

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, October 12, 2020, at Benzie Central High School, 9300 Homestead Rd., Benzonia, MI 49616.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Members Absent: NONE

20-21-059 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the agenda as written.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-060 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Pomper Hill to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: September 14, 2020

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$377,902.51

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Katherine Ames – Dispatcher/Admin. Asst. -Transportation Department
- Cynthia Herron - Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- Cynthia McCollum –Transportation Department –Bus Driver
- Annette Bumgardner –Transportation Department – Bus Driver
- Ashley Stanton – Special Education Teacher –Crystal Lake Elementary
- Joseph Trudeau – Mathematics Teacher – Middle School

Staff Changes:

- Misty Tennant – 6.5 Paraprofessional- Betsie Valley Elementary
- Rebecca Frieholtz – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
- Cindy Greeley – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Middle School
- Cynthia Herron - 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- VACANT – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Stephanie Johnston shared that the District Impact Team has firmed up on HQI Walk-throughs, and Learning Focused Partnership schedules. They are also focusing on system priorities; what is being done well and what needs to be worked on; Teacher Collaborative Routines, ISSN, and Instructional Infrastructure.

Student Council Report: Alyssa Brouwer reported that Homecoming week was a success. Given COVID-19, and our Northern Michigan Virtual student population, students were able to nominate their class representatives and vote for king and queen via an online survey. The Homecoming 2020 King and Queen, Sam Ross and Zoe Lozowski were announced during their Friday afternoon pep assembly. The Student Council is in the planning stages of the Holiday luncheon, which will take place in December.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Emergency Powers Act unconstitutional.** Emergency Management Act requires legislature after 28 days. Emergency Executive Order authority ended after April 30, 2020. No more state of emergency. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has stepped in with Epidemic Orders, and local Health Departments have acted. School districts are advised to hold tight, and enforce local plans. School districts are now required to report “School Associated Cases” within 24 hours on their websites. The local Health Department will inform schools, and schools will report to the community. Board of Education meetings may now be held in person with safety precautions and capacity in place.
- B. **Yes For BC Kids – November 3, 2020 Bond Proposal Update – Megan Barnard –** Megan reported that we are three short weeks away from the Bond Proposal. The committee is feeling good about their predictions and projections model. They are still in need of fundraising in the amount of \$800.00 to raise more money for advertising. Megan, Jennifer Donovan, Mike Zielinski, and Superintendent Erfourth toured the district buildings and bus garage, and were able to capture photos and videos. These will be used for video advertising purposes beginning next week. Colin Merry from the Record Patriot will be submitting a write up on behalf of the committee.
- C. **2019/20 Audit Review - Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth / Julie Burks, CPA –** Due to COVID, this summer's audit was completed mostly virtually with an auditor physically coming out to the district only one day. This meant most requests were fulfilled by scanning documents and emailing reports over to DGN. Ms. Burks discussed that the next audit reporting will have the activity account oversight as that change for audit reporting was postponed due to COVID. She explained the reclassification of the excess debt funds which was an accelerated payment of the general fund debt. Ms. Burks finished her presentation by explaining the graph summary pages. She noted that the fund balance has grown steadily and the district is now thankfully in a position to set long-term goals for that fund balance.

- D. Lake Ann Elementary Update – Principal, Larry Haughn – The Lake Ann Elementary Cross Country program ended the year with 42 students participating. Jill Graetz was the coach, and Lake Ann Elementary Secretary, Samantha Downs, assisted. They did a great job and the program had another successful year. Over 150 students began the year enrolled in our Northern Michigan Virtual online program. After the first four weeks, about 50 students returned to face-to-face learning. The Accelerate program has been up and running for our virtual students and is now being accessed by our in-class teachers as well.**

Our Intervention program, Pathblazer, is running, functional and being utilized. The intervention for students is based on the NWEA assessment. This process has been linked and is accessible for teachers to set up an individualized Student intervention program.

Student drop-off and student pick-up processes are being implemented. More students are being dropped off this year with our preschool students making up the biggest increase. We have made several improvements to both processes and are now operating at an optimal level. Today, we had fifty-two cars go through the process, taking approximately thirteen minutes; about four cars per minute.

- E. 2020-21 Elementary Handbook Changes; pgs. 1,3,6,9 – Superintendent Erfourth shared the minor changes were a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Page 1- all buildings open for students at 8:45 am, not 8:40 am. Page 3 – Students may be dropped off at 8:45 am, not 8:40 am. Page 6 – Removal of “*Students who arrive one minute to 15 minutes late will be marked as tardy*”. Page 9 – Addition of “*Given the COVID-19 pandemic, homemade birthday treats and other homemade classroom treats are not permitted. Pre-packaged, store bought treats are permitted*”.**
- F. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the ECOL is now set to be approved every month, aligning with district regularly scheduled board minutes, as opposed to every 30 calendar days. Continuation of masks/facial coverings following MDHHS Epidemic Orders. Board of Education meetings now open to the public. Given social distancing requirements (whether required by MDHHS emergency orders, local health department orders, school plans, or otherwise), school official will consider the anticipated adequacy of the size of their physical meeting space and whether to move to a large venue to accommodate more in-person attendees, especially in a manner to permit social distancing.**
- Pandemic Pupil Accounting and benchmark assessment mandates. Two-way communication percentages will be reported at monthly Regular Board of Education meetings, and will be reported on the transparency page of the districts website.**

G. Resignations:

- Julie Hospenhal – Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary**
- Betsy Peacock – Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary**
- Heather Ramirez – Middle School Volleyball**

H. Leave of Absence

- Butch Adkins –JV Football – Pandemic Concerns

Board of Education/Committee Reports:

- A. Thrun Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying) – Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters. 5200 Student Conduct and Discipline – 5207 Anti-Bullying Policy – The Board of Education was presented with the NEOLA Policy as well as the Thrun Policy. The Board of Education, as a follow up from their September 14, 2020 Thrun Policy Adoption Resolution with the exception of 5207 and 5209, needed to adopt the Thrun Policy 5207 (Anti Bullying). A Responsible School Official needed to be delegated, and prevention task force, training, and educational programs were all possible policy options.**
- B. Thrun Policy 5209 Student Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Devices – Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters. 5200 Student Conduct and Discipline – 5209 Student Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Devices – The Board of Education was presented with the NEOLA Policy as well as the Thrun Policy. The Board of Education, as a follow up from their September 14, 2020 Thrun Policy Adoption Resolution with the exception of 5207 and 5209, needed to revisit Policy 5209 for adoption. Option 1 or 2 up for adoption.**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

- A. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) – Approval every month; aligned with district regularly scheduled board meetings.**
- B. Non-Union Contracts – A Non-Union Summary of Contracts was presented to the Board of Education.**

Action Topics:

20-21-061 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the 2020/21 Elementary Handbook Changes

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-062 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the Extended Learning Plan (ECOL)

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-063 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the ratification of all board decisions made at regular and special board meetings held remotely between May 1, 2020 and the date of this motion.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-064 It was moved by Ms.Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the 2020/21 Non-Union Contracts.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-065 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Thrun Law Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying) Resolution.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-066 It was moved by Ms.Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the Thrun Law Policy 5209 Student Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Devices

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): Jon Zickert, 15811 Nuthatch Dr., Thompsonville took the podium. Jon thanked the Board of Education for the tremendous amount of work that they have been doing. Though appreciative, he is concerned that although the Board of Education seeks feedback, they are not always welcome to the opinions that are shared. Jon want assurance that feedback received by the board will be heard, whether considered good or bad, following up by saying this is not political at all. He expressed his concern regarding a comment made by Mr. Gray at the September 14, 2020 Board of Education meeting. Jon's primary concern is the children's safety, and he strongly feels that it should be the Board of Education's number one concern. Jon cited that administrator's jobs during these uncertain times are to make the jobs of teachers easier.

Board Communication: Chris Noffsinger expressed concern that Norther Michigan Virtual students may not be receiving full communications, and would like to see that this be addressed.

Announcements:

1. Superintendent Erfourth plans to implement weekly district communication via a video platform within the next week.
2. Superintendent Erfourth shared that to date, we have had (0) COVID-19 related cases with staff and students.

20-21-067 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray adjourn the regular meeting 8:37 PM.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried


Secretary, Board of Education