

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, July 13, 2026 in the Board of Education Conference Room.

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

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

Members Absent: Mr. Barnard, Keelin Rineer (Non-voting member)

26-27-001 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the agenda as presented.

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.

26-27-002 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: June 8, 2026 Regular | June 22, 2026 Regular (Retreat, Budget Review, Budget Hearing)

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$597,006.02

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Josephine Johnston – Physical Education Teacher – High School – 26/27
- Susan Payne – Secondary 6.5 Paraprofessional – Middle School - 26/27
- Evelyn Putney – Michigan College Access Coordinator (MCAN) Advisor - 26/27
- Katlyn Kranick – Elementary Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary – 26/27

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- NONE

E. Leave of Absence:

Demae Cicchelli – Early Childhood Site Director – Maternity Leave August 1, 2026 through November 1, 2026.

F. Recommendation for Tenure:

- NONE

G. Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period
• NONE

H. Recommendation for Termination:
• NONE

I. Contract Updates:
• See Administration Report – Bo Hebel – Sara Iverson.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

District Impact Team Update: Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith shared the following: No Update.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Keelin Rineer – No Update.

Administration Report:

A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: NMSLA was cancelled for today.

B. Non-Union Contract Updates – Since the approval of Non-Union Contracts on June 22, 2026, there have been two changes:

- Bo Hebel- 26-27 -5% Extra Duty added for being - on call for Frankfort, helping sell their buses, etc. this portion is being billed to Frankfort in addition to the other percentage they contribute toward Bo's salary.
- Sara Iverson- 26-27 5% Extra Duty for Human Resources duty. Human Resource is an add on to Sara's role since she moved into handling insurance benefits, helping employees navigate leave times, FMLA, long-term disability, etc. She has been doing the HR role without the “official title”.

- C. Early Childhood/Infant Toddler Summer Camp Update – Early Childhood Coordinator, Melinda Coger – Melinda shared the following update: enrollment, staffing, and summer camp.

Enrollment

Lake Ann Elementary

- GSRP 20/20 - Full
- GSRP Tuition Split – 13 GSRP and & Tuition – Full
- Infant Toddler 12/12 – Full
- Early PreK-Infant/Toddler 12/12 – Full

Homestead Hills Elementary

- Infant/Toddler 10/12 – 2 open slots
- Early PreK 7/16 – 9 open slots
- Strong Beginnings 15/15 – Full
- GSRP 20/20 – Full

Betsie Valley Elementary

- GSRP 6
- Tuition 1
- 11 open slots

Staffing Highlights

- All Lead Teacher positions are filled
- Need Strong Beginnings Assistant Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary
- Need GSRP Assistant Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary
- Need One-on-One Aid for GSRP student – Homestead Hills Elementary

Summer Camp Highlights and Wins

- 93 students enrolled
- Many upcoming fun days: Bike Day, Ice Cream Truck, Fire Department Visit, and Alpaca Farm,

- D. Early Childhood Handbook Update – Early Childhood Coordinator, Melinda Coger- Melinda shared that there were minor handbook changes. Updated tuition, classroom change at Lake Ann Elementary and contract review.

E. Early Graduation Requests

- Hailey Brinkman
- Katelyn Brinkman

Both Hailey and Katelyn spoke in front of the Board of Education on their request to graduate early at the conclusion of their junior year, spring 2027.

The following requirements for such a request were met and provided:

- The reason for applying for early graduation, work letter from employer describing position, duties and hours.
- Written statements to support reason
- Completed credit audit showing fulfillment of all Michigan Merit Curriculum and Benzie Central High School Graduation Requirements.
- Parent/Guardian Support demonstrated through face to face meeting with high school counselor with signed application.
- Completed application and supporting materials supplied to high school counselor.

Benzie Academy Lead Teacher, Elaine Taghon, along with Benzie Academy Principal, Cheryl Smith both attested that both Hailey and Katelyn are both motivated, self-driven, and role model online students. Benzie Academy Counselor, Rebecca Kik added that the both girls have been in touch with a military recruiter and have taken all necessary steps.

President Brian Childs shared that the Board of Education would review and take the formal vote at their regularly scheduled August 10, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

F. 2026/27 1.0 FTE Resolution – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman – Catina shared that this is a pupil accounting formality. She would like the Board of Education to approve a resolution defining what a 1.0 FTE looks like at Benzie Central. The Board of Education was provided a copy of the Resolution. Students are considered a 1.0 FTE based on the full-time bell schedule as board approved in each of the building handbooks unless students are enrolled as Dual Enrolled, Early Middle College, Career Tech Center, Work-Study, or on a personal curriculum. Students must be scheduled for a minimum of 180 days and 1098 hours per year, unless otherwise indicated in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Whereas;

- *Approval for BCCS students to enroll in dual enrollment courses subject to district approval, course availability, and requirements being met by interested students*
- *Approval for BCCS students to enroll in the Benzie Early Middle College program in partnership with Baker College of Cadillac*
- *Approval for BCCS students to enroll in virtual coursework through both state and district providers (Michigan Virtual, Edgenuity and Apex)*
- *Approval of BCHS, BCMS, Benzie Academy, and Elementary Course Catalogs*
- *Approval of BCHS / MS Handbook*
- *Approval of Benzie Central Elementary Handbook*
- *Approval of Benzie Academy Handbook*
- *Approval of resolution to define a full day for students*

G. Resignations:

- **Natasha Shropp – GSRP Assistant Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary**
- **Amber Hughes – Middle School Volleyball**
- **Jennifer DeCew – Secondary Math 2026/27 – Never officially started**

H. Retirements:

- **NONE**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee

- 1. Sinking Fund Projects/ Construction Update:** Superintendent Erfourth shared that lockers have been installed at Betsie Valley Elementary and Lake Ann Elementary. Lockers are currently being installed at the Middle School and High School. Painting is ongoing at Betsie Valley Elementary, Lake Ann Elementary and Middle School and High School. Betsie Valley Elementary kitchen is on schedule and the floor is set to be poured this week. Bathroom tile has been completed and flooring is starting next week. Work is beginning on the canopy. Betsie Valley Elementary windows and doors are set to arrive at the end of July/beginning of August.

The middle school and high school window replacements are almost complete. We are waiting on a glass panel for one Central Business Office window. The rest of the windows are in and they are finishing up caulking. High School soffit abatement is complete. Installation of the steel beam has not yet started.

- 2. Building and Grounds Modifications – NONE**

B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth – Mr. Egeler spoke on behalf of the Policy Committee in regard to the [Thrun July 10, 2026 Updates](#). Conversations surrounding the already approved Policy 5209 Student Use of Wireless Communications Devices continue to take place; how to best communicate to families, etc.. Discussion surrounding raising the dollar amount for Policy 3303 Gifts and Donations.

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Shannon Gillison– Shannon shared that audit preparation work was taking place. She also encouraged the Board of Education to share the Finance videos on facebook.

- D. **Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana – No Update.**
- E. **Liaison – Board of Education Trustee, Greg Kempton – Greg shared the following: No Update.**
- F. **Ad Hoc – Campana Egeler – No Update.**
- G. **Negotiations – Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Transportation negotiations are currently ongoing and that they met this afternoon.**

Discussion Topics:

- A. Current District Enrollment Summary Review – Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman – No Update.**

Action Topics:

26-27-003 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the Non-Union Contract Updates – Bo Hebel 5% Extra Duty, and Sara Iverson 5% Extra Duty.

Ayes: 6 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

26-27-004 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Early Childhood Handbook Updates.

Ayes:6 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

26-27-005 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the 2026/27 Course Catalogs as presented in June.

- **Elementary Course Catalog**
- **Middle School Course Catalog**
- **High School Course Catalog**
- **Benzie Academy Course Catalog**
- **Edgenuity Course Catalog**
- **Michigan Virtual Course Catalog**

Ayes:6 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

26-27-006 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2026/27 1.0 FTE Resolution.

Ayes:6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

26-27-007 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Thrun June 10, 2026 Policy Updates.

Ayes:6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): - NONE

Board Communication: Mr. Kempton inquired as to who to contact if he had questions about the General Ledger. He was directed to the Director of Finance.

Announcements:

- **August 10 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM**

26-27-008 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Campana to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:06 P M.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that July 13, 2026 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on August 10, 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!