

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 8, 2025 in the Board of Education Conference Room.

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

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

Members Absent: NONE

25-26-021 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the agenda

Ayes: 6

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.

25-26-022 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: August 11, 2025 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$1,040,895.55

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Rachel Higgins – Fall Musical Director – High School - Willsub

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Paige Sauer – Long Term Substitute Teacher – Homestead Elementary to Long Term Substitute Teacher – Secondary PE – Middle School

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:

- Melinda Coger – Non-Union Contract

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

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

No Report – Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 9 with conversations around the Strategic Plan.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard – Piper shared that the Student Council has not yet met. Their first meeting will be September 10 with homecoming planning being their first order of business. The Seniors have already begun to brainstorm theme, dress up days, and decorations.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: The Northern Michigan Superintendent group met to discuss how to support writing a joint message to our legislators regarding the impact schools are having due to the lack of a budget approved by July 1. Concerns are looming regarding the October 1st state deadline and potential government shutdown.**
- B. Strategic Plan Update- Brian and Lori Pearson, Alpine Education, have been meeting with me to review our plan, timeline, and rollout. The next meeting is September 10. We hope to close the survey collection on Monday, September 15 to allow time for Brian and Lori to compile the data.**
- C. Homestead Hills Elementary Update – Principal, Steve Graetz – Mr. Graetz touched on the 2024/25 June 2025 Celebration of student learning by sharing a video with the Board of Education. Parent and Family Surveys were taken at the conclusion. 77% said their child was very excited which is the highest rating on the scale, and 84% responded that they would like to see this event take place in 2025/26.**
- D. Resignations:**
 - Elizabeth Rucki – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- E. Retirements:**
 - NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee

- 1. Sinking Fund Projects – Bids for Betsie Valley Kitchen/Bathrooms/Canopy, HS Windows, and the HS soffit went out on September 4 on Sigma. Bids are due on September 23 and will be opened that day. Recommendations will be provided for the October Board Meeting.**
- 2. Building and Grounds Modification Requests – No Update**

B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth – NONE

**C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Matt Smith–
Superintendent Erfourth shared the following:**

- No State Budget yet- we are still operating under "worst case scenario" precautions.
- The District's Consolidated Application (Title I only) for FY26 has been accepted by MDE.
- The State has said the Title II, III, and IV allocations have been released by the Federal Government to the State, so we will be able to do an amended ConAp soon to allocate these funds at the District level.
- The District's SE-4094 and SE-4096 are due in mid-September and nearly completed.
- The Audit preparations are in progress, the auditors will be on site Sept 15-18.
- We are monitoring cash flow closely. With the very valid concerns regarding the State budget and some questions as to whether the October State Aid payment will be on time without a budget, we are taking precautions to ensure there is adequate money on hand to cover expenses.

Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak shared the following:

The potential issues concerning a government shutdown were discussed as it pertains to schools and the District's ability to absorb costs that have been State funded in previous years and were expected to remain that way, namely the GSRP programs and CEP programs. A recap of school funding and how the determination is made whether a District is in or out of formula was given.

- The District determines the best estimate of taxable revenues based on Equalization reports and tax rates.
- This number is divided by the estimated pupil count.
- If the resulting number is over the per pupil allocation set by the State of Michigan, then the District is "out of formula".
- If the resulting number is less than the per pupil allocation set by the State of Michigan, the District is "in formula".
 - If the District is "in formula" the State sends the difference between what the District receives in the 18-mil tax levy and the per pupil allocation.
 - If the District is levying less than 18 mils due to Headlee Rollback, the State does not make up that difference. They assume each District is levying the maximum amount allowable.

- D. **Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana – No Update.**
- E. **Liaison – Kempton – Next meeting is September 16.**
- F. **Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that they are working to address the secretary contract. We have found an omission on leave and additional wording about days worked.**

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 as of this afternoon, enrollment sits at 1146. Not all enrollments generate a 1.0 FTE. This number will continue to fluctuate over the course of the next couple of weeks. It is too soon to report where the Fall General Collection will land. Mrs. Crossman reported and claimed 1114 in the Fall 2024 DS4061 General Collection. Fall count day is October 1, 2025.**
- B. **Foxbright Website Update – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Catina shared an update on the new website platform. Catina is pleased with the layout. The most notable changes are the side navigations and the overall friendliness of the site. She believes it will be easier for our students, families, and community to navigate. She has a final meeting on September 10 and a training scheduled on September 11. As originally predicted, she feels comfortable reporting that we will be able to publish and go live within the next couple of weeks. At the time of publish, she will be the gatekeeper of the site and the maintaining of.**

Action Topics:

NONE

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication:

- **NONE**

Announcements:

1. September 19 – Early Release
2. October 8 & 9 – Parent Teacher Conferences
3. October 10 – NO SCHOOL
4. October 13 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM

25-26-023 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Campana to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:17 pm.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that September 8, 2025 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on October 13, 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!