

Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
April 23, 2012

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Presentation by TIME Honors Science Winners
4. Good News Report
5. Former Students in the Military
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Minutes
 - B. Personnel Report
7. Report on Proposed Switch of Bus/Parent Drop-off at BMS
8. FY13 Budget
9. Cathey's Creek Community Center
10. Important Dates
11. Public Comment
12. Other Items

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session on April 23, 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; Dr. Scott Elliott, Director of 9-12 Curriculum & Instruction; Jeremy Gibbs, BHS Principal; April Mackey, School Resource Officer; Jeremiah Reed, *Transylvania Times*; Than Axtell, *Hendersonville Times-News*; and approximately 10 guests. Mrs. McCoy led a moment of silent prayer and Mr. Whitmire led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Whitmire welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION BY MRS. FOX, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the meeting agenda for April 23, 2012 was approved as presented.

2. Public Comment

Katrina Mooney, parent, requested that a trespass order be lifted so that she could attend the Brevard High School graduation ceremony. She stated that she had been banned last fall from the BHS campus following an incident involving her son, and as a consequence, has missed attending her child's activities during this, his senior year. Chairman Whitmire informed Mrs. Mooney that she should discuss this matter with the superintendent if she has not already done so.

Marty Griffin, retired educator, expressed concern about the General Assembly's decision to remove funding for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program. He believes that the Teaching Fellows Program is a very valuable and worthwhile program, and urged the Board to adopt a resolution in support of re-establishing the program.

3. Presentation by TIME Honors Science Winners

Brevard High School TIME science students Sarah Johnson, Kaitlin McCreery, Erika Williams, Kris Petterson, and Meredith Tooley, winners in the NC Student Academy of

Science Competition and the NC State Science and Engineering Fair, presented reports on their projects, research methodologies and findings. They described how their research may someday be used to help identify and prevent diseases in certain species. They and their teacher, Jennifer Williams, expressed thanks to Dr. Kent Wilcox, Mary Arnaudin, and other community volunteers who mentored them and provided support. They also presented a copy of the 2011 TIME class research book to the Board. The TIME science program is funded by a grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. The students will go on to participate in national and international science competitions later this year.

4. **Good News Report**

Dr. McDaris reported the following good news items:

SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

Norris Barger recently received designation from the State Superintendent as a 2012 School Business Management Academy Graduate as a North Carolina Association of School Business Officials (NCASBO) Certified School Business Director.

Congratulations go to Mr. Barger for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the improvement of education in the area of school finance.

WIA YOUTH PROGRAM AUDIT

In compliance with federal regulations, the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board is required to monitor all agencies receiving funding under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). In compliance with this requirement, An Equal Opportunity (EO) review was conducted on February 28, 2012. The report found Transylvania County Schools to be in compliance with the Workforce Investment Act, the WIA regulations and the terms of the WIA contract concerning EO.

RMS CAREER CLUB

Seventeen members of the Rosman Middle School Career Club went to Rutherfordton-Spindale Middle School on April 21, 2012, for Career Club Competitions. Tammy Hall is the teacher/advisor. The following students took top places:

Christen Owen - 1st Place, Career Brochure
 Jacob Myers - 1st Place, Career Multimedia
 Christen Owen & Heidi Hall - 2nd Place, Decision Making
 Katlyn Conner - 2nd Place, Excellence in Keyboarding
 Madison Brinkley & Amber Zogg - 2nd Place, Problem Solving
 Josie Bracken - 3rd Place, Computer Theme Sign
 Amanda Rumble - 3rd Place, Creed
 Blake Owen & Weston Murr - 3rd Place, Problem Solving

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. Two new names, Whitney Galloway and Josh Riddle, have been added to the list. Additional names will be included as they are received.

6. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the minutes from the April 2, 2012 meeting and the personnel report for April 23, 2012 (attached) were unanimously approved.

7. **Report on Proposed Switch of Bus/Parent Drop-off at BMS**

Norris Barger presented the engineer's plans for modifying the bus and parent traffic pattern at Brevard Middle School. The Board reviewed a first draft schematic, revisions to the plan, and preliminary cost estimates. The projected overall cost is approximately \$171,000 and the budget is approximately \$140,000. Mr. Barger feels that by reducing the size of a traffic island, which would eliminate some paving costs and reduce the size of a retaining wall, the project could come in within budget. All were in agreement that the modifications would greatly improve traffic flow at BMS during peak morning and afternoon times and also improve student safety. Mr. Barger indicated that he would have an updated plan for the next meeting.

8. **FY13 Budget**

Norris Barger presented the latest budget information and drafts. There were no substantive changes to the budgets. Dr. McDaris reported that he would be meeting with the county manager on April 24, after which the school board and county commissioners would begin their 2/2 meetings.

Mr. Barger reported there has been talk in the state legislature about a possible pay raise for teachers. If the pay increase should occur, the local current expense budget request and federal budget would have to be increased. Mr. Barger emphasized that the pay raise is just a proposal at this time.

Mrs. McCoy asked everyone to keep in mind that the school board will be putting its fund balance to heavy use this year in order to fill holes in funding.

Mr. Whitmire gave a report from a recent function at which the current state funding system was sharply criticized as "inverted and backward" in the way that it disproportionately funnels money to low-performing school systems and strips funding from high-performing systems like Transylvania. Mr. Whitmire stated that state lawmakers need to listen to school superintendents and other knowledgeable stakeholders when making decisions that affect public education. He said that change needs to come from those who are experts in education, not those who think they are experts in education.

Mr. Barger gave an update on the oil tank repairs at RHS. The good news is that the tank does not need to be replaced. Rusted supply lines will be taken care of this summer. Mr. Barger also reported that he is ready to request bids for the BHS auditorium repairs, pending budget approval.

9. **Cathey's Creek Community Center**

Dr. McDaris reported that the County Commissioners had reviewed the Board of Education's "Resolution Offering Certain Real Property to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners," and considered the offer to purchase the property located at 131 Island Ford Road, commonly known as the Cathey's Creek Community Center. It was the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners to decline the offer to purchase. Mr. Barger reported that a written offer to purchase the property for \$1.00 had been received that afternoon from the Cathy's Creek Community Center organization.

The Board discussed the offer. There was some debate about whether or not the offer should be rewritten to include a provision that if at any time the property ceases to be used as a community center, the property would revert to the Board of Education. Mr. Barger explained that the provision would be included in the legal advertisement in order to preclude an upset bid. The provision would also be included in any deed of transfer. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to move forward with the sale of the property located at 131 Island Ford Road to the Cathey's Creek Community Center, Inc., based on their offer to purchase the property for the price of \$1.00. The next step will be to advertise the property for upset bids.

10. Important Dates

Apr. 24	Student Advisory Council, 7:30 a.m., MEC
Apr. 24	Forum in Support of Public Education, 7:00 p.m., BHS
Apr. 25	Early Dismissal
Apr. 28	RHS Prom, 7:00 p.m., WNC Ag Center
Apr. 28	BHS Prom, 8:00 p.m., Broadmoor Country Club
May 1	NCSBA Webinar: Legal Issues at Graduation
May 1	BHS Senior Project Presentations, 3:30 p.m., BHS
May 2	TCAEOP Administrators' and Awards Reception, 5:00 p.m., Rogow Room
May 4	TCH May Day Festival, 5:30-7:30 p.m., TCH
May 4, 5	"South Pacific," 7:30 p.m., BHS Auditorium
May 7	"A Taste of Theater," 6:30 p.m., RHS Auditorium
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; Last Student Day
May 23	DRS Graduation, 11:00 a.m., DRS
May 24	Bus Driver's Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Twin Dragons
May 25	BHS Graduation, 6:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
May 26	RHS Graduation, 4:00 p.m., Brevard Music Center
June 4	Begin 4-day weeks
June 4	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC
June 18	REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 p.m., MEC

Dr. McDaris reported that the Chamber of Commerce is planning an event for May 17 (time and location to be determined) to bring together local boards and organizations as one voice in hopes of attracting jobs and businesses to the county.

Chairman Whitmire asked about topics to be covered at the Forum in Support of Public Education on April 24. Dr. McDaris reported that Dr. June Atkinson would highlight state education initiatives, and he would discuss local initiatives. Meredith Licht, teacher, and Adam McCoy, student, will be panel participants and speakers.

Dr. McDaris reported that the NCHSAA has granted TCS a hearing on its appeal of the redistricting of Brevard High School to a 2A/3A conference. The hearing will be held on May 1 in Chapel Hill. Dr. McDaris, Alan Justice and Jeremy Gibbs will attend, and they will have 15 minutes to present their case. Transylvania is one of only seven school

systems that were granted a hearing. Board members suggested sending along a formal letter of support signed by all five members.

11. **Public Comment**

There was no further public comment.

12. **Other Items**

Dr. McDaris presented a resolution in support of restoring funding for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program. Board members reviewed the document and made minor revisions. Mrs. Norman reported that the NC School Boards Association had not been in favor of school districts adopting such resolutions out of fear that the General Assembly might use this as an opportunity to further dilute educational resources. Dr. McDaris reported that approximately 80 school systems have adopted similar resolutions so far. ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the resolution in support of the restoration of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program was approved as revised (see attached).

There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. FOX, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

PERSONNEL REPORT
April 23, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

Gwen Turner, School Counselor, BHS, effective July 1, 2012

Classified Personnel

Richard Ream, Bus Driver, TCS, effective June 30, 2012

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

None

- 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

None

Classified Personnel

Angela Adcock, Teacher Assistant, TCH, GCBDB Leave, effective August 8, 2012, through December 7, 2012

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

Substitute Teachers

Jessica Levesque

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Tracy Fields

**Resolution in Support of the Restoration of the
North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program**

Adopted by Transylvania County Board of Education

WHEREAS, the NC Teaching Fellows Program was established in 1986 by the North Carolina General Assembly to address the shortage of high quality teacher candidates as well as the recruitment of more minority and male candidates; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-five years, the NC Teaching Fellows Commission has received almost 50,000 applications for the Teaching Fellows scholarship, thereby showing an increased interest in teaching as a career by high quality high school seniors; and

WHEREAS, research by Dr. Gary Henry at the UNC-Chapel Hill Carolina Institute for Public Policy has found that:

- *Overall, the Teaching Fellows Program provides an effective source of teachers to the state of NC.*
- *Teaching Fellows appear to be higher achievers and have higher SAT scores than any other group of teacher candidates.*
- *On average, Teaching Fellows score higher on Praxis II licensure exams than all other sources of teacher preparation.*
- *Teaching Fellows are much less likely to exit NC public schools in their first three years of teaching.*
- *Teaching Fellows tend to stay longer after a five-year period.*

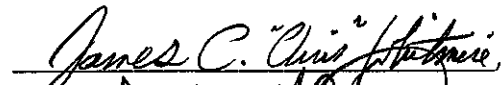

WHEREAS, Teaching Fellow graduates are not only master teachers, but also serve their schools and communities and the State as public school and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, the NC Teaching Fellows Program is a one-of-a-kind teacher preparation program that has a systemic, sequential, four full years of training and expanded opportunities beyond the regular college program; and

WHEREAS, in 2010-2011, four-thousand Teaching Fellow graduates were teaching in 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties, in rural, urban, low-performing, high-performing, rich, and poor school systems, bringing the potential for every child in North Carolina to be taught by a NC Teaching Fellows graduate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Schools hereby acknowledges the significant contributions made by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program to school systems and the State of North Carolina, and respectfully requests that the North Carolina General Assembly restore the Teaching Fellows Program and provide a 2012-2013 Freshman Class so that the seventeen college/university campus programs will have a full four-year contingency of Teaching Fellows who will enter the public schools as classroom teachers upon graduation from college.

Executed this the 23rd day of April 2012,
By the Transylvania County Board of Education


_____, Chairman

_____, Secretary