

## REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, November 10, 2025 in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Vice President Barnard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Members Present:** Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Campana, Mr. Kempton, Mr. Egeler, Piper Barnard (non-voting member)

**Members Absent:** Mr. Childs, Mr. Smith

**25-26-032** It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Kempton to approve the agenda

**Ayes: 5**

**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.

**25-26-033** It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes: October 13, 2025 Regular**

**B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$907,886.58**

**C. Support Staff Appointments:**

- Matt Gillison – Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach

**D. Staff Assignment Changes:**

- Erin Johnson - Early Childhood Lead Teacher to Early Childhood Assistant Teacher
- Janae Bevis-Early Childhood Assistant Teacher to Early Childhood Lead Teacher

**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: 4**

**Nays: 0 Abstain: Gillison**

**Motion Carried**

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

**Superintendent Erfourth shared the following on Smith's behalf –**

**The District Impact Team has met regularly over the past month, continuing its work focused on instructional improvement, data review, and districtwide initiatives.**

**At the Middle School, the Tuning Protocol focused on student behavior and academic data. The team reviewed suspension comparisons from the first six weeks of this year to the same period in previous years and examined M-Step reading and math proficiency growth. Discussion centered on trends in performance, areas where gaps have closed or widened, and next steps that include developing a walkthrough evaluation tool, implementing weekly or biweekly peer walkthroughs, and providing more targeted coaching support.**

**At Homestead Hills, the Tuning Protocol examined student engagement during WIN ("What I Need") time—a 30-minute period of leveled reading outside of Tier 1 instruction. The team discussed how students are grouped by skill level and how the schedule supports differentiated instruction within the daily routine.**

**At Betsie Valley, the Tuning Protocol focused on making better use of behavioral data to plan supports. The team analyzed incident data by type, grade level, time of day, and day of week to identify patterns and guide interventions.**

**At Lake Ann, the Tuning Protocol addressed improving communication with families. Staff reflected on current communication methods, identified their purposes, and shared ideas through a gallery walk activity and post-discussion survey, helping establish priorities and new practices for regular family outreach.**

**At the High School, the Tuning Protocol centered on SSIS data and ways to provide more targeted supports for student resilience and behavior. The team reviewed SEL performance levels, stress management skills, and behavioral health indicators—both internalizing and externalizing—to inform next steps in supporting student well-being.**

**A significant portion of recent work has focused on the district's new strategic plan. The October 28 session included participation from Brian and Lori, who are guiding this process. Building on input gathered during the stakeholder session earlier in the month, the team refined draft vision and mission statements, belief statements, and**

potential focus goals. The DIT has scheduled additional time in the coming weeks to finalize this work and prepare a version of the plan for presentation to the board.

**Student Council Report:** Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard – Piper shared that at their meeting before last, the council decided on and voted for a smaller board:

- Mya Main -President
- Landon Harris -Vice President
- Piper Barnard -Secretary

At their most recent meeting, the student council began the planning process for both holiday luncheons; Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For the Christmas holiday celebration, they are looking at the following stations:

- Ornament Making
- Cookie Decorating
- Card Making
- Karaoke
- Movie
- Basketball
- Board Games/Cards
- Christmas Tree
- Photo Booth

Looking ahead to Snowcoming, they voted between two themes: Disco and Masquerade. Disco won by a 17/3 vote.

In addition, they joined the Husky Wellness Committee and are looking at holding a Dodgeball event the half day before Thanksgiving for Diabetes Awareness. If you are playing Dodgeball, it is a \$1.00 entry fee, spectators are \$2.00. Proceeds will go toward one or more Diabetes organizations.

#### **Administration Report:**

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: There was discussion of a potential lawsuit from school districts to challenge the language for the 31aa-school mental health and safety funding. The NSMLA group is advising to wait as long as possible before deciding on whether or not to accept the funds. HB 5044, providing ABA therapy in schools by third-party agencies, has a hearing coming up for a hearing this week. A priority letter for fiscal year 2027 will be completed after the winter break and shared to legislators to detail school district priorities for the next fiscal year budget. There is not an expectation for much legislation to move given that there are only about 9-11 legislative session days left in the calendar year. The Governor and Senate are interested in a possible supplemental bill but the

House is not. 27L- educator compensation- has not been released yet as some of the funding is tied to 27K appeals and language has not been clarified yet as to who is included and how the funds should be allocated. We are being told it will likely be the spring of 2026 before action is taken and funds could be distributed.

**B. 2024/25 Audit Review – Julie Burks – Dennis, Gartland, and Niergarth – Ms. Burks presented a high-level review of Benzie County Central Schools Financial Net Position.**

The audit was issued the week of October 27th with an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance. On a government-wide basis, the District had an increase in net position of \$4.3 million. At a fund level, overall fund balance decreased by \$3.2 million, much of this was due to capital outlay related to the sinking fund projects and completion of the bond projects. General Fund's fund balance decreased by approximately \$713,000. The Food Service Fund's fund balance is within the limits of the allowable balance, eliminating the need for a spend down plan for FY26. The District continues to spend more dollars per pupil for instruction and supporting service than the state average. In conclusion, the District has a healthy fund balance in its general fund and is in a good financial position.

**C. 2025/26 Competitive Bid Threshold Update – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Danielle shared that as of October 1, 2025, the 2026 Bid Threshold is now \$31, 321.00 up from the 2025 Bid Threshold of \$30,512.00.**

**D. Betsie Valley Elementary Update – Principal, Kyle Taylor – Mr. Taylor touched on the following:**

- Animal and Plant Life Diorama
- Interlochen Arts Academy – Grumpy Monkey Presentation
- Landform Mini Models
- Webber Foundation Winter Gear Donations
- Awards Day
- Halloween Festivities
- The Lane Sisters – Shelby 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Madison 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, and McKenzie 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Shelby is in the Top 10 in the World in Taekwondo.
- i-Ready Fall-to-Fall Data Comparison – Reading
- i-Ready Fall-to-Fall Data Comparison – Math
- Teacher Reflection
- Goal Setting
- Behavior Trend Data
- Communication
- Attendance Tracking

**E. Benzie Academy Update – Principal, Cheryl Smith – Cheryl shared the following:**

**Fall 2025:**

- 73 students
- 4 students in CTC Program
- 12 received Special Education Services
- 1 senior graduate this fall
- 24 students in the day program

New Truancy Policy Trends continue to be assessed  
 Testing Data  
 Class Completion

The Benzie Academy is supported by lead teacher, Elaine Taghon, with three high school teachers coming over to support with science, math and admin.

**F. Food Service Update – Director of Food Service, Lisa Purchase – Lisa Shared the following:**

- Summer Food Program – Up 3,344 meals from last summer
- Apple Crunch Day October 2025
- Student Choice menu options
- 6-week intern
- Holiday Luncheons
- Scholarship Fundraiser
- Local Animal Shelter Food Drive
- ServSafe Training for staff
- Allergen Training for staff
- Elementary Beach Party lunch
- 5 new lunch tables
- New food promotions
- New Station – Build your own Salad

**G. Resignations:**

- Daniel Deets – Freshmen Boys Basketball

**H. Retirements:**

- NONE

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee**

**1. Sinking Fund Projects –**

- Construction Updates-  
 Lake Ann gym doors have been installed. Betsie Valley's kitchen door has not been completed yet. The remaining aluminum doors will be installed over spring break. The temperature control installation at Lake Ann and the Middle School buildings have been completed. Mike Zielinski is working with Air and Energy to

have all of the new systems mapped online so they can be controlled remotely. The crack along the concrete seam in the bus garage wash bay will be fixed over Winter Break.

- **Summer Projects 2026 –**

We have two of the four contracts signed for the upcoming summer 2026 projects. The contract for lockers was modified to reduce the locker count by 100.

## **2. Building and Grounds Modifications – Waiting on color swatch match for curtain.**

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

- **3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment-** This policy was updated to be consistent with the FBI's definition of sexual assault.
- **4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)-** This was a policy we already had but Thrun updated the form to be 4113-F to 4113-F-1 - We are keeping the language for smallest unit of leave time to be one hour and the time period is July 1-June 30.
- **4113-F-1 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Form -** This is the same form but updated to 4113-F-1
- **4113-F-2 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Leave Request Check List** This information was already in the policy but this checklist form was created to help provide clarity. Forms are for internal use.

### **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 – Greg shared the following:**

- Document that Mrs. Erfourth created for principals and union reps are being implemented. Seeing positives from it.
- Paraprofessional schedules are being addressed and issues are being fixed.
- Discussed what protection staff have regarding their safety around students. Looked at contract language, it states to contact the board or board designee and discusses criminal charges. We discussed about checking in and circling back to check on the well-being and the restoration process.

- Parent teacher conferences about start times with MS and HS being earlier than Elementary due to start times for staff and parents for if they go to both. Possibly adding spring conferences. Similar discussion about Open house, looking at days and times. Scheduled a time to look at the calendar and start planning days for next school year.
- Talked about the Professional development schedule and type of PD being delivered at the start of the school year. The PD Committee is meeting and will be sending out surveys to the staff.
- Question about the incentive for board certified teachers. We have multiple teachers who are finishing up their application for national board certification.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – No Update.

**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 count day was October 1. Her anticipated fall count certification was 1,138 students and 1,132 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). The full-time equivalent is the per pupil allotment. In Michigan, the per pupil allotment is the foundation allowance per pupil, which is multiplied by a school district's State Aid Membership, or pupil blend count, to determine the total foundation allowance. The pupil blend count is generally calculated using 90% of the current year's fall FTE and 10% of the preceding year's supplemental February FTE. Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) is a measure of student attendance, with specific rules for calculating it, particularly for special education students. As of November 7, we sit at 1,132 students and 1,126 FTE's.

B. School of Choice Update - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman

- Section 105 – Pupils within the Northwest Ed. ISD Boundaries
- Section 105c -Pupils within the boundaries of an ISD (Northwest Ed. ISD) that is contiguous to the ISD of the enrolling district

*\*The Inter-District Open Enrollment Policy was approved for 2023-2026, and will be up for re-approval in 2026*

**Mrs. Crossman shared the following:**

**We currently have (95) Incoming 105's, and (568) Outgoing 105's.**

**We currently (42) Incoming 105c's and (23) Outgoing 105c's.**

***In summary, our district has (137) school of choice students enrolled.***

***Benzie Central has (591) students who school of choice to other districts.***

**The state of Michigan does not recognize preschool students as school of choice.**

However, Mrs. Crossman does like to track them for data purposes. We currently have (27) preschool students enrolled from various district's

**C. Board of Education Safety Policies and Communication – This topic is related to the Board's Role of setting Policy. The purpose will be to review the Board's role (setting policy, overseeing budget, curriculum, and employing/evaluating the superintendent), policies in place to support daily operations (staff communication protocol/chain of command), 5205 student handbook policy, 5714 threat assessment and response policy. The focus is on the role of policies in governing the school system.**

### Action Topics:

**25-26-034 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve  
3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-035 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve  
4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)**

**Ayes:5**

**Nays: 0**

### Motion Carried

**25-26-036 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve 4113-F-1 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Form**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

### Motion Carried

**25-26-037 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve 4113-F-2 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) Leave Request Check List**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

### Motion Carried

**25-26-038 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve to the 2024/25 Audit Review**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-039** It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve to go into *Closed Session after Audience Participation (Open Topics)* for purposes

**Attorney/Client Privilege Communication – 31aa Funding**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

### Motion Carried



**Audience Participation (Open Topics):**

**Kaitlynn Ramey, 17330 Honor Hwy., Interlochen** – Katie spoke on concerns of her son being assaulted in a 5th grade classroom at Homestead Hills Elementary, with a para and teacher and students present. She was concerned that the student who did the assaulting was in the Husky Den one hour prior to the assault. She is frustrated with the lack of communication and was disappointed knowing that the 5th grade parents were all notified of the incident at the same time, when she and her husband were not the first to receive the information. She questions why not Tier 3 instead of 1, as this student has had incidents prior to this. She would like to have parent accountability at home and the opportunity to sit down with the parents and principal for a restorative conversation. She would like to see a suspension and smaller class sizes. She wants to know that her child will be safe in the classroom and at school.

**Orville Ramey, 17330 Honor Hwy., Interlochen** – Orville wanted to know when these Tiers were put in place.

**Closed Session for purposes of *Attorney/Client Privilege Communication* – 31aa Funding**

**10:00 PM – Break**

**10:09 PM – Closed Session Begins**

**25-26-040** It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve to go back into *Open Session*. 10:25 PM.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-041** It was moved by Mr. Kempton and supported by Mr. Egeler to amend the agenda to vote on 31aa.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**25-26-042** It was moved by Mr. Kempton and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve to Resolution A: Opt-In and Waiver -31aa Funding

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 1 Barnard**

**Motion Carried**

**Board Communication:**

- **NONE**

**Announcements:**

1. Fall Play – Pride & Prejudice – November 14&15 – 7:00 PM
2. National Honor Society-Athletic Leadership Council Awards Night – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
3. Early Release – November 26
4. Thanksgiving Break – November 27&28
5. Holiday Band Concert – December 4
6. Early Release – December 5
7. Regular Board Meeting – December 8
8. Holiday Choir Concert – December 11
9. Elementary Choir Concert – December 18

**25-26-043** It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:41 pm.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

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**Secretary, Board of Education**

***Please note that November 10, 2025 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on December 8, 2025.***

***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!***