

**Minutes  
Transylvania County Board of Education  
September 17, 2018**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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
6. Instructional Update
7. Calendar Waiver
8. Bond Update
9. FY18 Capital Projects Status Update
10. Superintendent's Update
11. Important Dates
12. Public Comment
13. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on September 17, 2018 at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Betty McGaha led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reported that Vice Chairman Kiviniemi would be out for some time due to recent surgery. In addition to approximately seven guests, the following board members, staff, and others were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tawny McCoy, Chair  
Marty Griffin  
Betty Scruggs McGaha  
Alice Wellborn

BOARD ATTORNEY:

Chad Donnahoo

MEDIA:

John Lanier, Transylvania Times

STAFF:

Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent  
Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Brian Weaver, Senior Director for Human Resources  
Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Chief Academic Officer  
Norris Barger, Director, Business Services  
Kevin Smith, School Community Relations Coordinator  
Josh Tinsley, TCAE President  
Kris Foster, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the agenda for September 17, 2018 was approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**  
None
3. **Good News Report**  
Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

*BURLINGAME DONATION TO TCH*

Once again, the Burlingame Country Club has broken its record for donations to T. C. Henderson School of Science & Technology. Last year, Burlingame raised \$25,000 for the STEM program at TCH through their annual designer purse auction event. This year, they raised \$35,000 for the school, bringing the grand total in annual donations to nearly \$100,000. We are 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.

*SUMMER FEEDING 2018*

Director Carolyn Barton reports that the Transylvania County School Nutrition Department served 24,765 meals to students during the summer of 2018. The *Lunch on the Bus* program served 3,282 meals in 2018. *Lunch on the Bus* helps to reach children who stay at home during the summer break, do not have access to day-long programming, yet still need access to summer meals. The *Backpack Buddies* program served 182 children this summer. There were three delivery dates that included four or more food packs as well as fresh apples and potatoes on two of the delivery dates. *Backpack Buddies* also provided fresh apples and potatoes during the 2017-18 school year and plans to continue this trend during the 2018-19 school year. We greatly appreciate the school nutrition staff and community volunteers who contribute so much to the success of the *Backpack Buddies* program.

*DAR "LADIES FIRST" PRESENTATIONS FOR 2018*

Last year, the Transylvania Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) put together skits for elementary classrooms showcasing the contributions of U.S. presidents' wives in colonial America and historically accurate costumes that were designed and created by local DAR members. This year, in addition to First Ladies Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, and Dolley Madison, the DAR program has expanded to include Revolutionary War heroines Betsy Ross, Molly Pitcher, Anna Smith Strong, and Nancy Hart. The JROTC will perform a flag folding ceremony and honor guard at each of the presentations. Everyone is invited to attend one of the upcoming "Ladies First" performances: Sept. 20, 8:00 a.m. at BES; Sept. 27, 8:00 a.m. at TCH; Sept. 27, 9:45 a.m. at RES; and Oct. 4, 8:00 a.m. at PFES.

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Foster for being in attendance.

4. **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 were no new names on the list.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCGAHA, SECONDED BY MR. GRIFFIN, the minutes of the August 20 and August 31, 2018 meetings and the personnel report for September 17, 2018 (attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **Instructional Update**

Dr. Jeremy Gibbs gave an overview of school performance for 2017-2018 based on the NC School Report Card academic indicators. He reported that Transylvania is an anomaly in terms of student achievement and poverty. Most school systems that scored poorly under North Carolina's oversimplified letter grading system have high rates of poverty. Transylvania has high poverty and also high performance. Out of 115 school systems in the state, Transylvania ranks 73<sup>rd</sup> in economic advantage for children, while

at the same time ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in career and college readiness and 22<sup>nd</sup> in grade level proficiency. Dr. Gibbs discussed confirmation bias, which is the tendency to overvalue data that supports a pre-existing belief. He shared with the board how teachers and administrators are working to move our schools from a culture of achievement (testing) to a culture of teaching and learning.

7. **Calendar Waiver**

Dr. Brian Weaver requested approval of a calendar waiver request for the 2019-2020 school year. State calendar law requires that schools begin no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26. If a waiver is approved, the start date can be one week earlier (no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19). Transylvania County Schools qualifies for a waiver. A waiver would allow the district to continue having a mid-week start, a practice that has received positive feedback from parents, staff, and students. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the calendar waiver request for the 2019-2020 school year was unanimously approved.

8. **Bond Update**

Dr. McDaris gave a reminder that an initiative will be on the local ballot in November 2018 for \$68 million in general obligation bonds to pay for capital improvements at Brevard High School, Rosman High School, and Rosman Middle School. On September 10, the board reviewed the architects' conceptual options for construction and renovations at both sites. The board has also submitted applications for *Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund* grants for BHS and RHS-RMS. The General Assembly has provided these funds to assist qualifying counties with their critical public school building capital needs. The Brevard High School campus request is \$10,000,000 with a projected match of \$12,095,967. The Rosman High School-Rosman Middle School campus (a shared campus) request is \$9,256,829 with the equivalent projected match. Grant awards will be announced in October.

Chairman McCoy presented a resolution endorsing the November 2018 bond referendum supporting school capital projects for the Transylvania County Schools. Mrs. McGaha suggested that the resolution be revised slightly to allow all five members to sign instead of the just the board chair. All were in agreement with the proposed change. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the resolution endorsing the November 2018 bond referendum supporting school capital projects for the Transylvania County Schools was approved 4:0 (see attached).

Chairman McCoy encouraged everyone to attend the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting at Brevard High School and the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at Rosman High School for an opportunity to view the latest conceptual designs for the two campuses. She reported that the VoteYes! Committee has been finalized, and board members have been attending community meetings and events to get the word out about the bond. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact the board.

9. **FY18 Capital Projects Status Update**

Norris Barger presented an update to the capital projects status report. He noted that this is an unaudited update to the FY18 capital outlay status report that was previously submitted. The next financial audit will take place in October. Any changes the auditors recommend at the conclusion will be presented to the board. Mr. Barger reported that the HVAC leak in the BHS graphics department has been repaired and other leaks are being addressed. He noted that several buildings had developed new roof leaks from the recent hurricane, but not as many as he feared. Chairman McCoy directed the superintendent to forward the report to the county manager.

**10. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. McDaris gave the following updates:

- Transylvania County Schools may be considered for a school system grant and inclusion in a pilot program on resiliency and resiliency training. Our district was contacted due to our interest and efforts to address the social-emotional needs of students. Currently, three mountain counties are part of the pilot.
- Commissioner Mike Hawkins and Superintendent McDaris toured the new Cooperative Innovative High School on the Blue Ridge campus in Henderson County on September 16. Dr. McDaris reported that the new building, designed by Clark Nexsen, was incredible.
- Governor Cooper has proclaimed September 2018 to be Attendance Awareness Month in North Carolina. In the proclamation, Governor Cooper reminds us that regular school attendance is essential for grade-level reading, academic achievement, and graduation; and by giving young students the reading skills they need to achieve, we decrease the likelihood of students being retained and support the development of social-emotional skills needed to persist in school.
- Dr. McDaris reported that the latest memorandum of understanding between TCS and the State Board of Education for school connectivity and E-rate services has been approved. The MOU establishes funding parameters and services to be provided to TCS by the SBOE and DPI. It ensures our level of bandwidth connection, firewall services, content filtering, WAN connections, and client network engineering, among other things. The agreement is subject to continued federal and state legislation, the federal E-rate program, and funding from the General Assembly and NCDPI. The MOU was for less than \$90,000 and does not require any funding on our part.
- Some North Carolina school systems are trying to address changes made by state lawmakers to stop paying principals based on how many years of experience they have as educators. Last year, the General Assembly switched from paying principals based on their educational experience to giving them bonuses based on how their students do on exams. But some school districts, such as Wake County, disagree with this system and are using local money to pay principals based on how long they have been educators. "None of the folks in the legislature would choose to go into a trial with a first year attorney if they had a 15-year veteran available," Wake County school board member Bill Fletcher said in an interview. "Experience matters when you're leading a school. Experienced principals do things in a more holistic way than a person who's brand new in a role." The same holds true for school leaders in general, including district leadership.

**11. Important Dates**

Sept. 24	SPECIAL MEETING, 6:30 p.m. BHS Media Center
Sept. 27	NCSBA District 8 Meeting, 4-8 p.m., West Henderson High School
Sept. 28	Early dismissal students, 12:00 noon
Oct. 1	SPECIAL MEETING, 6:30 p.m., RHS Media Center
Oct. 15	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Oct. 17-19	NCSBA Fall Law Conference, Renaissance Asheville Hotel
Oct. 25-26	Teacher workdays
Nov. 6	Election Day
Nov. 9	Early dismissal students, 12:00 noon

- Nov. 12 Veteran's Day holiday
- Nov. 12-14 NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development, Greensboro
- Nov. 19 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
- Nov. 21 Annual leave day - no students
- Nov. 22-23 Thanksgiving holidays

**12. Public Comment**

Scott Russell, BHS teacher and coach, stated that he likes the conceptual options for BHS and RHS/RMS, but has concerns about demolishing the old gym at BHS. He feels that the new construction planned for that area would interfere with the BHS soccer program and asked the board to consider maintaining the old field house for the soccer, cross country, track, golf, and tennis programs.

**13. Other Items**

Chairman McCoy encouraged everyone to attend the September 24 board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Brevard High School for an opportunity to view the architects' latest conceptual designs for both high school campuses.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. WELLBORN, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT**  
**September 17, 2018**

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

Licensed Personnel

Timothy Trantham, Teacher, BHS, effective January 15, 2019

Classified Personnel

Kayla Kappler, Bus Monitor, BMS, effective August 20, 2018

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Melissa Ashe, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective September 18, 2018

Lora McIntosh, Part-Time After-School Program Worker, RES, effective September 10, 2018

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

Licensed Personnel

Barbara Grimm, from Instructional Coach, BES, to Interim Principal, DRS, effective September 14, 2018 through January 18, 2019

Kimberly Moore, from 100% Instructional Coach, TCHES, to 50% Instructional Coach, TCHES, and 50% Interim Instructional Coach, BES, effective September 14, 2018 through January 18, 2019

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

Sarah Borhaug

Tokeya Croft

Cindy Kiser

Deborah Masengill (effective January 1, 2019)

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Kandie Baynard

Ashley Cison

Tabitha Haney

Holly McCormick

Sabrina Pace

Michelle Werner



**RESOLUTION OF THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN SUPPORT  
OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 BOND REFERENDUM TO SUPPORT SCHOOL CAPITAL  
PROJECTS FOR TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Transylvania County Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) has evaluated the condition and capacity of its school facilities and has determined that renovations to existing school facilities are needed to meet the needs of its current and future student population;

**WHEREAS**, as identified in its recent facilities study, the Board has determined that facility improvements are necessary at many existing schools to assure that those facilities remain safe and healthy for students and staff and will continue to support instructional programs that promote academic excellence for all students in Transylvania County;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has evaluated all proposed school projects and established an order of priority intended to balance the needs of students and staff within the fiscal capacity of Transylvania County as determined by the Transylvania County Commissioners (hereinafter “Commissioners”);

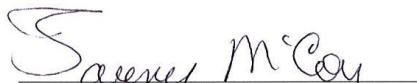
**WHEREAS**, the Board has identified Brevard High School, Rosman Middle School and Rosman High School as the highest priority capital needs at this time with an estimated cost of sixty-eight million dollars (\$68,000,000) for all necessary renovations and new construction;

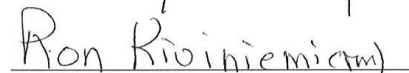
**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on July 23, 2018 and pursuant to its legal authority as established in N.C.G.S. § 115C-501(f), the Commissioners called for a referendum on the proposed \$68,000,000 School Capital Projects Bond (hereinafter “Bond”) to be placed on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot; and

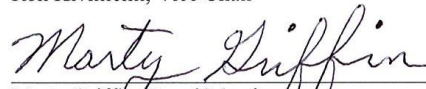
**WHEREAS**, passage of the Bond is critical to the capital needs for Transylvania County Schools and to provide twenty-first century learning environments for the student of Transylvania County.

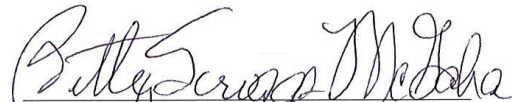
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board hereby supports the passage of the Bond and, in further support thereof, formally requests that the Commissioners adopt a similar resolution supporting the passage of the Bond.

**READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018.**


  
Tawny McCoy, Chair

  
Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair

  
Marty Griffin, Board Member

  
Betty Scruggs McGaha, Board Member

  
Alice Wellborn, Board Member

  
Jeff McDaris, Superintendent, Ex-Officio Secretary