



H. Recommendation for Termination:

- NONE

I. Contract Updates:

- NONE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**District Impact Team Update: Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith shared the following:**

Since the last board meeting, the District Improvement Team met once, as additional meetings were impacted by snow days, Betsie Valley Principal interviews, and Spring Break. The meeting focused on continued progress related to the district's Strategic Plan and reviewing key student support data.

The team discussed next steps for advancing SMART goals tied to the Strategic Plan. As part of this work, smaller groups were identified to take the lead on specific focus areas: Instruction, Attendance, and Communication. These groups will develop more detailed plans and bring recommendations back to the larger team.

At the elementary level, the team reviewed early childhood data using the tuning protocol. The data showed overall growth across all developmental domains from fall to winter. However, a notable percentage of preschool students, particularly at Lake Ann, remain below expectations in math. While the percentage of students below expectations decreased from fall to winter, the team discussed the need for continued focus and support in early childhood math.

At Homestead Hills, the team reviewed behavior data using a new digital referral system. Early findings showed some inconsistencies in how data is being entered, and the behavior team is working to better align and calibrate practices among staff. The DIT provided input on the types of data and processes that would be most helpful moving forward, leading to a productive discussion around refining the system.

**Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard – Piper shared the following:**

Currently, student council is working on photos for the yearbook. In addition, they are planning teacher appreciation week with a treat/snacks/meal for each day.

- Monday – Coffee and Donuts
- Tuesday – Tacos (Buffet Style)
- Wednesday – Pies
- Thursday – Snacks
- Friday - Pizza

They look forward to their last Blood Drive of the year on May 26, as well as potentially sending 3-4 Interact Club members to a Life Leadership Conference. Weather and circumstances permitting, they are hoping to organize a field day for May.

#### **Administration Report:**

**A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following:** Special guest Olivia Ponte, MDE Legislative Liaison, shared priority areas at the State Department of Education that include prioritizing literacy and access to curriculum materials, mandatory LETRS training for K-5 staff, and equitable funding for all students across the state. Concerns were shared about the amount of time required for LETRS training and that many Districts have already provided Science of Reading Training to staff. Suggestions were made to include provisions for a competency-based performance measurement that staff could take to show knowledge vs taking LETRS training. Concerns were also surfaced regarding the number of professional development days Districts have available and the cost associated with compensating staff for their time. Other discussion items included potential weighted funding formulas that could be codified into law, pending legislation that might forgive snow days due to the substantial weather impacts this year, and the upcoming Summer Conference.

**B. Early Childhood Update – Early Childhood Coordinator – Melinda Coger – Melinda shared 2026/27 Early Childhood enrollment numbers, along with summer camp enrollment projections:**

#### **2026/2027 Early Childhood Enrollment**

**Betsie Valley GSRP Classroom - 5**

**Homestead Hills Early Childhood - 39**

- Infant/Toddler - 10
- Early Prek - 6
- Strong Beginnings - 7
- GSRP - 16

**Lake Ann Early Childhood - 57**

- Infant - 12 (FULL)
- Toddler/EPK - 12 (FULL)
- GSRP/Tuition - 16
- GSRP - 17

**Summer Camp Enrollment**

**Infant- 12**

**Toddler - 7**

**Early Prek - 10**

Preschool - 20  
K/1 - 19  
2nd - 4th - 17

- C. **Elementary Handbook Update – Principal, Sharyl Corey – Mrs. Corey shared that the major areas focused on were electronic device language being more aligned with our policy, the ISSN Discipline Plan, as well as encouraging water bottles for students. Students are encouraged to bring water or other healthy beverages to school. Highly caffeinated “energy” drinks and sugary sodas are not permitted during the school day, including at lunch and recess. In addition, they plan to have a one-page permissions page for the 2026/27 school year for parents to sign multiple permissions like that modeled at the secondary level.**
- D. **Betsie Valley Elementary Principal Update – Superintendent, Amiee Erfourth – Mrs. Erfourth shared that we were so fortunate to have such a high-quality applicant pool for Betsie Valley Elementary Principal opening. After three rounds of interviews, she is enthusiastically recommending Lisa Migazzi for hire. Lisa was unable to attend, but shared the following letter with the Board of Education.**

*"Dear Members of the Board of Education,*

*I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to join Benzie County Central Schools as the new Elementary Principal at Betsie Valley Elementary. It is truly an honor to be selected to serve within a district that so clearly values its students, staff, and community.*

*Throughout the hiring process, I was continually impressed by the intentionality and care demonstrated in seeking a leader who truly aligns with the district's values and vision, and who shows a strong commitment to excellence. It is evident that Betsie Valley Elementary is a special place—one where relationships matter, staff and students are valued and supported, and the work is guided by care, purpose, and pride.*

*I am incredibly excited to begin this journey and look forward to partnering with you, the leadership team, the staff, and the broader school community. I am committed to supporting the continued success of the district and to serving with integrity, collaboration, and a deep belief in the potential of every child.*

*Thank you again for your trust and for this opportunity. I am grateful and eager to begin this work together.*

*With appreciation,  
Lisa Migazzi"*

- E. El Camino, Spain Trip – High School Principal, Cheryl Smith and High School Spanish Teacher, Bo Stewart – Ms. Smith and Mr. Stewart shared that this is a private endeavor and not a trip that will be ran through the school district in any capacity. They will be taking out insurance and handling trip details on their own. They are requesting to have access to our facilities and students to meet after school. The trip will not take place until the summer of 2028.

**Proposed Trip to Spain: Camino de Santiago – Summer 2028**

- F. E-Rate Letters of Intent – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Danielle shared that the letters of agreement for the purchase of power supply units, network switches and the maintenance of the fiber line from Betsie Valley to the Main Campus have been signed. This does not obligate the District, as final contracts still need approval, but it does secure discounted E-Rate funding for all items.
- G. Purchase Card Vendor Change – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak - The Purchase Card Consortium managed by the Michigan School Business Organization was due for competitive bidding. Through that RFP process, the contract was awarded to US Bank. To remain part of the consortium and the rebate program, the District would have to approve changing vendors from BMO Bank to US Bank.
- H. Resignations:
- Rachel Leatherman – GSRP Lead Teacher- Lake Ann Elementary – Effective March 27, 2026
  - Misty Tennant – High School Secretary – Effective June 26, 2026
  - Candice Swander – Middle School Volleyball
- I. Retirements:
- NONE

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee**

**1. Sinking Fund Projects –**

Betsie Valley Elementary work to begin June 15 and submittals are still in process.

**2. Building and Grounds Modifications – NONE**

- B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth – The Policy Committee will meet on May 1 at 8:00 AM to discuss *Student Use of Wireless Communications Devices Policy*. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year,

**Michigan Public School Boards of Education must implement a policy that prohibits students from using wireless communication devices on school ground during instructional time.**

**C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Shannon Gillison– No Update**

**D. Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana – Sue shared that following update from the March 16 meeting:**

**Bond/Sinking Fund Project Updates-**

**Work is moving for summer projects: to include;  
BV kitchen remodel, BV bathroom remodel, canopy  
Replace 1964 windows in CBO, HS office, MS wing  
HS repair  
Locker replacement**

**Sinking Fund Committee-**

**The Sinking Fund expires at the end of 2026. Plans to request renewal are underway. Leanna is interested in working with Sue to revive Yes to BC Kids and to garner interest from other parents/community members.**

**Some ideas for messaging that were suggested?**

**Lift that this is less money, less mills  
Bus replacement is included  
Sue will speak to the Advocates about possibly helping**

**Strategic Plan, Focus-Communication:**

**The Council will focus on the Communication aspect of the Strategic Plan**

**Some suggestions include:**

**Better connection between parents and staff- build on what works well, find out what doesn't  
How do we support each other? Ask  
PowerSchool updates/training for parents  
Handbook needs-ask for parent input. Explain the why behind**

**Enhanced Diploma (Arts/STEM) discussion:**

**What does this look like, steps to take, and who will be the advisor? Many of the requirements for an Enhanced Diploma are being met through the current curriculum. This enhancement will allow our students to be competitive with other schools. Jeanett will share with the HS BIT team.**

**Roundtable share-out: Early Childhood- Early Childhood Fair at HH April 18th,10-1 Academy/MS/HS- Scheduling for 2026-27 school year is starting at secondary campus.**

**Next meeting will be on April 20 at 6:00 PM.**

- E. Liaison – Board of Education Trustee, Greg Kempton – Greg shared the following:**

**Question about Spring conferences being mandatory and discussion on compensation. In the past, it has been 20 dollars an hour and that conferences should happen with students who are struggling, meetings during the school day can be scheduled if needed.**

**Information about the number of meetings each building is having and addressing some confusion with how each principal is deciding how to have those meetings.**

**Behavior concerns are still a problem at elementary schools. All administrators are working to problem solve with people who want solutions.**

**Question about how many staff members need to be out of the building to close the building. No number was shared just that the school will always find a solution to the situation and it has never happened before.**

**Discussed the dean of student's role and time spent on both jobs. Both are demanding jobs. Administrators are looking into how the schedule can work better with having specific times for needed tasks.**

**Building TCR's are being worked on to get approved by Northwest Ed for PD days next year.**

- F. Ad Hoc – Campana Egeler – Mr. Egeler shared several informational handouts with the Board of Education to gather their feedback. In addition, he shared information regarding the public's thoughts about the sinking fund. The Sinking Fund language will be an action item on the May 11 agenda. Once approved, the handouts will be finalized and ready to circulate for educational and informational purposes.**

- G. Negotiations – Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Transportation Bargaining Unit reached out today regarding beginning the negotiating process.**

**Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE**

**Discussion Topics:**

- A. Current District Enrollment Summary Review – Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman –**

Catina shared that we currently rest at 1,244 students; 5 of those Related Services, 25 infant toddlers, 51 PK3, 52 PK4, and 4 homeschool CTE. General Collection total 1107.

She also shared that there continues to be many within district transfers from both middle school and high school to Benzie Academy. She reported there is an overall influx of families choosing to homeschool their students and that continues to be of concern for her regarding numbers.

Currently, eight students have graduated from Benzie Academy mid-year, with the potential of 13 graduating in May. Two could complete graduation requirements over summer school.

Mrs. Crossman explained that Kindergarten Round-Up is happening this week, so she hopes to better solidify that number of incoming pupils by the end of the week.

She shared that she is waiting for our final spring pupil accounting audit to be finalized for all six buildings.

She was happy to report that our day 10 weather related closure will be covered in instructional minutes by using an August 2025 Professional Development Day. At this time, the district has fallen below 75% one day, and the hope is to also cover instructional minutes with an additional August 2025 Professional Development Day. More information will be shared at the May board meeting.

**B. Sinking Fund Ballot Language – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak shared the following: With the expiration of the 2017 Sinking Fund Millage upcoming, the District is considering options for the long-term infrastructure needs and repair of the buildings and grounds. While this would be on the ballot as a new issue since the legislative language changed after the last Sinking Fund election, it is not a "new" levy. The language change allows for the District to purchase buses with the Sinking Fund, a previously unallowable expense. This is a very important consideration with the size of the District and the community need for transportation to and from school. It was also expressed that the State does not provide any funding to districts for infrastructure, and it is very important that the District work to maintain the buildings and grounds that the community invested in when they approved the Bond.**

The language for the Sinking Fund Ballot was discussed, the considerations were as follows:

-remove the ballot language allowing for the purchase of real estate, this was recommended by the District's Elections Attorney at Thrun as it is likely to be unnecessary.

-ensure the inclusion of student transport vehicles and vehicles used to maintain the campuses.

-reduce the tax levy from 0.9 mills to 0.7-0.75 mills. This would be \$0.70-.075 per \$1,000 of taxable value or \$70-\$75 per year on a \$100,000 home, a reduction of \$9.15 per year on the same valuation.

The Board discussed the millage reduction, indicating that the reduced rate would be effective to complete the projects currently planned and allow for the upcoming expected replacements and repairs as our buildings age. This rate would also offer the added benefit of lower taxes to our taxpayers. It was also reiterated that the allowable expenses for the Sinking Fund are highly regulated by the State of Michigan, which limits the use of the funds to items that are not considered General Fund expenses.

C. **Operating Millage – Headlee Override – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak shared the following:** With the unprecedented rollback rates of the last 3 years, the preliminary calculation is showing that the Operating Millage will be reduced to below the 18-mill threshold that the State of Michigan assumes the District levies in the upcoming tax levy. Mrs. Banasiak recapped the State Aid and local revenue relationship, explaining that when calculating the per pupil payment in State Aid, the state assumes every district is levying the maximum allowable of 18 mills on non-primary residences. The difference between the local taxes and the state set per pupil funding amount is what is sent to the District in the State Aid payments. As an example- if local revenue calculates If the District does not levy the full 18 mills, that money is "lost" revenue since it is not recouped from the state.

The Operating Millage is what allows the District to function on a day to day basis, paying wages, electric bills, heat, etc.

It was discussed that in communicating this to the community it will be very important to make clear that this levy is applied to NON-homesteaded properties; second homes, Airbnb's, and other such properties, it is not applied to the primary residences. It was also discussed that the appropriate buffer, to ensure the District does not fall below the 18-mill maximum before the next millage renewal would probably be a 3-mill override, though the sample ballot language indicates 2 mills.

D. **BWAC Land Swap Agreement – Steve Roach and Bill Kennis presented a proposed land swap agreement allowing better access to Severence Street as well as a better barrier for neighboring homeowner.**

#### **Action Topics:**

**25-26-085** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the appointment of Lisa Migazzi – Betsie Valley Elementary Principal – Effective July 1, 2026.

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-086** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Campana to approve the Superintendent Evaluation for Amiee Efourth.

**Ayes:7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-087** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Purchase Card Vendor Change BMO to US Bank.

**Ayes:7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-088** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the BWAC Land Swap Agreement.

**Ayes:7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Audience Participation (Open Topics):** Steve Roach and Attorney for the BWAC thanked the Board of Education for their vote.

Bill Kennis also thanked the Board of Education and again expresses the need for a community center.

**Board Communication: NONE**

**Announcements:**

1. **April 13, 15, 16 – Kindergarten Round-Up**
  - **April 13 – Homestead Hills Elementary**
  - **April 15 – Lake Ann Elementary**
  - **April 16 – Betsie Valley Elementary**
2. **April 18 – Early Childhood Fair – Homestead Hills Elementary**  
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
3. **April 24 – Early Release**
4. **May 11 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM**

25-26-089 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:06 PM.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

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Secretary, Board of Education

*Please note that April 13, 2026 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on May 11, 2026.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Catina M. Crossman*

*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*

*Board of Education Administrative Assistant*

*Schools of Choice Coordinator*

*Pupil Accounting Specialist*

*Director of Communications*

*Benzie County Central Schools*

***Go Huskies!***