

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, December 10, 2018 at the Benzie Central Middle School, 9300 Homestead Rd., Benzonia, MI 49616.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Stapleton, Mrs. Johnston, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Gray, Mr. Noffsinger

Members Absent: NONE

18-19-056 It was moved by Mr. Taylor and supported by Mr. Stapleton to approve the agenda as written.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

18-19-057 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: December 3, 2018 – Special

B. Business: General Fund Bills \$1,237,620.50

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Student Council Report: Student Council member, Thea Gray, shared their upcoming holiday luncheon and raffle to kick off our winter break. Student Council is also planning Snowcoming in February and hope to pair it with a girls' basketball home game.

Administration Report:

A. Student Exchange Program – CETUSA – Ann Burkett – Traci Kelly – Traci spoke on behalf of Ann Burkett and CETUSA. Council for Educational Travel, USA (CETUSA) is a not-for-profit international student exchange organization coordinating exchange experiences for high school students, university students and young professionals. CETUSA is a US Department of State Exchange Visitor (J-1 Visa) sponsor organization. Traci shared the benefits of the program such as, but not limited to, financial dollars to the district and local economy and diversity. Ann is in her 8th year as a coordinator, placing 100 students, with the majority being at Benzie Central. Ann herself has hosted 12. Foreign Exchange student, Lea Baeuerle, spoke highly of the staff and students here at Benzie Central. Host parent, Stephanie Johnston also added her positive experience with the program and highly recommends hosting an exchange student.

B. NMSLA Update – Superintendent Olson updated the board on several key issues all being considered during the current “lame duck” session of the MI legislature.

1. "A-F" Bill: These bills would create a new accountability system for schools based on letter grades and would be in addition to our current

"dashboard" style system. A new gov't appointed panel would oversee this system separate from MDE and the State School Board.

2. "Innovative Schools": This issue concerns creation of a new panel (in conjunction with A-F) to oversee select schools to be exempt from some pupil accounting and other state regulations.
3. "Union Leave Time": These bills would result in a prohibition on any union business, taking place during the regular workday and would make anything related to this a prohibited subject of bargaining.
4. "Income Tax Changes": While not in bill form yet, there has been high-level discussion about making significant changes to the way in which the School Aid Fund receives tax dollars. Proposed changes would potentially result in serious long-term consequences to the manner in which schools are funded.

The state level associations (MASA, MASB, MSBO, etc.) have taken positions against these bills for different reasons, but most of all because each has some serious flaws. Some of those flaws could potentially be worked out through the legislative process with time and dialogue, but we simply do not have the ability to do that effectively in the less than two weeks remaining in the "lame duck" session. We encourage people to contact their legislators to ask them to take proper time to consider these critical issues.

C. Resignations

1. Christine Sullivan - Transportation
2. Richard Payne – Transportation

- D. Bond Application Presentation - Kingscott – Brendon Pollard presented the bond application. Shall Benzie County Central Schools, Benzie, Manistee, Grand Traverse and Wexford Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Forty-Seven Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$47,850,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing, and equipping a new elementary school; erecting, furnishing and equipping and addition to the middle/high school; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping an re-equipping existing school buildings; erecting furnishing, and equipping a new bus garage; purchasing school buses; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; erecting, equipping, preparing developing, and improving playgrounds, playfields, athletic fields, facilities/sites, the estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019 is .58 mill)\$0.58 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.79 mills (\$2.79 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

Board of Education/Committee Reports:

- A. Ad Hoc Report – The committee did not meet prior to this evening meeting. The intent is to bring a \$3,000-5,000 marketing campaign up for board support.

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

- A. Promotions Budget – Ad Hoc Report-** The Promotions Committee is requesting approval for a \$3000-\$5000 marketing campaign, not to exceed \$5000.00. Potential campaign dollars would be utilized for marketing the district via several different avenues: television, radio, billboards, signage, facebook boosts, etc.

Action Topics:

18-19-058 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the appointment of Katrina Grose – 5.5 Middle/High School Secretary
Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

18-19-059 It was moved by Mr. Taylor and supported by Mr. Stapleton to approve the appointment of David Parker – Transportation
Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

18-19-060 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the appointment of Bethany Nowak – Special Education Teacher – High School
Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

18-19-061 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the superintendent’s evaluation with a rating of “highly effective”.
Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

18-19-062 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Stapleton to approve the Promotions Committee Budget – Not to exceed \$5000.00
Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

18-19-063 It was moved by Mr. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Resolution to Apply for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds as presented
Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

Audience Participation (Open Topics): Former Benzie Central Superintendent, David Micinski, took the podium and expressed his gratitude to Board of Education members Douglas Taylor and Thomas Stapleton on not only their years of service, but also the multiple terms in which they both served. He reminded them of the promise he made, “No board meeting would ever exceed an hour.”

Board Communication:

1. **Blueprint District Impact Team Report-** Stephanie Johnston continues to speak highly of the MiExcel Facilitators and their time invested. The team has currently completed their Mechanical Level, and are now working at the Lobby Level.

Announcements:

1. Board President Brian Childs and Superintendent Olson presented Board of Education members, Doug Taylor and Tom Stapleton with plaques and certificates as tokens of gratitude for their extraordinary service and dedication while serving as members of the Benzie County Central Schools Board of Education.
2. Superintendent Olson officially welcomed our newly elected Board of Education Members, Amber Pomper and Lori Cota Hill.
3. Superintendent Olson expressed his gratitude to both Doug Taylor and Tom Stapleton for their multiple terms served on the Board of Education.
4. Superintendent Olson thanked the board for the Superintendent Evaluation process.
5. Holiday Break begins on December 21, with the 21st being a half day. School resumes on January 7.

18-19-064 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to adjourn at 8:11 PM.



Secretary, Board of Education