

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
September 16, 2019**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Closed Session
3. Public Comment
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
7. Instructional Update
8. FY20 Budget
9. Appointments to Community Relations Board
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Public Comment
13. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on September 16, 2019 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Courtney Domokur led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In addition to one guest, the following board members, staff, and others were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair
Courtney Domokur
Marty Griffin
Alice Wellborn

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent
Missy Ellenberger, Director, Curriculum & Instruction
Kevin Smith, School-Community Relations Coordinator
Scott Thomas, School Resource Officer

BOARD ATTORNEY:

John Henning, Jr.

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting agenda for September 16, 2019 was unanimously approved as presented.
2. **Closed Session**
ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board went into closed session at 5:35 p.m. to discuss (1) a student matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 115C-402 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), (2) a property matter pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(5), and (3) a personnel matter pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(6). Present in the closed session were all five board members, Dr. Jeff McDaris, and Attorney John Henning, Jr. No action was taken in the closed session, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board returned to open session at 6:28 p.m.

3. **Public Comment**

None

4. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

BURLINGAME DONATION TO TCH

Last month, the Burlingame Country Club raised \$37,100 for the T. C. Henderson School of Science & Technology STEM program through their designer purse auction. This annual fundraiser has proved to be hugely successful, with a grand total in donations of more than \$100,000 since its inception. We are very grateful to Ms. Linda Crowther and the Burlingame fundraising committee for their hard work, and the members of the Burlingame community for their continued generosity and support of T. C. Henderson.

BHS RECEIVES GRAND PIANO

Thanks to Helen Waite of Pisgah Forest who recently donated a Baldwin grand piano to the Brevard High School fine arts program. The generous gift, worth an estimated \$20,000, will be a tremendous asset to the school's chorus, band, and theater programs. We are grateful to Ms. Waite for her generosity and support of Transylvania County Schools.

SUMMER FEEDING 2019

Director Carolyn Barton reports that Transylvania County School Nutrition Services served 22,950 meals to students during the summer of 2019. The *Summer Lunch on the Bus* program served 2,453 meals, from 15 stops, over an average of 35 days. In its fourth year of operation, *Summer Lunch on the Bus* helps reach children who do not have access to day-long programming and need summer meals. The program is well received and families are very appreciative.

The *Backpack Buddies* program served between 250-400 children this summer. There were six delivery routes, with three delivery dates that included four or more food packs per delivery. *Back Pack Buddies* also delivered food to the Rise & Shine and Boys & Girls summer programs, and additional children in the Rosenwald and Brevard Communities via relationships with a neighborhood food pantry. We greatly appreciate the school nutrition staff and community volunteers who contribute so much to the success of the *Summer Lunch* and *Backpack Buddies* programs.

SEPTEMBER IS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

The North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation wants to emphasize the importance of regular attendance to grade-level reading, academic achievement and high school graduation. Children who miss more than 10 percent of school days are more likely to experience lower academic achievement, truancy in middle school, or even drop out of school. Dr. McDaris read a proclamation recognizing September as "Attendance Awareness Month" in Transylvania County Schools to support efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism and help children to learn, grow, and thrive (see attached).

TCSEF CREATIVE CLASSROOM GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2020-2021

Thanks to their successful fundraising efforts in 2018-2019, the Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation (TCSEF) has again allocated \$18,000 for Creative Classroom Grants to TCS teachers for 2020-2021. The grants provide funding for innovative and unique projects designed by teachers to enrich their classrooms. We greatly appreciate TCSEF's fundraising efforts with the annual *Taste of Transylvania* and the work of the Grants Committee, which evaluates upwards of 50 proposals each year.

Proposals for the 2020-2021 grants are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25. Directions and the application form are available at http://bit.ly/TCSEF_20_21. Awards will be announced in January 2020, and grant recipients will have up to 18 months from the date awarded to use the grant money. Each grant winner will also receive a free ticket to the *Taste of Transylvania* for 2020 or 2021, depending on project completion date.

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Thomas for attending the meeting.

5. Former Students in the Military

The board reviewed 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 was one new name on the list, Leslie Johnson.

6. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 3, 2019 closed session; the minutes of the July 15, August 6, and August 19, 2019 meetings; and the personnel report for September 16, 2019 (attached).

7. Instructional Update

Missy Ellenberger gave a summary of the NC Report Card school performance results for the 2018-2019 year. She reported that one elementary school that did not meet growth last year exceeded growth this year; both middle schools exceeded growth; and one high school exceeded growth and one met growth (see below):

School	Performance Grade / Growth Status		Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students
Brevard High	B	Exceeded Growth	61%
Rosman High	B	Met Growth	45%
Brevard Middle	B	Exceeded Growth	49%
Rosman Middle	B	Exceeded Growth	62%
Brevard Elem.	C	Did Not Meet Growth	61%
Pisgah Forest Elem.	C	Exceeded Growth	52%
Rosman Elem.	C	Did Not Meet Growth	65%
T. C. Henderson Elem.	B	Met Growth	80%

Mrs. Ellenberger noted that unlike other NC school systems with significant percentages of economically disadvantaged students, Transylvania County Schools achieved good performance grades even with high poverty rates. Mrs. Ellenberger commended Tonya Melton for her work on the WorkKeys “boot camp” that helped raise Brevard High’s CTE scores, and congratulated RHS for again meeting growth and achieving a 94% graduation rate. Mrs. Ellenberger reported that math will be a focus for improvement at several schools and discussed some of the interventions and tools that will be used. Mr. Kiviniemi requested an update at a future meeting on the strategies that will be used to increase math rigor and improve growth scores. Board members discussed how the state’s online testing platform can make it difficult for students to maneuver and go back to previous questions. There was also a discussion about the requirement that all students, including EC students, must take the ACT college admissions test.

8. FY20 Budget

Dr. McDaris reported that there is still no approved state budget for 2019-2020. The House overrode the Governor's veto last week. It is now up to the Senate to schedule a vote.

9. Appointments to Community Relations Board

Earlier this year, the Community Relations Board (CRB) of Transylvania County invited the Board of Education to appoint three members to the CRB. They requested that two of the members be high school students and the third could be anyone of the board's choosing. Dr. McDaris recommended that Alice Wellborn be appointed to serve and Mrs. Wellborn indicated her willingness to do so. ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the board unanimously appointed Alice Wellborn as a representative to the Transylvania County Community Relations Board. Candidates for the student positions are being sought.

10. Superintendent's Update

Dr. McDaris reported that state lawmakers have recently passed legislation that would eliminate senior projects as a requirement for high school graduation. Board members expressed disappointment in this action, and Mr. Kiviniemi called it another example of state legislators' micromanagement of decisions that are best left to local boards. Mrs. Ellenberger reported that the high schools are considering requiring some form of college/career readiness portfolio for freshman and sophomore classes. In order to meet the change in state law, Dr. Weaver will bring a revised version of policy 3460, Graduation Requirements, to the board in October.

11. Important Dates

Sept. 26	NCSBA District 8 Meeting, 4-8 p.m., Franklin
Sept. 27	Early dismissal for students, 12 p.m.
Oct. 16-18	NCSBA Fall Law Conference, Asheville
Oct. 21	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Oct. 24-25	Teacher workdays
Oct. 26	Public School Forum of NC "Color of Education" Summit, Raleigh
Nov. 8	Early dismissal for students, 12 p.m.
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day holiday
Nov. 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Nov. 18-20	NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development, Greensboro

12. Public Comment

None

13. Other Items

None

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary



**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Proclamation of September as Attendance Awareness Month**

WHEREAS regular attendance is essential to grade-level reading, academic achievement and graduation,

WHEREAS early chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school days for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month – is associated with lower academic achievement, truancy in middle school, and school dropout,

WHEREAS regular attendance puts children on track for becoming proficient readers by the end of third grade, decreases their likelihood of being retained, and supports the development of social-emotional skills needed to persist in school,

WHEREAS all students – even those who attend regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for students who missed lessons,

WHEREAS chronic absence is an early warning indicator that can reveal that a student needs help long before test scores or grades do,

WHEREAS chronic absence exacerbates the achievement gap between students in low-income communities, many of whom are students of color, and their peers. Students from low-income communities are more likely face systemic barriers to getting to school and more likely to be impacted academically by missing school,

WHEREAS attendance is actionable and districts across the country are increasing attendance by recognizing good and improved attendance, engaging students and families, monitoring attendance data and practice, providing personalized early outreach as needed, and developing systemic responses to attendance barriers,

WHEREAS attendance is now a required reporting metric under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and an area of focus for both the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and the North Carolina Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative,

WHEREAS improving attendance takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to the challenges and strengths in each community,

WHEREAS regular attendance can be significantly increased when schools, families and communities work together to monitor and promote regular attendance and address barriers that keep children from getting to school,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as the Superintendent of Transylvania, Jeff McDaris, proclaim our school district will stand with the nation in recognizing September as "Attendance Awareness Month." We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.

PERSONNEL REPORT
September 16, 2019

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

Licensed Personnel

Arleca Chapman, Director, MEC, effective November 30, 2019
Jeannie Metcalf, Speech-Language Pathologist, BES-based, effective December 31, 2019

Classified Personnel

Deidra Bracken, Custodian & Bus Driver, PFES, effective September 20, 2019
Alisa Drum, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective September 20, 2019
Joshua Dunn, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective August 12, 2019

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Mark Jones, Custodian & Bus Driver, BES, effective September 3, 2019
Brandon Perkins, Part-Time Custodian, BHS, effective August 26, 2019
Holly Watkins, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective August 20, 2019

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Keron Butchee Leatherwood, from Custodian, BES, to Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective September 3, 2019

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

Glenda Gasperson
Elaine Omann
Lauren Stuman
Sandra Vara
Bradley Warfield

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Jennifer Bellmund
Jennifer Drake
Kelly Hemby
Laura Perez-Canesco
Ethel Lorraine Toole