

**Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
March 19, 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 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morris Education Center. Chris Whitmire, Chair; Tawny McCoy, Vice Chair; and Cindy Petit were present. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; Norris Barger, Director of Business Services; Scott Thomas, School Resource Officer; Eric Crews, *Transylvania Times*; and approximately six guests. 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. He reported that Mrs. Fox was out of town and that Mrs. Norman had a scheduling conflict.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for March 19, 2012 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Leslie Chepenik, reported that the Transylvania Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be hosting a forum in support of public education on April 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brevard High School auditorium. The forum, entitled "The Future of Education in Transylvania County," is intended to help raise public awareness of issues affecting our schools. State Superintendent June Atkinson, Dr. Jeff McDaris, TCAE President Meredith Licht and others are slated to speak at the event. Mrs. Chepenik invited everyone to attend the forum.

3. Good News Report

Dr. McDaris reported the following good news items:

DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP IN PRACTICE

Brevard High School Principal, Jeremy Gibbs, has been accepted into the 2012-2013 Distinguished Leadership in Practice (DLP) program. The DLP program is sponsored by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association.

RHS WRESTLERS PLACE AT STATE

Two wrestlers from Rosman High School placed highly in the State Wrestling Tournament. T. James Henderson took 2nd place in the Class 1A, 171 pound category. Samuel Mullenax finished in 4th place in the Class 1A, 185 pound category.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REBOUND PROGRAM AT FREE REIN

The Free Rein Center of Brevard is a non-profit therapeutic horseback riding program for handicapped and disadvantaged youth in the county. For the past seven years, the staff at Free Rein has brought Davidson River School's middle school Rebound class to their stables for self-esteem and skill building activities that are centered on and around horses. Students gain confidence, knowledge and experience as they become groomers then "leaders" to the horses. Students develop relationships not only with the horses, but also with the volunteers with whom they are paired for the sessions. This is by far one of the favorite activities of anyone who has ever spent time in Rebound. The cost of the program is over \$3,000 for the 8-10 students who participate, all of which is raised by the Free Rein staff through grants, private donations and contributions from local churches. We are very thankful to the Free Rein staff for their support of our students.

DRS THANKS PISGAH FOREST ROTARY CLUB AND VISION BREVARD

This spring, Davidson River School students took advantage of opportunities to positively impact community perceptions. Twenty-five members of the 2012 Vision Brevard/Transylvania Leadership Class visited the school for a presentation by DRS students. Seniors Lakota Merrill, Josh Schneider and Stephanie Godlove shared their personal stories of how they came to join the "DRS family" and program specifics. The students did an outstanding job of highlighting academic and enrichment programs unique to DRS, including the Taiko drumming group.

On March 14, DRS students and staff strengthened their partnership with the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club at a breakfast meeting at Glen Cannon Country Club. Students Stephanie Godlove and Josh Schneider presented information about DRS programs including Taiko. Later, they were presented with a \$300 check and raffle proceeds for the Taiko program. Teacher Marilyn Edie, having completed a summer fellowship program in Thailand, presented the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club with Rotary Club flags from their Asian partners.

SHOOTING TEAMS IN REGIONAL COMPETITION

On March 17, the shooting teams from Brevard High School and Rosman High School participated in the Regional Shooting Competition in Polk County. Both teams performed very well in both test and performance categories.

NCAEOP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Eight office support professionals from TCS attended the NC Association of Educational Office Professionals (NCAEOP) Annual Conference on March 14-16 in Greensboro, NC. Stacey Pedersen, DRS, received her *Advanced Associate III Certificate* during the Professional Standards Program Awards Luncheon on March 16. DRS Principal Donna Wilde and Dr. Jeff McDaris attended the luncheon, and Dr. McDaris joined the group for the Administrators' Banquet later that evening. Marinda Parris, Jenny Hunter, Lisa Osteen, Julie Roberts, Jill Barger, Deana Dixon, Stacey Pedersen, and Leigh Anne McJunkin attended the conference.

Board members commended the new design of the TCS website.

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. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the minutes from the March 5, 2012 meeting and the personnel report for March 19, 2012 (see attached) were unanimously approved.

6. **FY13 Budget**

Norris Barger presented the latest budget information and drafts for discussion. There were no significant changes to the list of FY13 anticipated budget needs. He reported that planning allotments for 2012-2013 had come in, and the draft budget proposes to absorb the anticipated ADM decrease. He expects that the state will not make many changes for FY13 since they adopted a biennial budget last year. Mrs. McCoy noted that without an increase in funding, TCS will need to find another revenue source to cover the approximately \$770,000 (14 teacher positions) currently funded by the expiring EduJobs money. Mr. Whitmire reviewed the purpose and importance of fund balance. Mr. Barger gave a brief update on the federal government's recent budget deal and noted the very real possibility of significant federal cuts in the next year.

Mr. Barger gave an update on the BHS auditorium roof. A new roof coating could address the leak problems and provide a 10-15 year warranty. A new coating would also be less expensive than a complete roof replacement, thus freeing up more money that could go toward plaster repair and electrical system improvements.

Mrs. McCoy asked about the parent/bus drop-off at BMS. Mr. Barger stated that he expects to have a report with cost estimates for each option by the next meeting. He predicted that switching the parent and bus drop-offs would cut wait time in half and significantly reduce traffic congestion on the road.

The Board examined each capital outlay item currently designated as a 3 or 4 on the board priority list and repositioned some items as higher or lower on the list. Mr. Barger will present a revised priority list at the next meeting for further review.

Mr. Whitmire gave an update on the Transylvania Sports and Recreation Foundation's fundraising efforts. The group's top priority is providing turf for the Brevard High School Memorial Stadium.

7. **Important Dates**

Mar. 27	Kindergarten Registration, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., All Elementary Schools
Apr. 2	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
Apr. 3	All-County Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m., BHS
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
May 23	Early Dismissal
May 23	DRS Graduation, 10:00 a.m., DRS
May 25	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
May 26	RHS Graduation, 4:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center

Dr. McDaris remarked that having the high school graduation ceremonies during Memorial Day weekend should be a boost for the local economy. He predicted that many out-of-towners who come to attend graduation would also attend the White Squirrel Festival and other area events. Chairman Whitmire expressed thanks that TCS had fought so hard on the calendar waiver issue, which has allowed our students to finish the school year earlier than many other systems.

Mrs. McCoy asked about dates for NCSBA spring district meetings. Ms. Hunter reported that no district meetings have been posted on the NCSBA calendar of events, which probably indicates that no spring meetings are being planned.

8. **Public Comment**

Chairman Whitmire recognized Board of Commissioner candidate Jackie Whitmire and Commissioner Larry Chapman who were in attendance.

Larry Chapman expressed concerns about what he sees as a potentially dangerous situation involving school buses traveling on Wilson Drive in the afternoons. He reported that some elderly residents who live on Wilson Drive feel unsafe walking on the road at the same times as the buses because road space is limited due to vehicles being parked along the curbs. He reported that the buses are not carrying children at that time of day and appear to be using Wilson as a shortcut between Main Street and Gallimore Road. He asked Dr. McDaris to look into changing the route if possible. He noted that he had made a similar request to Dr. Lyda a few years ago. Dr. McDaris stated that he would look into the matter.

Lee McMinn expressed concerns about the possibility of Brevard Academy sending buses to pick up out-of-county students, but not students who live in district. Dr. McDaris explained that Transylvania County Schools and Brevard Academy are two separate school systems, and TCS does not have any authority over the operations of the charter school. Dr. McDaris stated that he has concerns about the county being asked to fund two school systems, and would hope that any bus system being implemented by the charter school would follow the same laws and safety regulations as TCS. He gave as an example that TCS cannot use white activity buses to pick up or drop off students due to the white buses' lack of stop arms. Mr. Chapman reported that no request from the Academy for transportation services has come before the Board of Commissioners to date. Mr. McMinn said that he is turned off by the idea of the charter school bringing in students from outside the county. He feels that charter schools should be "funded for what they do and not for what they don't do."

Mr. McMinn asked about the school system's five-year funding average versus its ten-year funding average. Chairman Whitmire reported that the TCS ten-year average is lower than the five-year average. He explained that the trend over recent years has been for the state to reward low-performing districts with additional funding while high-performing districts like Transylvania receive less and less money each year. He stated that this is an equity issue that urgently needs to be addressed at the legislative level.

Mr. McMinn complimented the Taiko student drum corps from Davidson River School. He saw the group perform recently and stated that he was “blown away” by the quality of their performance.

9. Other Items

Dr. McDaris reported that a few months ago the Board was approached about transferring title of the Cathey’s Creek Community Center property from the Board of Education to the Community Center Association. The Board had indicated that it has no need for the property and would be willing to transfer ownership. Mr. Barger recommended that the Board file a quit claim deed for the property. As a first step in the process, he presented a resolution prepared by the Board attorney that would offer the property to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners. If the County refuses the property, it could then be offered to the Community Center and advertised for upset bids. There was considerable discussion regarding whether the document should be revised to include a clause stating that in the event the property ceases to be used as a community center, ownership of the property would revert to the Board of Education. Mr. Barger explained that this condition would be laid out in the terms of the quit claim deed. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the resolution offering certain real property to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners was unanimously approved (see attached).

Dr. McDaris reported that Comporium of Brevard may offer televised coverage of public meetings on its local access cable channel. He asked board members to think about whether they would want to take advantage of the offer to have televised meetings.

Dr. McDaris reported that he had learned late last week that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) wants to realign Brevard High School from a 2A classification to a split 2A/3A classification. He reported that this last minute change had come about during an NCHSAA realignment meeting in Chapel Hill at which certain other school districts had complained about their conference assignments. As Transylvania County was not present at the meeting and could not offer an objection, Brevard was arbitrarily and without notice reclassified in an effort to pacify the complaining districts. Dr. McDaris stated that he is very upset by the decision and plans to vigorously protest the realignment. He stated that having Brevard play in the 3A class would be “throwing our students under the bus” by forcing them to play much larger schools and teams with more size and depth. He pointed out that Brevard’s enrollment has dropped to the point that it is now actually only 30-40 students away from being classified as a 1A school.

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
March 19, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Ginger Owens Long, School Counselor, BMS, effective July 1, 2012
Gaynelle Patterson, Teacher, RMS, effective June 5, 2012

Classified Personnel

Mary Gunn, Media Assistant, BHS, effective June 30, 2012
George Spinks, Plumber, Plant Operations, effective April 30, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Terry Holt, School Social Worker, TCS, effective March 20, 2012
Linda Mallory, Teacher, TCS, effective August 6, 2012

Classified Personnel

Pecolia Edwards, Temporary Part-Time Office Support Professional, MEC, effective March 20, 2012

- 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

Clare Desmelik, Teacher, BHS, GCBDB Family Leave, effective November 1, 2012, through January 2, 2013

Classified Personnel

None

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

Substitute Teachers

None

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

None

**RESOLUTION OFFERING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Board of Education (the "Board") is authorized by General Statutes §115C-36 and §115C-517 to acquire real property for sites for school houses and other school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board is the title owner of certain real property located at 131 Island Ford Road, Brevard, NC, Tax ID Number 8574-29-5185-000, containing two (2) acres ("Property");

WHEREAS, the Board is of the opinion that the real property is no longer suitable and/or unnecessary for public school purposes and wishes to dispose of the property;

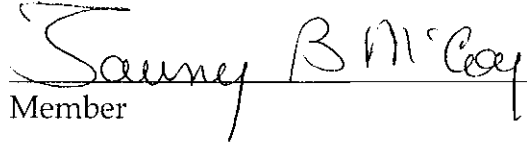
WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-518(a) provides that the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") shall be afforded the first opportunity to obtain the property; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to comply with the statutory requirements prior to disposing of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Board hereby is of the opinion that the Property referenced above is unnecessary, no longer suitable, or undesirable for public school purposes.
2. That the Board offers to the Commissioners the Property prior to affording an opportunity to any other person or entity.
3. That the Board authorizes and directs the Superintendent to submit the Board's Offer to the Chairman of the Commissioners in a manner consistent with Board Policy.
4. That, if the Commissioners do not wish to own the Property, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to dispose of the Property in accordance with the law.
5. That this Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and shall remain effective to and including 30 days from the date of execution.

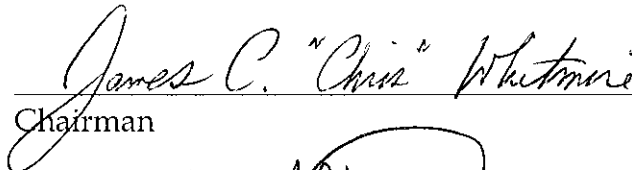
I MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION:

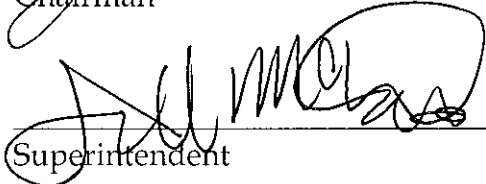

Member

SECONDED BY:


Member

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 19TH DAY OF March 2012.


Chairman


Superintendent