

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 9, 2019, at Betsie Valley Elementary School, 17936 Cadillac Hwy., Thompsonville, MI 49683.

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

Members Present: Mrs. Brown, Ms. Cota Hill, Mrs. Johnston,
Mr. Childs, Mr. Gray, Mr. Noffsinger

Members Absent: Mrs. Pomper

19-20-027 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the agenda as written.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

19-20-028 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: August 12, 2019 – Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills \$741,975.23

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication:

Mrs. Johnston informed the board that the District Impact team is scheduled to meet every Thursday, from 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM. The focus going forward is strategic planning and board protocols.

Student Council Report: High School Choir teacher Kirsten Cline, shared that she and High School Health and English teacher, Carmen Briggs, are the new co-advisors for the High School student council. High School senior, Steven Quijas introduced himself, and shared upcoming Homecoming activities. The parade and game are scheduled for Friday, October 4, with the dance scheduled for October 5. The theme this year is Decades. The student council is planning to meet this week to elect class representatives and remaining executive board.

Administration Report:

A. NMSLA Update- Superintendent Olson shared that budget negotiations broke through a logjam this morning as the Governor has agreed to proceed with a budget without a long-term road funding plan for now. This increases the likelihood of a deal being struck in time to avoid a shutdown on Oct. 1. The original house proposal indicated an increase of 180 / student for Benzie Central while the senate proposal would mean an increase of 270 / student. It is likely that the final number will fall somewhere in between, with conventional wisdom indicating a likely increase of 220 or better given the scenarios we have. There is a political forum this coming Monday evening at Iron Fish Distillery with both Curt Vanderwall and Jack O'Malley present that we encourage us all to attend.

Additionally, the governor continues to discuss the problems with the 3rd grade reading law, but no proposals have surfaced as of yet to formally deal with the problem.

- B. 2019/20 Enrollment Update-** Superintendent Olson shared that Benzie Central budgeted for 1355, and gave the soft number of 1350. Solid numbers to come, as we get closer to our fall general collection/count day, which is scheduled for October 2.
- C. MSTEP Results-** Superintendent Olson presented MSTEP, SAT, and Graduation data for the school district. Overall, there were some points of celebration. 3rd and 8th grade MSTEP scores well outpaced the state in ELA and Math, and in some cases, also outpaced the TBAISD. Other grade levels experienced setbacks with lower scores than expected. When considering the overall MSTEP picture, Benzie Central is in the median area of our demographic and regional like districts. SAT Reading/Writing scores were excellent, far outpacing the state averages while Mathematics were slightly lower than state average. Our work with the Blueprint gives us the vehicle to dig into this data and work to determine how to expand our pockets of excellence and improve upon areas of need. Finally - we were excited to see our 4-year graduation rate rebound. Two years ago, we believed it was an anomaly, but were nonetheless quite concerned when our graduation rate was listed as below 80%. With careful record keeping and dogged pursuit of helping students stay focused and committed, we have once again crossed 90% 4 year graduation rate, well ahead of the state, and outpacing other schools with similar demographics as well.
- D. Mrs. Mullen's Closet – Phil and Cindy Cook -** Mrs. Mullen's Closet for Benzie County was set up in memory of Dyanne Mullen, a principal at Hart Public Schools and part time resident at Crystal Mountain. Dyanne was instrumental in making sure all students in her building had necessary clothing all year. When Dyanne passed away in 2010, Mrs. Mullen's Closet was started in her memory to continue to help students in Hart. In 2011, Jim and Chris MacInnes graciously allowed a small group of volunteers to bring Mrs. Mullen's Closet to all five elementary schools in Benzie County (Betsie Valley, Crystal Lake, Frankfort, Lake Ann and Platte River) by allowing a fundraiser to be held at Crystal Mountain. A live and silent auction along with dinner and dancing helped begin Mrs. Mullen's Closet in Benzie County. Through the generous support of countless Benzie County area businesses and individuals, all four major fundraisers at Crystal Mountain have been very successful. Following their "On the Mountain" theme (2011 Motown on the Mountain, 2013 Back to School on the Mountain, 2015 Tailgate on the Mountain and 2017 A Barrel of Fun on the Mountain) they are currently working on the 2019 fundraiser, Autumn Splendor on the Mountain, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2019, at Crystal Mountain.
- Originally, K-6, the organization now extends K-12. Mrs. Mullin's Closet relies on school personnel to let them know when Mrs. Mullen's Closet is needed. Besides having new clothing and other necessities available in all four Benzie County elementary schools, Mrs. Mullen's Closet has helped numerous families

who have had major damage due to house fires and has assisted many families who have went through tragic events. Staff members are also able to purchase needed items for students and families and send receipts to Mrs. Mullen's Closet for immediate reimbursement. The organization has also invested \$5000 to assist students with drivers training costs, and in 2020, plan to award scholarships to graduating seniors. Since the inception of Mrs. Mullen's Closet, well over \$70,000 has been invested in helping students and families in need. The motto for Mrs. Mullen's Closet in Benzie County is...
"If we see a need, we will quietly tend to it."

- E. **Betsie Valley Elementary/Community Center Update – Amiee Erfourth, Martie Manty, and Rose Fosdick – Principal Erfourth gave an update on the new flooring at Betsie Valley Elementary. All hallways, the gymnasium, and most classrooms have had new flooring installed over the summer of 2019. Mrs. Erfourth thanked our maintenance and custodial staff for their hard and amazing work. Martie and Rose gave an update on the Betsie Valley Community Center. The community center is planned as a regional community center to serve all residents living in northern Manistee and southern Benzie Counties. The center will be home to several critical services currently not available to residents in this region. Phase one of the center will provide a state-of-the-art licensed child care center with infant and toddler care, medical, dental, pediatric services, as well as a community meeting space to be used for multiple purposes. In may 2019, the community celebrated the installation of fiber optic cable to Betsie Valley school, and is advocating for available and affordable cable at the county level. The Betsie Valley Community Center is now working on a mobile dental services project. Contacts with partners and funders are underway.**

F. Resignations –

- a) **Geoff Miner – Mechanic - Transportation**

Board of Education/Committee Reports – NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics: NONE

Action Topics:

19-20-029 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the Resolution of Public Support on November 5 Bond Proposal

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

19-20-030 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the appointment of Misty Tennant – Varsity Cheerleading Coach.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

19-20-031 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the appointment of Lynn Mertz– High School Science Teacher.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

19-20-032 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the appointment of Betsy Peacock – Lake Ann Elementary Paraprofessional.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): Eric Baatz – Blueberry Lane, Honor – Eric referenced an incident that took place on the last day of school in the bus lane at Crystal Lake Elementary and looked to the board for feedback going forward.

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

1. September 16- Legislative Battle Royale – Iron Fish Distillery – Doors open at 5:00 PM, with Title Match beginning at 5:30 PM. Tickets can be reserved through Benzie, Manistee, and Cadillac Chambers of Commerce.
2. September 19- Yes4BCKids – Future Planning Committee Meeting – three remain before the November 5 vote – HS Library 6:00 PM.
3. The mailer for the upcoming November 5 Bond Proposal should go out within the next week or so.
4. Superintendent Olson was pleased to report that district wide, the feedback is positive regarding the start of our 2019/20 school year.

19-20-033 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried


Secretary, Board of Education

BC BENZIE CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Resolution in Support of the November 2019 Bond Proposal

Whereas, the board of education has recognized the need for significant infrastructure investment in our district to ensure viability for the future, and

Whereas, members of the community have recommended a course of action after significant investment of time and energy with the help of experts in the field, and

Whereas, the board of education has asked for the community to consider this bond proposal in the amount of 47.85 million dollars, paid over a 26 year period.

Therefore, We the Board of Education endorse this bond proposal without reservation and encourage members of our community to support the plan as well.

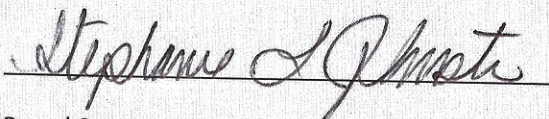
Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 RESOLUTION DECLARED Motion Carried



Board President

9/9/19

Date



Board Secretary

9-9-19

Date