

DRAFT Minutes
Transylvania County Board of Education
July 27, 2009
Revised 9/18/09

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. Facilities Master Plan
7. QSCB and QZAB Resolutions
8. Presentation to Mike Rogers
9. Community Land Trust Vacancy
10. RHS Easement
11. Capital Projects Update
12. BHS Trespassing Signage
13. Non-Faculty Coaches 2009-2010
14. Adult Lunch Prices 2009-2010
15. Changes to Criteria for NC Scholars and TC Scholars
16. Appointment of New Board Member
17. Important Dates
18. Other Items
19. Public Comment
20. Closed Session (Legal Matter)

The Transylvania County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:45 p.m. on July 27, 2009 at the Morris Education Center. Present were Tawny McCoy, Vice Chairman; Shelia Norman; and Cindy Petit. Also present were Dr. Jeff McDaris, Superintendent; Jenny Hunter, Administrative Assistant; and approximately 20 staff members, guests, and media. Mrs. Petit gave the invocation and Mrs. Norman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman McCoy welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. (Chairman Whitmire joined the meeting in progress at approximately 7:15 p.m. due to a flight delay.)

1. **Approval of Agenda**
Mrs. McCoy requested that that Item 3 (Presentation to Mike Rogers) be moved below Item 7 in order for Mr. Whitmire to be present for the presentation. ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the agenda was amended to reflect this change.
2. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
3. **Good News Report**
Dr. Jeff McDaris reported that 19 staff members had participated in the third annual Career Academy on June 16-19. The Academy, sponsored by Blue Ridge Community College and Transylvania County Schools, is designed to help educators learn more

about business and industry in our community and the education and skills that students will need in order to be successful after high school. The three-day event included several guest speakers and visits to ten different employers in the county. Participants earned 2.0 CEUs of professional development. The following staff members participated in Career Academy:

Charisma Arbogast	BHS	Sarah Justice	RHS
Yvonne Barnwell	BMS	Heather McNeely	RHS
Jennifer Bolt	BHS	Sean Parrish	BHS
Beth Branagan	TCS	Shannon Patton	RHS
Becky Columbo	BHS	Denise Reese	RMS
Patrick Davis	BHS	Jamie Reid	RHS
Ashley Dickson	BHS	Sarah Shawver	RHS
Leah Hammond	BMS	Lisa Smith	BMS
Kristy Hasman	RMS	Carolyn Smith-Benton	RHS
Donna Hoover	BMS		

4. **Former Students in the Military**

The Board reviewed the list of former students who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Military. Vice Chairman McCoy expressed the Board's appreciation to all of the individuals and their families for their dedication and sacrifice. The list will be updated as more names are received.

5. **Consent Agenda**

ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board approved the minutes from the June 15, 2009 and June 19, 2009 meetings and the revised personnel report for July 27, 2009 (attached).

6. **Facilities Master Plan**

Norris Barger presented information on proposed renovations/additions to Rosman High School and Rosman Middle School. The architect's estimated budget for the CTE addition to RHS is \$1,835,000. The estimated budget for additions and renovations to RMS (band room, chorus room, dance/drama, toilets, two classroom renovations, parking, key card system, and connecting corridor) is **\$1,543,000**. Mr. Barger reported that the new parking area on Ashe Road would result in a net gain in parking spaces, even with the loss of some spaces to the new CTE building.

There was some discussion about moving dirt for the new parking area. Mrs. Petit asked about the possibility of allowing local builders to remove the dirt for business use. Mr. Barger stated that there would need to be an agreement with each person specifying that the school system would not be responsible for any injuries, etc., and that removal of the fill dirt would take place only after school hours.

7. **QSCB and QZAB Resolutions**

Mr. Barger reported that the American Recovery Reinvestment Act has authorized two different public bond opportunities for the improvement and renovation of educational facilities. Each of the bonds has different criteria. Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) may be used for any construction projects other than athletic facilities or central office. Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) funding is more restricted. It is tied to free/reduced numbers, requires a 10% in-kind match by the business community, and must be targeted to a particular learning area or program that improves student

achievement after high school. The bonds are competitive, require resolutions from the local boards of education, and approval by the local boards of commissioners. Should the commissioners approve the bonds, Mr. Barger suggested that the new CTE building at RHS would fit the QZAB criteria and the QSCB money could be used for other capital projects. The deadline for QSCB applications is July 31, 2009. There was initial discussion regarding which projects to designate for the potential bond funding; however, due to the next agenda item (presentation to Mr. Rogers), Chairman Whitmire suggested that the Board table this item for discussion later in the meeting. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the QZAB and QSCB resolutions were tabled until later in the meeting.

8. Presentation to Mike Rogers

Chairman Whitmire presented a plaque to former Board of Education member and chair, Mike Rogers, in recognition of his years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership to the students and staff of Transylvania County Schools. Members Whitmire, Norman, Petit, and McCoy and Superintendent McDaris each expressed their personal appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Rogers. The Board took a 15-minute recess to allow the assembled guests to extend their thanks and best wishes to Mr. Rogers as well.

9. Community Land Trust Vacancy

Chairman Whitmire gave a brief history of the formation of the Transylvania County Community Land Trust (CLT) as an entity to oversee the provision of affordable workforce housing for teachers and others. The CLT bylaws state that the Board of Education shall designate three members for the Board of Trustees as long as there is an ongoing education/teacher housing project within the CLT (i.e., so long as the Transylvania County Board of Education continues to be a sponsoring housing organization.) The three designated members are Chris Whitmire, Jeff McDaris and Mike Rogers. With the resignation of Mr. Rogers from the Board of Education, a vacancy has been created on the Board of Trustees. Chairman Whitmire requested nominations for a school board member to fill Mr. Rogers' one-year term, which runs from August 6, 2009 until August 5, 2010. ON A MOTION BY MRS. NORMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, Tawny McCoy was unanimously appointed to serve on the CLT Board of Trustees for the one-year term.

10. RHS Easement

Norris Barger presented a request from the Town of Rosman for the Board to grant an easement along the Rosman High School corridor. The easement would permit the Town to proceed with a grant application for a bike/walk path from the school to a proposed athletic park. Mr. Barger observed that in addition to benefiting the Town, the walkway would provide safer access for students. He presented a plat of the proposed area for review. Mr. Whitmire asked about the RHS fence. Mr. Barger reported that the current fence would probably need to be removed during construction. Mrs. McCoy expressed concerns about the potential abuse of school property that could be associated with a public pathway. Mr. Barger reported that a new fence would separate the finished walkway from school property. Mrs. Norman asked about parking. Mr. Barger did not anticipate any loss of school parking spaces. Mr. Whitmire asked about possible costs to the Board. Mr. Barger estimated that it would cost approximately \$8,000 to move the fence, not including the electrical panel; however, he anticipated that all costs for such would be the responsibility of the Town. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously approved the easement as submitted.

11. Capital Projects Update

Norris Barger presented a status report on capital projects to date. Good progress has been made overall.

12. BHS Trespassing Signage

Dr. McDaris summarized the discussion to date. On May 18, the Board heard a request from Mark Robinson to post “no trespassing” signs on the Brevard High School campus in order to reduce damage and abuse of the athletic fields and grounds by unauthorized users. The Board had concerns that the language proposed for the signs would be too negative in tone and requested time for further consideration. On June 15, Mr. Whitmire proposed an alternative and the Board directed the administration to prepare a draft using the new language, plus instructions for obtaining permission to use the outdoor facilities as well as bilingual translation.

Dr. McDaris then presented a third option for consideration:

“Welcome to your Transylvania County Schools’ Athletic Facilities. We ask for your help in keeping our facilities clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. Everyone is reminded that pets are not allowed. The football field and other athletic fields are not open for public use without written permission. Please respect our facilities. Citizens are reminded that these premises are under video surveillance. Violators may be prosecuted in accordance with G.S. 14-159-13.”

Board members were very much in favor of the third option. ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board unanimously approved Option 3 for the athletic facilities signs at Brevard High School.

13. Non-Faculty Coaches 2009-2010

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association requires local boards to grant permission to employ non-faculty individuals as head coaches of varsity or junior varsity teams. As a general practice, the Transylvania County Board of Education has approved *all* volunteer and contract coaches for Transylvania County Schools. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the following non-faculty coaches were unanimously approved for 2009-2010 fall/winter sports, contingent upon satisfactory background checks.

BHS Football	BMS Soccer
Jimmy Jones, First Responder	Gregg Hall, Head
Chad Owenby, First Responder	BMS Volleyball
Jim Rubion, Statistician	Lorena Uriarte, Head
D. J. Walker	BMS Cross Country
Shane Worley	Donna Allsteadt
BHS Soccer	RHS Football
Dale Hagedon	Terry Anders
BHS Tennis	Brian Chapman, Statistician
Pat Carrington	Chris Thomas
BHS Volleyball	RHS Cross Country
Jessica Merrill, Head*	Chan Raxter
BHS Women’s Golf	RHS Volleyball
Derek Wilbanks	Mary Ramey, Assistant

BHS Cross Country	RHS Women's Basketball
Bill Baldwin	Ashton Barton, Head*
Jackie Witherspoon	RMS Volleyball
BMS Football	Sarah Chappell
Wayne Brown	
Charlie Carr	
Mark Ellenberger	
Tim Galloway	
Frank Robinson	
<i>*first year head coach</i>	

14. **Adult Lunch Prices 2009-2010**

Dr. McDaris presented a request to increase adult lunch prices from \$2.85 to \$3.25 per plate for the 2009-2010 school year. He explained that rising food, fuel and labor costs have made the price increase unavoidable. He gave a reminder that the Board was able to avoid raising student lunch prices this year thanks to funding from the county commissioners. Mrs. McCoy commended Carolyn Gordon and the Child Nutrition department for the great job they do in meeting nutritional guidelines while minimizing costs. ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, the Board approved an increase in adult lunch prices to \$3.25 per plate effective with the 2009-2010 school year.

15. **Criteria for NC Scholars and TC Scholars**

Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the State Board of Education has changed the requirements for North Carolina Scholars recognition. He reviewed the NC changes and presented recommended changes for the Transylvania County Scholars program. Dr. Elliott noted that the Transylvania County Scholars criteria have always exceeded the state criteria. Recommended changes for TC Scholars include:

- *Mathematics* - May include Algebra I taken in the 8th grade.
- *Concentration Area* - Four credits in an approved sequence from one of the following: CTE, Arts, or Foreign Language. At least one course in the sequence must be a second level or capstone course. Students may request approval of an interdisciplinary Integrated Concentration Area.
- *Electives* - To include at least two courses taken during the junior and/or senior years, which carry 5 or 6 quality points.
- *Junior Marshalls* - Juniors who are on track to graduate as TC Scholars and are in the top 10% of their class.

Dr. Elliott addressed questions from the Board. The proposed changes would be effective with students entering ninth grade in 2009-2010. Approval of the changes will be requested at the next regular meeting.

16. **Appointment of New Board Member**

N.C.G.S. § 115C-37(f) Election of Board Members, states:

“All vacancies in the membership of the boards of education whose members are elected pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section by death, resignation, or other causes shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the board, of a person to serve until the next election of members of such board, at which time the

remaining unexpired term of the office in which the vacancy occurs shall be filled by election.”

Chairman Whitmire reported that the Board had received letters from eight individuals interested in serving for the remainder of Mike Rogers’ term. He announced that this would be an open session item and opened the floor for discussion and nominations. Mrs. Petit stated that she feels what the Board is lacking is an educator—someone with a proven record of leadership, care for children, and firsthand experience in the schools. ON A MOTION BY MRS. PETIT, SECONDED BY MRS. MCCOY, Sue Fox, retired RHS guidance counselor, was nominated to fill the vacant seat.

Mrs. McCoy agreed that having an educator on the Board would be advantageous. She noted that although Mrs. Fox is from Rosman, she believes that the Board will continue to work hard to represent the interests of the entire school district.

Mrs. Norman stated that not being able to discuss the candidates in closed session had made the vetting process more difficult; and while crediting Mrs. Fox as a worthy nominee, she would like to have seen more consideration be given to candidates who had run publicly for the office. She observed that there could be some perception of bias or favoritism if the seat goes to another person from Rosman. Mrs. Norman clarified that no candidates had been solicited by any board member, and echoed Mrs. McCoy’s statement that emphasis must be given to the interests of the entire district.

Chairman Whitmire stated that he was pleased by the number and quality of candidates and commended all of the candidates for their interest and willingness to serve. Personal thanks were extended to the four candidates in attendance: Rick James, Norm Bossert, Sue Fox, and Bob Cubbler.

There was no further discussion, and ON A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD, Sue Fox was appointed to the Transylvania County Board of Education for the remainder of the term vacated by Mike Rogers, which will expire in November 2010 (FOR: McCoy, Petit, Whitmire; ABSTAIN: Norman).

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, the Board resumed the QZAB/QSCB discussion that had been tabled previously. Mr. Barger provided copies of the five-year capital outlay plan and master plan for identification of possible projects for the bond funding. During discussion, concerns were expressed regarding the possibility of an “off the top” reduction in capital outlay funding by the commissioners, should the bond applications be successful. Board members discussed the pros and cons. Chairman Whitmire stated that he sees the positives as far outweighing the negatives. He emphasized the following points:

- QZAB has strict criteria, which the CTE addition clearly fits.
- A dollar spent today is more powerful in terms of inflation value than a dollar spent two, five, or twelve years from now.
- With the current economic climate, construction firms are bidding projects very competitively. Projects done now would get “better bang for the buck” versus projects done in the future when the economy improves.
- “Tired” buildings eventually will have to be replaced, and a future bond initiative with higher interest rates would potentially triple the cost. With essentially zero

interest, it would be foolish not to take advantage of an opportunity for minimal debt service.

- Money today has more buying power than the hope of future money that may never materialize.
- If Transylvania does not apply for the bonds, another LEA will get the money.

17. Important Dates

Aug. 11-12 District Leadership Retreat, 8 am - 5 pm, Merrill Residence, Little River
 Aug. 17 Resume regular schedule
 Aug. 17-18 New Teacher Orientation, 9 am - 3 pm, Cradle of Forestry
 Aug. 17 REGULAR MEETING, 6:30 pm, MEC
 Aug. 20-24 Teacher Workdays
 Aug. 25 First Day Students

18. Other Items

Chairman Whitmire stated that despite the many challenges associated with tonight's meeting, he would commend everyone for their patience and contributions.

Mr. Barger shared an e-mail that he had just received requesting a joint meeting between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. on July 30, 2009 to discuss the QZAB and QSCB bonds. Board members were in agreement with the requested meeting. Mr. Barger reviewed projects from the capital outlay priority list that would be eligible for QSCB funding. There was much discussion of the various projects. Mr. Whitmire emphasized that it would save money in the long run were the Board to do the Rosman CTE project in its entirety rather than in stages. General consensus was reached to designate the Rosman CTE project for QZAB funds and other capital projects for QSCB funds, subject to approval by the County Commissioners. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, the Board unanimously approved 1) a resolution to authorize the use of Qualified Zone Academy Bonds for renovations of and additions to Rosman Middle/High Schools and 2) a resolution to authorize the use of Qualified School Construction Bonds for renovations of and additions to Transylvania County Schools. The Board directed Mr. Barger to prepare a list of projects for the joint meeting.

Mrs. Norman requested an update on the matter of constructing a sidewalk from McLean Road to Brevard Middle School. Dr. McDaris reported that a small section of the area in question is outside of city limits, making it ineligible for a city grant. The administration will continue to pursue this issue as a safety concern with the City of Brevard.

19. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

20. Closed Session

ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MRS. NORMAN, and pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and 143-318.11(a)(3), the Transylvania County Board of Education went into closed session at 10:47 p.m. to discuss possible legal action regarding a facilities matter. Present in the closed session were Mr. Whitmire, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Petit, Dr. McDaris, and Mr. Barger. No action was taken in the closed session. ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the Board reconvened in open session at 11:15 p.m.

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There was no further business, and ON A MOTION BY MRS. MCCOY, SECONDED BY MR. WHITMIRE, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

**PERSONNEL REPORT
July 27, 2009**

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

Licensed Personnel

Daniel Calhoun, Teacher, BHS, effective July 2, 2009
William Clark, Teacher and Coach, BHS, effective June 30, 2009
Ronda Seay, Teacher, RMS, effective July 22, 2009

Classified Personnel

Marney Cogan, Teacher Assistant, TCH, effective July 7, 2009
Mary Zogg, Teacher Assistant, RES, effective July 13, 2009

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

Licensed Personnel

Amy Brubaker, Part-Time Title I Reading Teacher (50%), BES, effective August 20, 2009
Kim Elliott, Director of Elementary Education, MEC, two-year contract, effective August 3, 2009 through June 30, 2011
Amanda Griffin, Interim Teacher, RMS, effective August 20, 2009
Dan Harris, Teacher, BHS, effective August 20, 2009
Connie McGaha, Teacher, BES, effective August 20, 2009
Nanette Renegar, Part-Time Title I Reading Teacher (50%), BES, effective August 20, 2009

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

Sharon Hedgepeth, from Teacher Assistant, BES, to Teacher, BES, effective August 20, 2009
Alana Marshall, from Teacher, BMS, to Lead Teacher, BMS, effective August 3, 2009
Cameron Weaver, from Teacher, BES, to Preschool and Child Find Coordinator, BES, effective August 20, 2009

Classified Personnel

None

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

Licensed Personnel

None

Classified Personnel

Julie Hardison, Teacher Assistant, TCH, leave of absence under local BOE policy
GCBDB, effective for the 2009-10 school year

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

Substitute Teachers

Sarah Kipp, Licensed Teacher K-6

Substitute Child Nutrition Workers

Brenda Gail Stewart