

## REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, June 8, 2026 in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Members Present:** Mr. Childs, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Kempton, Mrs. Campana, Mr. Egeler  
Mr. Smith, Mr. Barnard

**Members Absent:** NONE

**25-26-102** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the agenda as presented.

**Ayes:** 7

**Nays:** 0

**Motion Carried**

### Opening Statement:

We are a team. We leave our personal opinions at the door and we are bound by Policy 2302 to faithfully discharge the office of a board member and keep in mind our primary concern is the educational welfare of students focusing on governance and fiduciary obligations of the district including duties of loyalty and care, placing the District's interests above the Board member's personal interests.

**25-26-103** It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes:** May 11, 2026 Regular

**B. Business:** General Fund Bills – \$1,297,584.63

**C. Support Staff Appointments:**

- Cynthia Hopkins – Homestead Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Effective 2026/27
- Molly Goudey – Lake Ann Elementary – Lead GSRP Teacher – Effective 2026/27
- Madison Neddo – Lead GSRP/Tuition Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary
- Mica Jahss – Betsie Valley Elementary – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Effective 2026/27
- Jennifer DeCew – Secondary Math Teacher – Effective 2026/27
- Rachel Tanielian – Homestead Hills Elementary – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Effective 2026/27
- Dezirae Spencer – High School Secretary – Effective 2026/27

**D. Staff Assignment Changes:**

- NONE

**E. Leave of Absence:**

- David Parker – Bus Driver – Transportation Department – May 22-June 8, 2026

- F. Recommendation for Tenure:
  - NONE
- G. Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period
  - NONE
- 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: Superintendent Erfourth gave this month's report:**

**The focus for this last month has been on creating leading and lagging measures to monitor our goal areas of communication, attendance, and instruction. The team created a dashboard to monitor the goals on a weekly/monthly/quarterly/yearly basis. The team also worked on common expectations and strategies that would help buildings reach their goals. (see below)**

**The last meeting was spent reviewing previous professional development, planning for the upcoming professional development calendar, and determining if any measuring tools needed to be created (parent survey).**

**Our last meeting for the year will be to plan for implementation of teacher clarity work and ensure a solid plan for onboarding new staff.**

**We also used a DIT meeting to review the CSI plan for MS and submitted that to the State for review. The CSI plan was approved today.**

## Attendance Goals

Achieve 92% cumulative ADA by the final day of the 2025-2026 school year, with fewer than 19% of students chronically absent.

<p>Check absenteeism list weekly (students who have 10% or more of absences) in PowerSchool. Keep a spreadsheet so we can monitor student growth over the year and interventions (update weekly)</p>	<p>Tier 1- auto call to parents regarding student absences that day. Tier 2-weekly/biweekly communication for students who are identified as at risk for chronically absent</p>	<p>Tier 2 and 3 grouping supports-weekly meetings with incentives for at risk chronically absent students.</p>
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<p>19% of students chronically absent by June 2027, 25% chronically absent by January 2027, 30% chronically absent by November 2026</p>	<p>100% of the time parents will receive phone calls once a day if their student is absent from school</p>	<p>Students who are in the 10-20% absence rate will be in Tier 2-weekly attendance checks with incentive rewards. Students who are absent more than 20% of the time (Tier 3) will have a parent meeting scheduled with the student and principal. Daily calls from a staff member to students in Tier 3 group who are absent and weekly email communication with progress.</p>
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## Academic Goals

Monitoring will be done using the Walking Foci tool, Teacher Clarity Modules, i-Ready/MSTEP and NWEA/PSAT assessment data.

## Elem

By Spring 2027, Benzie Elementary Schools will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations (in the green) from 54% to 60% in reading and from 48% to 60% in mathematics, as measured by the i-Ready Diagnostic.

## MS

By the end of the 2026-27 school year, 35% of middle school students will be reading on or above grade level based on the Spring iReady reading assessment. By the end of the 2026-27 school year, no more than 19% of middle school students will have a decoding reading deficit based on the Spring iReady assessment, iReady ORF, and Reading League Phonics Knowledge Screener.

## HS

By June of 2027, 70% of 9th grade students will be career and college ready as measured by the PSAT 9. By June of 2027, 70% will be career and college ready as measured by PSAT 10. 70% of 11th grade students will be career and college ready as measured by the SAT.

**Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard – Piper has graduated and completed her Board of Education term. Secretary, Jason Barnard shared the following statement from incoming Board of Education Representative, Keelin Rineer. “My name is Keelin Rineer. I am an incoming senior who’s involved with basketball, softball, NHS, Interact, Student Council, Link Crew and YAC. I am happy to be representing my school. The new NHS board consists of Jasper Henry as president, Sarah Wallington as vice president, Maddy Swander as secretary, and Lucas Banega as treasurer. Student council and interact club elections will not happen until the fall.”**

### **Administration Report:**

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: The school aid budget has not been approved yet and we are less than 3 weeks from June 30. Legislators are still assuring us that it will be approved by the July 1 deadline. Several proposed bills are being monitored include an ABA therapy bill, mandatory LETRS Training, 3rd grade retention, codifying free breakfast and lunch, and potential property tax reforms. Ballot proposal language was discussed and a potential ballot item may include the Governor being able to appoint Boards for Universities or state superintendents.**
- B. Recommendation for Hire – Constance Jenkins -Director of Transportation – Superintendent Erfourth recommends Constance as our next Director of Transportation. Connie comes to us as an experienced CDL trainer and driver. She has worked at Dean Transportation and Blue Lakes Transportation. We had a field of very qualified applicants and it was a tough choice. Connie came highly recommended and looks to be a great fit with our team.**

- C. **Professional Development Committee – Superintendent Erfourth - We have been using our DIT team members that include teachers, administrators, Board members (some serving as parents of students within the district), along with our TeachMichigan Fellows and Union membership, to craft PD plans for each school year. I thought it would be important to seek approval from the Board to continue our practice of having the Superintendent appoint teachers, administrators, board members, union members, and parents to be part of this team. Our current team is busy completing PD plans for the upcoming school year.**
- D. **House Bill 5797 signed by Governor – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Governor has signed the HB 5797 which allows us to forgive additional days, including 3 days in March. We had one low attendance day in March before break. This day can be forgiven with PD day hours from August or we can pay the penalty. The last day of school will remain June 10.**
- E. **Twisted Trails Off Road Park Inc. Update – Renewal – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this is the renewal for the use of the property. The cost is the same as last year, \$10,000.00**
- F. **Math Curriculum Review and Amplify Desmos Pilot Proposal – Sandy Magnan and Asa Kelly shared the following on behalf of the District Math Committee. [Amplify Desmos Pilot Proposal](#). Our Math Expressions program expires this year and they are also requesting a one year extension for all teachers who are not part of the pilot program.**
- G. **Close Up Update – Principal, Cheryl Smith – Ms. Smith updated the Board of Education on this year’s trip to Washington DC, and presented the outline for the April 2027 trip. [BCHS Washington, DC Trip – April 25-30, 2027](#).**
- H. **2026/27 Course Catalogs were presented.**
- **Elementary Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman**
  - **Middle School Course Catalog – Principal, Alex Byland**
  - **High School Course Catalog – Principal, Cheryl Smith**
  - **Benzie Academy Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman**
  - **Edgenuity Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman**
  - **Michigan Virtual Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman**
- I. **2026/2027 MHSAA Membership Resolution – August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027 - This is our annual membership renewal.**

**J. MICIP CSI Plan – Superintendent Erfourth - Our District Impact Team has worked for months to combine the strategic plan goals into a District 5-year plan that will also support the needs of our Middle School, which has been identified as a CSI school. This identification occurred in 2017 with a gap between the top 30% of students and the bottom 30% of students. The District worked to close the gaps but a subgroup (special education or students with IEPs) were identified in the bottom 5% of the state for proficiency. This is an area that is making growth but still an area of need as they must make .01 growth year over year except the subgroup changes each year and they only assess growth every third year. The plan created is to show 10% growth on MSTEP proficiency for math and ELA by 2027.**

**K. Chartwell K12 Food Service Update – Director of Food Service, Lisa Purchase – Lisa shared the following update: [Chartwell K12](#)**

**L. Retirements:**

- 1. Myia White – High School PE, Athletic Performance, Healthy Lifestyles and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health**
- 2. Zachary Tallman – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary – Effective June 10, 2026**
- 3. Michael Kingman – Middle School Math Teacher – Effective June 30, 2026**

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee**

- 1. Sinking Fund Projects/ Construction Update: Construction will begin on Thursday morning at BV. Set up and demo work will begin. Work scope includes kitchen remodel, bathroom remodels, new flooring in 3 rooms, lockers, front canopy, and new windows in the 1964 end of the building.**

**Asbestos abatement will start on June 15 at HS and BV campuses.**

**MS/HS window replacement will start 6/22 and plan to be done by July 11. Soffit work will begin 6/22.**

Locker installation will begin on June 11 at the MS end. It will take about 3 weeks to complete at MS/HS. Then they will move to BV and finish at LA at the end of July/Beginning of Aug.

Working on fans for Bus garage to help with the heat loss in winter.

Concrete failing is a major concern. Chris Kuhl and Kingscott have all been informed. Waiting on Scheppers and Chris to inspect.

Waiting on a quote for access control hardware, door hardware for LA/Auditorium.

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

### **B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth –**

- **Cell Phone Policy - Thrun Board Policy 5209 (Student Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices) Option 1 or 2. Mr. Egeler shared that the policy committee's recommendation was for Option 1 with optional language; middle school and high school can only use cellphones during their lunch time. No cell phones at all at the Elementary level.**

### **C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Shannon Gillison– Shannon shared the audit would begin in July and that Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak was planning to do a series of video to explain school funding, given the operational and sinking fund millages on the ballot in August.**

### **D. Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana – There were some technical difficulties with the virtual meeting link so several members were on a link waiting to be let in and were unable to participate. Only two members were in person and the meeting ended early. The upcoming ballot items were discussed.**

### **Operating Mileage**

- **18 mills is the max that can be levied**
- **ONLY Levied on businesses and second homes- NOT ON HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES (if you own your home, you are Homesteaded)**
- **This money is for day to day operations- gas, electric, salaries, classroom materials, transportation, etc**
- **On the Aug 4 Ballot**

## **Sinking Fund**

- **This is a renewal ask but it is called an increase because the sinking fund language now allows for transportation to be included.**
- **.7 Mills (reduced ask from the previous sinking fund ask)**
- **Can only be used on specific items like replacement of boilers, major repairs, installed items, bus purchases, etc. It cannot be used to pay for staff or consumable materials.**
- **On the Aug 4 Ballot**

**The parent survey needs to be updated and will be an agenda item for the next meeting.**

**Betsie Valley Elementary had a successful carnival and had a great community turnout. Plans are being made for 5th grade graduation and the end of the year all school field trip. All 5th graders in the district participated in a great move up day. The High School reported a successful graduation ceremony.**

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

**The Liaison Committee met regarding the following:**

**Concerns that a job was posted before it was posted internally and a little confusion with using the internal preference form instead of waiting 5 days to post the job. There were 3 applicants for 4 positions.**

**Benzie Academy is defining expectations for Job roles. Four staff members go in for an hour each day and Mrs. Cline goes in for Administration duties for an hour each day. A counselor and one teacher are there full time.**

**Mass Casualty Lawsuit 31AA gives the school 380 per pupil and those one-time funds are for school safety and mental health. The funds are planned on being used for windows and door swipe, including on nurses' room. Batteries for boots. Butterfly foundation.**

- F. Ad Hoc – Campana Egeler – Discussion on how to get facts and information out regarding the sinking fund and operational millages. A YouTube channel was discussed as a possible means of communication.**

- G. Negotiations – Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Transportation negotiations are currently ongoing. We have met twice and have another meeting will take place on June 17.**

**Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Principal Smith addressed the proposed**



**25-26-109** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Twisted Trails Off Road Park Renewal.

**Ayes:7** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**25-26-110** It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Math Curriculum Review and Amplify Desmos Pilot Proposal.

**Ayes:7** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**25-26-111** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the 2026/27 MHSAA Membership Resolution.

**Ayes:7** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**25-26-112** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the MICIP CSI Plan.

**Ayes:7** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**25-26-113** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve Policy 5209 *Student Use of Wireless Communications Devices* Option 1 with Optional Language: No cellphones at the elementary level, and Middle School and High School can only use their cellphones during lunch time. Cell phones must remain in student's locker if brought to school.

**Ayes:6** **Nays: 1** **Kempton** **Motion Carried**

**25-26-114** It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Inter-District Cooperative Open Enrollment Agreement 2026-2029.

**Ayes:7** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**25-26-115** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Ritsema Flooring Change Order.

**Ayes:7** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**Audience Participation (Open Topics): - NONE**

**Board Communication: NONE**

**Announcements:**

- **June 10 – Last Day of School**
- **June 22 – Board Retreat – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
**June 22- Budget Review – 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM**
- **June 22 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM**
- **July 13 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM**

25-26-116 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Egeler to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:04 P M.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

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Secretary, Board of Education

*Please note that June 8, 2026 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on July 13, 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!*