joint Facilities Committee with 2 members from each Board, the County Manager, County Finance Officer, School Superintendent, and School Finance Officer. This committee will be open to the public (as the law requires) and can invite other staff and people to join meetings when needed. The committee can decide how often to meet.
2. As is common practice in other counties, both boards, the committee, and the public will know how much money is available for construction, where the money comes from, and how the committee recommends that the money be spent in future years.
3. The committee will make recommendations to both boards. Obviously, the blue print of current capital priorities already exists and was approved by both Boards. However, plans will need be adjusted to
  - a) ensure there is sufficient funding for routine maintenance,
  - b) respond to cost escalations, life/safety issues, emergencies, and other unforeseen circumstances, and
  - c) reflect any new funding sources for school capital such as State grants that the School Board is pursuing.
4. The School Board and school staff will be 100% transparent and provide the county and committee with all information about all construction projects as needed, from bidding to final completion.
5. The School Board agrees to joint contracts with the County on all construction projects over \$90,000 for as long as the County wants to continue that practice.
6. The County will provide the School Board with quarterly updates on the status of selling the bonds.

The County Commissioners need to approve the use of restricted school capital funding from whatever source to finish the on-going HVAC projects at Brevard Elementary and Brevard Middle instead of asking the School Board to use current expense monies. Separately, we have been advised of serious legal issues related to using current expense funds. But that's not the point. Spending operating money on school construction makes no common sense. There is enough school capital money to finish these projects if you will just allow it so we can finish.

The former Henderson County Manager and School Superintendent told us that this model works! It is also fair and transparent for the parents and taxpayers.

This formal request has been discussed and approved by the School Board in open session. I ask that you put this on for action at your next meeting and I look forward to starting a new chapter of cooperation between our Boards. Our kids deserve it.

Please say "yes."

Sincerely,

Kimsey Jackson, Chairman  
Transylvania County Board of Education