

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 5, 2012**

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. FY13 Budget
7. Important Dates
8. Public Comment
9. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on March 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; Sue Fox; Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit were present. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Greg Stroup, School Resource Officer; Evan McDowell, DRS student representative; Eric Crews, *Transylvania Times*; and Leigh Kelley, *Hendersonville Times-News*. Mr. Whitmire led a moment of silent prayer and Mrs. Petit led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the meeting agenda for March 5, 2012 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following good news items:

IMPROVING LITERACY AT DRS

Davidson River School has been working diligently with partners from Western Carolina University to improve literacy at the school, utilizing the Rtl model and tracking the success of interventions via AIMSweb data benchmarking tools. They have also been working with the Rtl group from WCU on a research project involving student engagement and literacy. They hope the findings from the research will help provide behavior intervention strategies to assist DRS students with not only literacy, but also engagement in school and goal setting for success.

CONSERVATION CONTEST WINNERS

The following TCS students were winners in the Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation District Contest, "Wetlands are Wonderful," for 2011-2012:

Third Grade Poster

Marli Cohen, BES - 1st Place
 Sarah Cudd, PFES - 2nd Place
 Chayse Chandler, BES - 3rd Place
 Veronica Marie Bond, PFES - Honorable Mention

Fourth Grade Poster

Brooklyn Rising, PFES - 1st Place
 Skylar Harrison, RES - 2nd Place
 Mary Jacques, PFES - 3rd Place
 Skylar Moore, PFES - Honorable Mention

Fifth Grade Poster

Carter McCracken, PFES - 1st Place
 Cray McCall, TCH - 2nd Place
 Bella Szyber, PFES - 3rd Place
 Bain Brown, PFES, Honorable Mention

Sixth Grade Poster

Abby Buchanan, RMS - 1st Place
 Jonathan Ray, RMS - 2nd Place
 Korinne Hawk, RMS - 3rd Place (Tie)
 Kohner Miller, RMS - 3rd Place (Tie)
 Madison Brinkley, RMS - Honorable Mention (Tie)
 Isaiah Dodson, RMS - Honorable Mention (Tie)

Sixth Grade Essay

Meredith Maiken, RMS - 1st Place
 Blake Owen, RMS - 2nd Place
 Amber Zogg, RMS - 3rd Place

7th and 8th Grade Speech

Allie Whitmire, RMS - 7th Grade 1st Place
 Haley Parker, RMS - 8th Grade 1st Place

TCS STUDENTS WIN FIRST PLACE AT WRSAS

Brevard High School students Erika Williams, Kris Petterson, and Kaitlin McCreery won first place honors at the Western Region Student Academy of Science (WRSAS) competition on February 18, and will advance to the state competition in March. Kaitlin presented her research on the investigation of the germination of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* zoospores at low cell densities. Erika and Kris presented their work on the isolation, identification and characterization of endophytes from Cherokee medicinal plants. The North Carolina Academy of Science (NCSAS) seeks to foster student interest in science through competitions at the district and state levels. Competitors present their completed research projects, which require both a paper and an oral presentation, and are provided an opportunity for personal feedback from research scientists in their field. Jennifer Williams is the teacher/advisor.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

The week of March 4-10, 2012 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in North Carolina. Students across the state are being educated about the hazards of severe

thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, and floods. Schools will be performing tornado drills and other activities to practice safety procedures in the event of severe weather.

ON TO THE STATE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Matthew Sharpsteen, the BMS National Geographic Bee champion, has qualified via a written test for the state competition in Charlotte. Only 100 students from across the state qualified for this honor. The state bee will be held on March 30, 2012 at UNC-Charlotte. One winner from each state will advance to the national competition in Washington, DC. Dr. Leah Hammond is the teacher/advisor.

PUBLISHED STUDENT AUTHORS AT PFES

Mrs. Foster's and Mrs. Hooper's second grade class at Pisgah Forest Elementary School has published a book entitled, *When I Grow Up*, a class publication featuring stories about future careers. Students composed short narratives along with illustrations describing their goals for the future. They did research to learn how they would dress, what they would do, and how they would impact the world. Parents were invited to a publishing party and book reading on February 23. *When I Grow Up* was published through <http://www.studenttreasures.com/>.

NC QUEST GRANT

Transylvania County Schools received notification that the NC QUEST grant has been renewed for another year.

"THANKS TO TEACHERS" WINNER

Andy VonCanon, agriculture teacher at BHS, was recently featured on WLOS-TV as a "Thanks to Teachers" winner.

KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS AT MEC

After 55 years, the kitchen area in the Morris Education Center is getting a much needed facelift with old carpet removal, floor refinishing, cabinets and countertops. Dr. McDaris reported that the renovation was made possible through unused funds from the employee flexible benefits account. No taxpayer money was used for the project. Thanks go to Norris Barger and the Plant Operations staff for the installation.

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. Additional names will be included as they are received.

5. Consent Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the minutes from the February 6, February 8, February 9, and February 20, 2012 meetings and the personnel report for March 5, 2012 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

Chairman Whitmire invited Evan McDowell, Davidson River School student representative, to share any questions or concerns. Mr. McDowell reported that things are going well at his school.

6. FY13 Budget

Norris Barger presented the latest budget information and drafts for discussion. He reviewed one change to the list of FY13 anticipated budget needs, an \$85,436 drop in

ADM funding. Mr. Barger reported that he and Dr. McDaris believe this reduction can be absorbed through cost-saving measures similar to last year; therefore, the reduction would have no net effect on the necessary increase in county appropriation:

DRAFT FY13 Anticipated Budget Needs as of 2/29/12		FY13
1.	Retirement increase (13.12% to 14.31%)	\$48,820
2.	Health insurance increase *\$4,929 to \$5,192)	21,537
3.	EduJobs funding ends (14.46 teachers)	770,030
4.	LEA adjustment (negative reserve)	178,563
5.	ADM drop from 3,570 to 3,555	85,436
6.	Absorb ADM drop	(85,436)
7.	State budget cuts	?
8.	Appropriated fund balance	(770,030)
	Total	\$248,920
	Necessary increase in county appropriation	2.5%

Mr. Barger presented the first look at FY13 capital outlay board priorities. Items on the list were categorized in order of importance as either 1) annual “must-haves”; 2) repairs/improvements that would prevent future expense or repair; 3) items that have been asked for repeatedly in the past; 4) new items or items that would not cause further harm if not completed; or 5) items that would improve the appearance of a school. Mr. Barger reported that the complete list of items could be done if the commissioners were to restore capital outlay funding to the level of four years ago, plus we use some lottery money (approximately \$275,000) and receive \$700,000 in donations to turf the field at Brevard Memorial Stadium. He estimated that \$1.53 million would cover everything except the football field. Mr. Barger reported that the amount of capital outlay funding that was received last year (\$746,000) would only cover through item 19 on the list, not including furniture, equipment, or computers.

The Board discussed the following items:

- BHS auditorium electrical and roof repair is an urgent safety issue.
- The Child Nutrition software package is still pending. Installation was originally budgeted for the current year, but is now on hold due to problems being experienced in other school systems that have already implemented the software.
- A new staff car is needed to transport Occupational Course of Study students at RHS. The current car no longer runs.
- A study is underway on the proposed switch of parent and bus drop-offs at BMS. Options and costs estimates will be presented in April.
- The entrance road to Plant Operations/Bus Garage needs resurfacing. Repairs are budgeted for FY13 and FY14. Recent patchwork near the tennis court area is already crumbling away.
- Brick repair on the high school edge of the RHMS auditorium roof will be done this summer.
- Mr. Barger reported that the Transportation Department would be willing to postpone a replacement activity bus in order to get a bus lift. Dr. McDaris reported that bus inspections are backbreaking work without a lift.
- Mr. Whitmire requested that speed bumps at TCHES be moved higher on the list.

- Mrs. Fox suggested moving the card key systems for exterior doors below carpeting at TCHES and RHS. Mr. Barger stated that his preference would be to introduce the card key system at TCHES in FY13, since it is the smallest school and they are getting a camera system.
- Mr. Barger reported that \$58,000 is budgeted in FY13 and \$54,000 in FY14 for the BHS baseball/softball concession stand, restrooms, and fencing. It is hoped that forthcoming donations of labor and materials will allow the project to be completed faster. Mr. Whitmire reported that the Board's recent contribution toward the BHS softball fence may have helped motivate a community donation of \$5,000 toward the project.
- Mrs. Petit expressed hope that the Board could fund at least one of the requested extensions (curbing/sidewalk or canopy) at BES. Mr. Barger reported that if a choice has to be made, the principal would prefer the curbing/sidewalk extension to help alleviate muddy conditions between the building and sidewalk.

The capital outlay priority list will be further refined at future meetings. Members noted that the list of needs contains absolutely no "fluff." Even items that are not safety issues have been asked for repeatedly. They expressed pride in how impressively the schools are being maintained with the limited resources available. Mr. Barger agreed, noting that the TCS custodial budget is approximately one-third the amount of other school systems our size.

9. Important Dates

Mar 12	Teacher Workday
Mar. 12-13	NCSBA School Law Academy, Raleigh
Mar. 19	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Mar. 27	Kindergarten Registration, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., All Elementary Schools
Apr. 2	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 3	NCSBA Webinar: Teacher Tenure & Renewal Contracts
Apr. 6	Holiday
Apr. 9-13	Spring Break
Apr. 19	Superintendent's Communication Council, 3:45 p.m., MEC
Apr. 21-23	NSBA Annual Conference, Boston
Apr. 23	Parent Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Apr. 23	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 24	Student Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Apr. 25	Early Dismissal
May 1	NCSBA Webinar: Legal Issues at Graduation
May 1	BHS Senior Project Presentations, 3:30 p.m., BHS
May 7	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
May 8	RHS Senior Project Presentations, 3:30 p.m., RHS
May 8	TCAE "Friends of Education" Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 10	Transylvania Scholars' Recognition Evening, 5:30 p.m., BHS
May 15	DRS Senior Projects, 3:30 p.m., DRS
May 21	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

Dr. McDaris reported that the dates and times for the 2012 graduation ceremonies have been set. Brevard High School's graduation will take place on Friday, May 25, at 6:00 p.m. Rosman High School's graduation will be held on Saturday, May 26, at 4:00 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held at Brevard Music Center.

Dr. McDaris noted that TCS had its highest ever first semester Algebra I scores this year. He attributed this in part to the fact that students were able to complete first semester exams before Christmas break thanks to the calendar waiver.

Dr. McDaris reported that in the unlikely event that TCS misses another day this year for snow, the make-up day will be scheduled for the Saturday of the week in which the day is missed, provided the missed day occurs Monday through Thursday.

Mrs. Fox requested information on the NCSBA spring district meeting schedule. Mr. Whitmire requested an update on board members' CEU hours for 2011-2012.

10. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

11. **Other Items**

Mr. Whitmire asked student Evan McDowell for any final thoughts. Mr. McDowell stated that the budget discussion had been eye-opening.

Board members extended best wishes to Mr. Whitmire in the race for the 113th District House of Representatives seat.

Dr. McDaris informed the Board about a short survey on school engagement. Board members had no objection to the survey, which is a component of the NC QUEST grant.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
March 5, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Chad Hamby, Assistant Principal, BHS, effective February 22, 2012

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Kathy Haehnel, Interim Assistant Principal, BHS, effective March 5, 2012 through May 31, 2012

Classified Personnel

Tony Lance, Custodian, BHS, effective March 15, 2012

Sarah Malmin, Interim Teacher Assistant, BES, effective March 6, 2012 for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Laura Elliott, Teacher, BMS, GCBDB personal leave effective for the 2012-2013 school year

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None