

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
August 22, 2022**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and recissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
 - C. Non-Faculty Coaches
6. Capital Projects Status Report
7. Superintendent's Update
8. Important Dates
9. Other Items
10. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on August 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chairman Tawny McCoy led in a moment of silence and Courtney Domokur led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She reported that Vice Chairman Kiviniemi would join the meeting later because he was attending the County Commissioners meeting. In addition to approximately eight guests, the individuals listed below were in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice-Chair
Courtney Domokur
Marty Griffin
Kimsey Jackson

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Kris Caudle, Campbell Shatley

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent
Missy Ellenberger, Director, 9-12 Instruction
Carrie Norris, Director, K-8 Instruction
Audrey Reneau, Director, Federal Programs
Alan Justice, Director, Facilities/Athletics/Transp.
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Ray Owen, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. DOMOKUR, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the meeting agenda for August 22, 2022 was unanimously approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
Chairman McCoy reviewed the guidelines for public comment. Two speakers offered comments:

Jami Reese, parent, spoke in support of parent involvement and engagement in schools. She feels that parents have the right to make decisions in the best interests of their child's education and that the schools must remain non-political. She believes this stands in opposition to the objectives of TCAE (Transylvania County Association of Educators). She also expressed opposition to SEL (social-emotional learning), CRT (critical race theory), and gender identity education.

Chris Wiener, parent, read excerpts from a speech given by Abraham Lincoln regarding the dangers of mob rule.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Ray Owen for attending the meeting. He shared the following good news:

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant for 2022-2023

Transylvania County Schools has again been awarded a USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant for all four elementary schools. The grant will provide opportunities for students to experience, at no cost, nutritious and delicious fresh fruit and vegetable snacks throughout the 2022-2023 school year. The program is designed to create a healthier school environment and help students learn that healthy choices taste good. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program will begin on Tuesday, September 6. School cafeterias will provide a fresh fruit or vegetable as an afternoon snack to all elementary school students weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Teachers are encouraged to model good eating behaviors by eating the snacks along with their students. The USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant program is available to qualifying NC elementary schools upon application.

4. **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. One new name, Leticia Rene Jensen, has been added to the list.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 1, 2022 and the August 1, 2022 meetings; the minutes of the August 1, 2022 closed session; the personnel report for August 22, 2022 (see attached); and the following non-faculty coaches for fall sports 2022:

Brevard High School

Manny Deshauteurs, Football
Trey Mitchell, Football
Heidi Jordan, Statistician
Craig Long, Varsity Soccer
Nell McMurtry, JV Volleyball
Kenneth Barton, Women's Golf
Jackie Witherspoon, Women's Cross Country
Scott Keely, Women's Tennis
Amanda Lambert, JV Football Cheerleading

Rosman High School

Corey McCall, Football
Cody Cline, Football
Kris McCall, Football
Ronnie Leonard, Football
Peyton McCall, Football
Jacob Montgomery, Statistician
Kim Green, Videographer
Jessica Whitmire, Volleyball

Brevard Middle School

Kyle Justice, Football
Caleb Gilbert, Football
Jackson Burgess, Football
Randy Baron, Men's Soccer
Henry Erti, Soccer
Ally Carlton, Men's Cross Country
Chelsea Gray, Women's Cross Country

6. Capital Project Status Report

Director Alan Justice gave an update on capital projects in the schools. Mr. Jackson asked about the Rosman High School roof repairs. Mr. Justice reported that maintenance is patching leaks there every time it rains. New roofing is needed from the old office area to the new CTE wing. Chairman McCoy expressed hope that the county would approve funding for this project at their August 22 meeting so that Mr. Justice can begin requesting bids. Mr. Justice offered to share the capital projects report as a Google document to allow board members to keep up with projects in real time.

Mr. Griffin requested an update on school bus drivers. Mr. Justice reported that he has had to park four buses due to a shortage of drivers and bus routes have been revised accordingly. He noted that he could use ten additional full-time drivers right now. Mr. Justice commended Julie Roberts for her work in reorganizing the routes.

7. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported that school officially begins on Monday, August 29, and for over 400 high school students, the school year has already begun. Approximately 250 students at BHS and approximately 155 students at RHS have been hard at work since the beginning of August in football practice, cheerleading practice, and marching band practice. Our best wishes to them and all students for a great start and a great year.

8. Important Dates

Aug. 29	First student day		
Sept. 5	Labor Day holiday		
Sept. 5	NO MEETING		
Sept. 19	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Sept. 30	Remote learning day		
Oct. 3	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Oct. 17	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Oct. 31, Nov. 1	Teacher workdays		
Nov. 7	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Nov. 8	Election Day		
Nov. 11	Veterans Day holiday		
Nov. 21	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break		

9. Other Items

Mr. Griffin remarked that the number of students mentioned in the superintendent's update does not reflect the additional numbers that participate in winter and spring sports. He commended all students involved in extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Domokur commended last week's kindergarten camp as a great start to the school year for our youngest students and thanked the coordinators.

Mr. Jackson asked Audrey Reneau for an update on the Pre-K program. Director Reneau reported that we have two new Pre-K classrooms for a total of six districtwide. Mr. Jackson asked if mobile classrooms could be used for additional Pre-K classrooms.

Mrs. Reneau explained that mobile units are very expensive and finding a place to put them can be problematic.

Mr. Jackson repeated his suggestion from the last meeting that the board request \$25 million from the county's tax proceeds to use for school facilities if the commissioners are not going to issue the bond. He would also like the commissioners to commit to \$10 million or so annually for school facility needs. Chairman McCoy reported that Dr. McDaris has provided the latest information from the August 2 meeting to the county manager and she has talked with Chairman Chappell. The county attorney and the school board attorney must confer before any action is considered.

Vice Chairman Kiviniemi joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Jackson reported that several people have approached him asking why the board does not consolidate the high schools. Chairman McCoy reported that the board is offering the county an option for a committee from both bodies to discuss how best to move forward. The committee would receive presentations from the architects which would be brought back to the full boards. Mr. Jackson stated that he disagrees with that approach. Mr. Kiviniemi stated that if the voters had wanted consolidation they would not have voted for the bond projects.

Mrs. Domokur stated that she too has heard from some in the community about consolidation and suggested holding a meeting to get public input. Mr. Griffin stated that the board spent four years planning for the bond and 60% of the voters wanted that plan, but he would be willing to have another meeting if that's what the rest of the board wants. Mr. Jackson stated that he realizes the board held a number of public input meetings before he came on the board, but he feels that another meeting is needed because some feelings may have changed since then.

Mr. Kiviniemi reported that he had just come from the county commissioner meeting where the board's request for \$450,000 for roof repairs at RHS was tabled because one commissioner was concerned that we were repairing roofs instead of air handlers. He pointed out that if the county had fully funded the board's capital outlay request, they would have seen there were funds in the request to do both. Mr. Kiviniemi further stated that the county has underfunded the board's capital requests by \$12 million cumulatively since 1995. He added that in order to build a centralized consolidated high school, the board would need 60-70 acres of land, including water and sewer infrastructure, somewhere near Morgan Mill Trout Farm, which is the geographical center of the county. Based on current dollars, a new consolidated high school would cost between \$150 million and \$175 million.

Mr. Jackson indicated that there may be plans to run water and sewer to the Cherryfield area. He stated that Blue Ridge Community College needs \$35 million for a new campus and he thinks the Brevard High School campus could fulfill that need. Mr. Kiviniemi noted that the only bond referendum that ever failed in this county was to consolidate the two high schools. Chairman McCoy stated that if the board wants to have this discussion again, it can consider doing so after the pending work from the August 2 meeting is finished.

Mr. Jackson stated that he is concerned by the extra design fees. Mr. Kiviniemi gave a reminder that if the board starts again from scratch it will cost much more because every step in the process must be redone. He stated that he is very doubtful that the county would give the board \$25 million as suggested by Mr. Jackson, pointing out that they

could not even agree at their meeting tonight to move forward with the \$450,000 for roof repairs at RHS.

Chairman McCoy reiterated that the board should let the motion and recommendations from the August 2 meeting play out. Mr. Kiviniemi reported that at least one commissioner has spoken against forming a joint committee, but may be open to a joint meeting between the boards. He remarked that it would be helpful for the school board to be included in the commissioners' capital workshop in September.

Mr. Jackson stated that he thinks the joint committee is an exercise in futility and he is sorry that he voted for it. He would like to pursue a joint meeting. There was a general consensus to let the pending motion from the August 2 meeting play out.

10. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (a)(1)) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to N.C.G.S. 115C-319-321; and pursuant to subsection (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the board. Following a short recess, the closed session convened at approximately 7:45 p.m. The following board members were present: Tawny McCoy, Chair; Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair; Courtney Domokur, Marty Griffin, and Kimsey Jackson. Kris Caudle, Board Attorney, was also present for the closed session. Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent, was present for the second half of the closed session to discuss his consensus evaluation with the board. No action was taken in the closed session, and a MOTION TO ADJOURN THE CLOSED SESSION was made by Chairman McCoy and seconded by Vice Chairman Kiviniemi at approximately 8:09 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
August 22, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel
None

Classified Personnel
Ambur Cantrell, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective August 11, 2022
Mary Feldman, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 22, 2022
Mary Long, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 4, 2022
Brandon Perkins, Custodian & Bus Driver, BHS, effective August 24, 2022
Virginia Watkins, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective August 26, 2022
Rebecca Huff Winans, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective July 5, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel
Natalie Daves, Teacher, TCH, effective August 19, 2022
Morris Davis, Teacher, BHS, effective August 19, 2022
Jennifer Heaslip, Media Coordinator, BHS, effective August 19, 2022
Daniel Lisenby, School Counselor, BHS, effective August 19, 2022
Candace Reese, Digital Learning Specialist, RES & TCH, effective August 19, 2022

Classified Personnel
April Aiken, Custodian & Bus Driver, BMS, effective August 22, 2022
Ann Marie Babb, Custodian, BMS, effective September 6, 2022
Lisa Bolt, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 23, 2022
Victoria Brissey, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective August 23, 2022
Griffin Colegrave, Graduation Coach/Support Coordinator, DRS, effective August 19, 2022
Lauren Cornett, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 23, 2022
Nijayah Cruell, Distance Learning Coordinator and In-School Suspension Supervisor, BHS, effective August 23, 2022
Carle Heatherly, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective August 25, 2022
Lorry Newman, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective August 24, 2022
Ashley Reynolds, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective August 24, 2022
Alyse Sheppard, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 23, 2022
Masako Sugimoto, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 23, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel
Beth Watson, from Math & Reading Specialist, RMS, to Teacher, PFES, effective August 19, 2022

Classified Personnel
Phillip Heath, from Custodian, PFES, to Custodian, BHS, effective August 22, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel

Alana Anderson, Teacher, PFES, Family Leave under BOE Policy 7510, effective
October 3, 2022 through June 15, 2023

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

Ann Dixon-Smith

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Kimberly Ashe

Kristin Bates

Barbara Blanton

Carla McDaris

Madelyn Miller

Kristen Sheffield