

BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, January 12, 2026 – Regular Meeting



AGENDA

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Agenda

*Introduction of Board of Education Members
and 2026 Board of Education Positions*

January is Board of Education Recognition Month

- III. 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.

IV. Consent Grouping

The Board has asked that certain items be grouped together and dealt with in a single motion for efficiency. A board member may ask that any listed item be considered separately.

- A. Minutes
 - 1. December 8, 2025 Regular | December 8, 2025 Closed
- B. Business – General Fund Bills - \$559,365.21
- C. Support Staff Appointments
 - 1. Camden Tharp – Substitute Bus Driver – Transportation Department
 - 2. Deborah Forrester – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
 - 3. Karlee Harris – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- D. Staff Assignment Changes
 - 1. NONE
- E. Leave of Absence
 - 1. Isabella Barton –December 19, 2025 through April 13, 2026 – Maternity Leave
 - 2. Meghan Carra – January 25, 2026 through May 1, 2026 – FMLA – Maternity Leave
 - 3. Rebecca Kik – January 5, 2026 through January 16, 2026 – FMLA
 - 4. Christina Gunderson – January 5, 2026 – January 16, 2025 - FMLA
 - 5. Carla Van Farowe (Gipson) – January 5, 2026 through January 16, 2025 - FMLA
- F. Recommendation for Tenure
 - 1. NONE
- G. Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period
 - 1. NONE
- H. Recommendation for Termination
 - 1. NONE
- I. Contract Updates
 - 1. NONE

- V. District Impact Team Update – Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith -

- VI. Student Council Report – Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard –
- VII. Administration Report
 - A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth
 - B. Newly Certified National Board-Certified Educators
 - Michaela MacGirr – Homestead Hills Elementary
 - Asa Kelly – Betsie Valley Elementary
 - C. Strategic Plan Update
 - D. Calendar Proposals – 2026/27 and 2027/28
 - E. Homestead Hills Elementary Update – Principal, Steve Graetz
 - F. Middle School Update – Principal, Alex Byland
 - G. Resignations
 - 1. NONE
 - H. Retirements
 - 1. NONE
- VIII. Board of Education/Committee Reports
 - A. Building and Grounds Committee
 - 1. Sinking Project Updates
 - 2. Building and Grounds Modifications
 - 1. NONE
 - B. Policy Committee – No Update.
 - C. Finance Committee – Smith
 - D. Parent Advisory Council - Campana
 - E. Liaison – Kempton
 - F. Negotiations –Erfourth – No Update
- IX. Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only)
- X. Discussion Topics
 - 1. Current District Enrollment Summary Review Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman
 - 2. Board of Education Retreat Topics
- XI. Action Topics
 - A. Administrative Appointments
 - 1. NONE
 - B. Approval of the Benzie County Central Schools Strategic Plan
 - C. Approval of the 2026/27 Calendar
 - D. Approval of the 2027/28 Calendar
- XII. Audience Participation (Open Topics)
- XIII. Board Communication
- XIV. Announcement

*Audience Participation: The Board will invite your comments and concerns twice during tonight's meeting. First, you may address items on tonight's agenda. A second opportunity to speak will occur later, when you may address any issue. Though it is the board's usual practice to listen without immediate comment, your concerns are noted, and you may request follow-up. To address the board, please approach the lectern and give your name and address. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Happy New Year!