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**For Immediate Release**

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**BENZIE CENTRAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATES OUR SCHOOL BOARD LEADERS THIS JANUARY**

January is School Board Recognition Month and Benzie Central Schools is joining 541 local and 56 intermediate school districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their untiring dedication to public education.

“Serving on a school board has been described as the ‘toughest volunteer job in America.’ Yet Michigan’s public school board members dedicate countless personal hours to attending meetings, school functions, and hours of preparation for the decisions they make,” said Matt Olson, superintendent of Benzie Central Schools. “On top of that, many pursue their own professional development to stay on top of the ever-changing education landscape. Collectively, school board members in Michigan have spent more than 7,500 hours attending training and professional development. They’re dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students.”

It’s an exciting and challenging time in public education. School board members in Benzie Central develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility and oversight for an annual budget of over 14 million dollars, nearly 1500 students, over 175 employees and five buildings.

“We proudly join educators and community members in saluting these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities,” Olson said. “They preserve the core of our democracy—public education.”

The men and women serving Benzie Central Schools and their years of service are

- Brian Childs – President (3 Years)
- Stephanie Johnston – Vice President (2.5 Years)
- Nicki Brown – Secretary (1 Year)
- Scott Gray – Treasurer (3 Years)
- Chris Noffsinger – Trustee (1 Year)
- Doug Taylor – Trustee (9 Years)
- Tom Stapleton – Trustee (9 Years)

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