

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
September 19, 2022**

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS (including amendments and rescissions):

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Good News Report
4. Former Students in the Military
5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Personnel Report
6. Technology Purchase
7. Budget Update
8. Superintendent's Update
9. Important Dates
10. Other Items
11. Closed Session

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on September 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Marty Griffin led in a moment of silence and Ron Kiviniemi led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. In addition to approximately 10 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:

Chris Campbell, 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
Gabi Juba, Chief Finance Officer
Jen Heatherly, Public Information Officer
Alan Justice, Director, Facilities, Athletics, Transp.
Chris Whitlock, Director, Technology Services
Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer

1. **Approval of Agenda**
ON A MOTION BY MR. JACKSON, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the meeting agenda for September 19, 2022 was unanimously approved as presented.
2. **Public Comment**
Chairman McCoy reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

Susan Lefler - Our teachers are professionals with professional standards of ethics. They work long days for low pay to see that our children learn. Their job is to teach all children, including those from difficult home situations, or whose parents are working multiple jobs, or those who are hungry or homeless. The challenges for our schools have been especially tough during the pandemic. Yet I attended a number of school board members where parents yelled at school board members, other parents, teachers, and respected members of the community. I heard the words "freedom" and "liberty" a

good deal. As a mom and a grandmom, I'm all for liberty, but members of the community must work together and respect each other's liberties. Children are not automatons or sponges. We need to teach our children how to engage with information, access sources, weigh facts, and learn to think critically. That's what education in a free country is all about. I don't want the governor of another state, or the leader of a group recently founded in another state, to create distrust in our own county's school system. One of the first things an oppressive government does is control the facts and the information available to the population. In 1933 after Hitler became Chancellor, there were bonfires in Germany to burn books considered "un-German." Certain groups of citizens were targeted. The Christian faith was used as a brand to normalize Nazi propaganda. Indoctrination has been defined as the process for teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically. Education is not the same thing as indoctrination. Teaching students to respect each other and listen to other points of view is not indoctrination. Nor is teaching students to think critically. Teaching accurate history and scientific facts is not indoctrination. Indoctrination occurs when a student is afraid to examine an issue or ask questions. Indoctrination occurs when you attempt to put a professional educator in a straightjacket in order to control how they conduct classroom discussions or respond to questions. Our children are our future—the future of our county and the future of our country. James Madison wrote, "The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is our only guardian of true liberty." It's also worth remembering that our Pledge of Allegiance closes with the words "liberty and justice for all."

Jane Mallwitz - I know in other areas of the country, some U.S. History classes are teaching and using materials from the Howard Zinn education program. I don't know if that is being used in Transylvania County, but if it is, I would just ask that people do their own research and look into exactly who Howard Zinn is, his beliefs, and his education system.

Paul Cooper - Lately I have been reading about how our overworked and underpaid teachers need support. I very much agree with that and I know how much you guys agree with that. I have also been reading about how school boards are under attack, being criticized, and having to deal with unruly meetings. So I decided to go back over the last 12 months and see how our school board, in my opinion, has performed. I have to tell you that I think you guys as a school board, and especially as a partisan school board, have shown compassion to each other, cooperation, collaboration and compromise. I think it's time you started seeing a little bit more support. I absolutely support you guys.

Alice Wellborn - There are two school board candidates who are in favor of arming teachers. This reminded me (and many of you were there too) that we had a parent meeting at Brevard High School, maybe in 2018, about school safety. Jeff and Sheriff Mahoney ran the meeting together, and Sheriff Mahoney stated that he was adamantly opposed to arming teachers for reasons of safety. Jeff was also adamantly opposed. Teachers aren't trained for active shooter actions, and it takes a lot of training to be able to handle that kind of thing. But most importantly, the tactical problems that occur when there are several people with guns running around the building is very dangerous to students. And that was Sheriff Mahoney's biggest point. How does law enforcement know who the shooter is if there are people who aren't law enforcement running around with guns? A chaotic situation is made even more unsafe. Teachers are trained to teach, not to apprehend active shooters. We have trained law enforcement and they need to be the ones who handle that.

3. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris thanked Officer Greg Stroup for attending the meeting. He shared the following good news:

Staff District Kickoff 2022-2023

For the first time in several years, Transylvania County Schools held a “Back to School” Staff Kickoff for the 2022-2023 year. The kickoff took place on Tuesday, August 23 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Brevard High School. It included breakfast, games, prizes, and keynote speaker Jennifer Pharr Davis. Bus transportation from RHS to BHS was provided for staff working in the Rosman area.

RHS Teacher Joins NCDPI Science Standards Team

Congratulations to Rosman High School science teacher Sarah Reid for being selected as a member of the Standards Writing Team for the *North Carolina Science Standard Course of Study*. Ms. Reid had one of the strongest applications, according to the Section Chief at DPI. We are very proud of Ms. Reid for her achievement and cannot think of a better representative for Transylvania County Schools.

WLOS “Thank a Teacher”

Congratulations to Transylvania County Schools teachers Nancy Frady and August Hall for being recognized by the WLOS “Thank a Teacher” program.

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. There were no new names on the list.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. DOMOKUR, SECONDED BY MR. JACKSON, the board unanimously approved the personnel report for September 19, 2022 (attached).

6. **Technology Purchase**

Director Chris Whitlock presented a request to purchase 410 Lenovo 100e Gen. 3 Chromebooks and 306 Lenovo 300e 2nd Gen. 2-in-1 Chromebooks to replace current devices that are out of support and security updates at RES, BES, and PFES. Mr. Whitlock noted that devices at TCH are still in support thanks to support from Burlingame and do not need replacement at this time. He reported that the purchase will be made through federal funding received from the FCC. Board approval is required for purchases in excess of \$90,000. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the board unanimously approved the purchase of 716 Chromebooks from Trafera in the amount of \$282,037.78, pending review and approval by the board attorney.

7. **Budget Update**

Finance Officer Gabi Juba presented the budget resolution for the 2022-2023 fiscal year and an expenditure report for FY23. ON A MOTION BY MR. GRIFFIN, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the budget resolution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 was unanimously approved as presented (see attached). Mr. Griffin requested and received a review of carryover funds for capital projects.

8. **Superintendent’s Update**

Dr. McDaris reported that he would be presenting a potential change to local graduation requirements for the board’s consideration in October. He stated that the U.S. has a

massive shortage of skilled workers in computer science. Whether it be on a production line, working in a small business, or in the field of cybersecurity for private or public national defense, we need more young people with computer science skills. After consulting with individuals in the IT and educational field across the state, and in work completed by the CS4NC and AI4NC initiatives, he would like to require that all Transylvania County Schools students earn at least one credit in computer science as part of local graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2025 or 2026. A list of approved opportunities can be provided, including a potential online course that could be completed in the summer. He believes that with 32 credit options now, and less than that required for a TCS or an NC diploma, this new requirement would be feasible.

9. Important Dates

Sept. 22	NCSBA Western Regional Meeting	1:30pm - 5:15pm	AB Tech
Sept. 30	Remote learning day		
Oct. 3	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Oct. 12-14	NCSBA Fall Law Conference		Asheville
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. 14-16	NCSBA Annual Conference for Board Member Development		Greensboro
Nov. 21	REGULAR MEETING	6:30 p.m.	MEC
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break		

10. Other Items

Chairman McCoy reported that the board will schedule a special meeting to discuss pros and cons of consolidation and offer an opportunity for public comment. The board discussed potential dates and reached consensus agreement on October 11, 2022 (location to be determined). Mr. Jackson requested that the meeting also include a public debate regarding what to do about the bond and/or alternatives. Mr. Kiviniemi disagreed, saying that if the board chooses to do that, it should be a separate meeting. Mrs. Domokur and Dr. McDaris agreed that it would be too confusing to combine the two issues. Mr. Griffin gave a reminder that the only school bond ever defeated in this county was for high school consolidation. There was general consensus for the October 11 meeting to focus on consolidation only. Mr. Jackson requested that the meeting be heavily promoted.

11. 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) under subsection (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed by or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the board and to discuss the lawsuit of *John Doe, by and through guardian ad litem, Jami Reese, v. Transylvania County Board of Education*, 22 CVS 1168. Chairman McCoy announced that action may be taken after the closed session. Following a brief recess, the board

entered closed session at approximately 7:25 p.m. The following board members were present: Tawny McCoy, Chair; Ron Kiviniemi, Vice Chair; Courtney Domokur, Marty Griffin, and Kimsey Jackson. Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Dr. Brian Weaver, Assistant Superintendent; and Board Attorney Chris Campbell were also present. At approximately 9:00 p.m., ON A MOTION MADE BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. KIVINIEMI, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the board took the following action:

If the County Commissioners reject the School Board's August 2nd request regarding moving forward with Option #1, we authorize the Superintendent to do the following:

- 1) *Work with the Transylvania County Manager to designate an advisory group at County expense to include a retired superintendent, a retired county manager, and an architect or contractor or engineer with significant school construction experience in North Carolina, to work with the Transylvania County Manager and the Transylvania County Superintendent to

 - a) *Identify all sources of funding for school capital projects and current balances for each and every source of funds; and*
 - b) *Identify "Major School Facility Projects" to be defined as school facility projects (i.e., repair, renovation, new construction) in excess of \$100,000 with consideration given to the annual funding needed for other recurring capital needs such as gymnasium floors, athletic equipment, furniture, computers, etc.**
- 2) *The advisory group will develop "options" for addressing major school facility projects with the funding available without ranking the options.*
- 3) *The options will be presented in a joint meeting of the two boards.*
- 4) *As provided by existing law, final decisions on which major school facility projects to be addressed based on funding available will be made by the Board of Education and whether to fund those projects based on the School Board's request will be made by the County Commissioners.*
- 5) *The advisory group shall report back to the two boards no later than February 2023.*

The motion passed 4:1 with MR. GRIFFIN VOTING AGAINST.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MR. KIVINIEMI, SECONDED BY MRS. DOMOKUR, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
September 19, 2022**

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

Licensed Personnel

Jeffrey Bailey, Principal, BMS, effective October 31, 2022
Christy Bryson, Teacher, RMS, effective September 30, 2022
Courtney Gibson, Teacher, BES, effective September 30, 2022

Classified Personnel

Deborah English, Bus Driver, RMS & RHS, effective December 31, 2022
Deborah Kever, Office Support, BMS, effective December 31, 2022
Lisa McDaris, Office Support, TCH, effective September 30, 2022
Mary Grace Morrow-Johnson, Teacher Assistant, PFES, effective August 25, 2022
Randy Salter, Custodian, BMS, effective December 31, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Jessica Fisher, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective August 29, 2022
Nattlye Mintz, Teacher Assistant, BES, effective October 3, 2022
Harell Mitchell, Teacher Assistant, BHS, effective August 26, 2022
Ashlyn Orr, Office Support, TCH, effective October 1, 2022
Deborah Schardt, Bus Monitor, BES, effective September 12, 2022

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

Licensed Personnel

Lora McIntosh, from Teacher Assistant, RES, to Teacher, TCH, effective August 19, 2022
Christie Sentell, from Teacher, BMS, to Teacher, RMS, effective October 17, 2022

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

Hannah Dickson
Madera Duckett
Sarah Hutchens
Thomas Loveland
Daniel Mehdi

Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Latisha Galloway
Taylor Orr

**Transylvania County Schools
Budget Resolution
For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Section I. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the State Public School Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

<u>Instructional</u>	
Regular	\$ 17,202,338
Special	3,105,179
Alternative	767,578
School Leadership	1,492,391
School-based Support	1,225,763
<u>Support</u>	
Support and Development	284,283
Special Population Support and Development	777
Technology Support	3,292
Operational	1,661,049
Financial and Human Resource	221,681
Policy, Leadership, and Public Relations	270,461
Child Nutrition	98,761
	\$ 26,333,554
Total State Public School Fund Appropriation	\$ 26,333,554

Section II. The following revenues are estimated to be available to the State Public School Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023:

State Funds	\$ 26,333,554
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Section III. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Local Current Expense Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

<u>Instructional</u>	
Regular	\$ 4,383,878
Special	296,071
Alternative	84,541
School Leadership	1,272,031
Co-curricular	357,208
School-based Support	1,095,690

Transylvania County Schools
Budget Resolution
For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023

Support

Support and Development	450,538
Special Population Support and Development	65,424
Technology Support	111,021
Operational	2,852,945
Financial and Human Resource	573,495
Accountability	8,038
Policy, Leadership, and Public Relations	347,757
Community Services	6,189
Child Nutrition	2,876
Payments To Other Governmental Units	<u>1,412,171</u>
Total Local Current Expense Fund Appropriation	\$ 13,319,872

Section IV. The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Local Current Expense Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Local Funds	\$ 13,196,152
Fund Balance Appropriated	<u>123,720</u>
Total Local Current Expense Fund Revenue	\$ 13,319,872

Section V. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Federal Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Instructional

Regular	\$ 4,255,388
Special	868,267
Alternative	663,771
School Leadership	1,181
School-based Support	78,166

Support

Special Population Support and Development	74,108
Alternative Support and Development	-
Operational	2,425,473
Child Nutrition	30,186
Payments to Other Governmental Units	192,802
Unbudgeted Federal Grants	<u>549</u>
Total Federal Grants Fund Appropriation	\$ 8,589,890

Transylvania County Schools
Budget Resolution
For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023

Section VI. The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Federal Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Federal Funds	\$	8,589,890
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Section VII. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Instructional

Regular	\$	115,876
Co-curricular		91,395
School-based Support		537,701

Support

Operational		3,567,848
Policy, Leadership, and Public Relations		3,000
Child Nutrition	\$	<u>49,500</u>
Total Capital Outlay Fund Appropriation	\$	4,365,320

Section VIII. The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023:

State Funds	\$	200,000
Local Funds		2,689,071
Fund Balance Appropriated		<u>1,476,249</u>
Total Capital Outlay Fund Revenues	\$	4,365,320

Section IX. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Child Nutrition Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Child Nutrition	\$	<u>2,030,178</u>
Total Child Nutrition Fund Appropriation	\$	2,030,178

Section X. The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Child Nutrition Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

State Funds	\$	41,109
Federal Funds	\$	1,391,714
Local Funds		<u>597,355</u>
Total Child Nutrition Fund Revenue	\$	2,030,178

**Transylvania County Schools
Budget Resolution
For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023**

Section XI. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Restricted Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

Instructional

Regular	\$ 2,075
Special	281,183
Alternative	610,155
School-based Support	107,351

Support

Technology Support	-
Special Population Support and Development	30,211
Technology Support	-
Operational	-
Community Services	-
Total Restricted Grants Fund Appropriation	\$ 1,030,975

Section XII. The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Restricted Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023:

State Funds	\$ 566,069
Federal Funds	456,989
Local Funds	5,842
Fund Balance Appropriated	2,075
Total Restricted Grants Fund Revenue	\$ 1,030,975

**Transylvania County Schools
Budget Resolution
For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023**

Section XIII. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to transfer appropriations within a fund under the following conditions

A. Amounts transferred do not exceed a cumulative total of plus or minus ten percent (10%) between functions.

Any such transfer shall be reported to the Board at its next regular meeting and recorded in the minutes.

Section XIV. Copies of the Budget Resolution shall be furnished immediately to the Superintendent and Finance Officer for direction in carrying out their duties.

READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2022 on motion of
Marty Griffin, seconded by Ron Kiviniemi and carried.

Tarhy McCoy
Tarhy McCoy, Chairman
Dr. Jeff McFaris
Dr. Jeff McFaris, Secretary