

## REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Sunday, January 25, 2026 in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

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

**Members Absent:** Piper Barnard (non-voting member)

**25-26-065** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the agenda

**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.

**25-26-066** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes: NONE**

**B. Business: General Fund Bills – NONE**

**C. Support Staff Appointments:**

- NONE

**D. Staff Assignment Changes:**

- NONE

**E. Leave of Absence:**

- NONE

**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:**

**NO UPDATE**

**Administration Report:**

**A. Board of Education Retreat:**

- **9:00 AM – 9:45 AM – Board of Education Communication Protocol**  
The Board of Education reviewed our current Board of Education Protocols. Minor changes were made. Discussion was had and all agreed, to also include a simpler communication protocol document on the website which would help facilitate individuals to direct their concerns and comments. Discussion was had on possibly adding the Board of Educations roles on the website. President Childs shared a Board Member 101 Training document with all members.
- **9:45 AM – 10:15 AM – Sinking Fund Discussion**  
The Board of Education shared the upcoming Sinking Fund Renewal for preventative maintenance. The goal will be to add this renewal to the August 2026 ballot, with a second opportunity to take it back in November 2026 should they need to. There was discussion on a straight renewal of the sinking fund or a reduced ask renewal that would now allow for the inclusion of purchasing buses. All agreed that communication and knowledge is key and it will be important for us to get factual information out to educate the community. All agreed that a committee (Ad Hoc) would need to be formed to help facilitate communication and information. Creative avenues were discussed, such as social media, BCTV participation, students, alumni, and pictures to effectively communicate information. [Sinking Fund Powerpoint](#)
- **10:15 AM – 10:30 AM – Strategic Plan Monitoring**  
The Board of Education discussed Strategic Plan Monitoring with January and June being potential check in dates.
- **10:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Administration Presentations – Expectations, Content, and Time Limit**  
Discussion on a potential template, along with suggested information to include was discussed. Superintendent Erfourth will take the feedback provided back to the administrative team so they can create a common template for use.  
Administrative Presentation Talking Points Discussed:
  - Focus on strategic Plan goal areas- Historical data vs. now
  - Summarize data or work being done for goal areas when presenting
  - Pictures can be included and rotate on side monitors
  - Highlight Events, such as celebrations and Family Engagement Nights

- Incorporation of staff and students
- 10-15-minute time limit

➤ **11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Data Review and Survey Review**

Superintendent Erfourth shared that Safety Survey that the Union sent out to all District employees. There was a total of 66 respondents out of 166 District employees with 52 yes and 14 no responses. High level takeaways were that most respondents feel safe, ensuring common understanding of building expectations and procedures, along with checking in or providing support information for staff that may feel they need assistance could be beneficial. Members of the Board of Education agreed that this data would be more helpful and useful if broken down by building. Superintendent Erfourth shared i-Ready data for K-8 comparing Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 and High School NWEA data broken down by proficiency and growth rates for fall 2025 and winter 2026 by grade level. Winter benchmark data collection has not been completed yet due to the recent snow day impacts.

**B. Resignations:**

- NONE

**C. Retirements:**

- NONE

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee**

- 1. Construction Updates - NONE**
- 2. Sinking Fund Projects – NONE**

**3. Building and Grounds Modifications – No Update.**

**B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth – No Update.**

**C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Matt Smith– No Update.**

**D. Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana – No Update.**

**E. Liaison – Board of Education Trustee, Greg Kempton – No Update.**

**F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – No Update**

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

**Discussion Topics:**

**A. NONE**

**Action Topics:**

**NONE**

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

**Board Communication:**

- **NONE**

**Announcements:**

- 1. January 30 – Early Release**
- 2. January 30 – Middle School Dance – MS Gym – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- 3. January 30- UpRiver Pizza – 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Partial Proceeds BC Bands**
- 4. January 30 – Spaghetti Dinner – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Partial Proceeds Travel Program**
- 5. January 31 – Snowcoming – 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**
- 6. Regular Meeting – February 9, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

**25-26-067** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Egeler to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:09 PM.

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

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**Secretary, Board of Education**

***Please note that January 25, 2026 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on February 9, 2026.***

***Respectfully Submitted,***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catina M. Crossman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

***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!***