

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, December 14, 2020, virtually pursuant to MCL 333.2221 - meet.google.com/kbd-trhh-okh
Join by phone

(US) +1 401-753-9621 PIN: 489 555 443#

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent: NONE

20-21-078 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Pomper to amend and then approve the agenda; adding action item H. Approval of Budget Amendment #1

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-079 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: November 9, 2020 Regular | November 17, 2020 Special

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$570,443.73

C. Support Staff Appointments: NONE

D. Staff Changes: None

E. Leave of Absence: None

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Stephanie Johnston shared that the District Impact Team continues to meet, although COVID-19 has taken much of their time. They are currently working through a book study on leadership roles.

Student Council Report: NONE

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there was an update today from Senator Schmidt, and there is much going on during the Lane Duck session, though not all were able to participate at the capital given COVID-19 restrictions. They are beginning a phase roll-out for the COVID-19 vaccination. The allocation of the initial COVID-19 vaccine is as follows:
 Phase 1a – Health Care Personnel and long-term care facility residents, including adults who reside in facilities that provide a range of services, Phase 1b- Essential workers (Education sectors, food and agriculture, utilities, police, firefighters, corrections officers, transportation), Phase 1c – Adults with high-risk medical conditions and adults 65+. The phases may overlap one another, and the

vaccination will require two doses. House Bill 4964, Open Meetings Act -Board of Education not being able to meet virtually in January (per MDHHS order) SB 1246 – The bill allows a meeting of a public body to be held electronically, in whole or in part until March 30, 2021. Dr. Rice submitted a Waiver to the Secretary of Education to waive state assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.

Legislatures continue to discuss the possibility of waiving teacher evaluations due to the student growth component. HB4694 Critical Shortage would allow Districts the ability to rehire retired employees of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) and allow those retirees to retain their pensions and earn wages during their period of reemployment in the areas of critical shortage, substitute teachers, instructional coaches, and independent contractors.

- B. Michigan Public Health Code MCL 333.2221 from December 9, 2020 at 12:01 AM through December 20 at 11:59 PM – Gatherings and Face Mask Order. This order includes general capacity limitations at gatherings, gathering restrictions for particular types of facilities, gathering restrictions for facilities, gatherings at schools, colleges, technical schools, and universities, organized sports gathering restrictions, face mask requirements at gatherings, exceptions to face mask requirements, contact tracing requirements for particular gatherings, and implementation. Given MCL 333.2221, our high school 9-12 grades will continue remote learning, K-8 grade will continue to wear masks with face to face instruction, and there will be no sports, practices or competition, at this time.
- C. Dave Clasen/Steve Graetz – MS/HS/BA/Athletic Update – Middle School/High School Principal, Dave Clasen, shared with the Board of Education a secondary report on our Advance Placement courses spanning the last five years, 2016-2020. Within the school summary, he shared the total number of AP students, number of exams, AP student with scores 3+, and percent of total AP students with scores 3+. He shared that AP testing happened in spring 2020 during unusual times, given the COVID-19 pandemic. He was pleased to report that we still had high percentages of students who took the exams and scored a 3+, therefore earning college credit. Benzie Central currently offers Advanced Placement in the following areas; Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, and United States History. Middle School/High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, Steve Graetz, presented to the Board of Education an athletic update. With the state's three-week "pause" which came to a halt on Dec. 9, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced this past Monday that the order will continue until December 20, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. MHSAA provides guidelines for member schools based on the MDHHS Orders. MDHHS Order prohibits athletic activities through December 20. If that order is not extended again, winter sports practices can and will safely resume on December 21 or shortly thereafter. MHSAA meets on Friday 12/18/20 and will provide schools an update after the meeting. MHSAA is committed to maintaining as much normalcy for spring sports as possible, as spring sports were completely lost in the 19-20 school year.

- D. 2020/21 Budget Amendment #1 – Director of Finance – Michele Murray - Michele Murray, Director of Finance, presented the board with the recommended 2020-21 1st Budget Amendment. The amendment was reviewed with the end of year revenue expected to decrease to \$16,018,736 dropping from 2019-20 end of year revenue of \$16,121,328. The end of year expenditures are expected to increase to \$14,974,426 from the 2019-20 end of year expenditures of \$14,071,911. The fund balance is now expected to end 2020-21 at \$2,961,877, an increase from \$2,871,014 in 2019-20. The fall 2020 pupil count resulted in 1,314 students .**
- E. Public Act 165 of 2020 – Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans – November 2020- Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared with the Board of Education the November reconfirmation. Public Act 165 of 2020 amends section 98a of the State School Aid Act, requiring all COVID-19 learning plans to include a description of how instruction will be delivered during the 2020-21 school year. The reconfirmation meeting confirms instructional delivery method, how instruction will be delivered for each grade level offered by the district, including prekindergarten, whether or not the district is offering higher levels of in-person instruction for English language learners, special education students or other special populations.**
- F. Public Act 149 2020 – Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans – November 2020- Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared with the Board of Education the November reconfirmation. Public Act 140 of 2020, Michigan “Return to Learn” legislation, Public Act 149, was signed into law on August 20, 2020. As part of the required COVID-19 plans, districts must identify educational goals expected to be achieved for learners during the 2020-21 academic year. The law states: the Goals must include an assurance that the district shall select a benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments that are aligned to state standards and an assurance that the district shall administer the benchmark assessment or benchmark assessments to all pupils as prescribed under section 104 to determine whether pupils are making meaningful progress toward mastery of these standards. The district continues to monitor two-way percentage rates, and will be comparing NWEA January 2021 data to that of fall 2020.**
- G. Kingscott Contract – Document B132-2009 Owner and Architect Agreement – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we have returned the contract to Kingscott, based on guidance from Thrun, to update the contract to reflect the most recent AIA (American Institute of Architects) standards. Board will revisit in January.**
- H. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Bonds – PFM Bonds – Kari Blanchett – PFM Financial - After reviewing the proposals submitted, and the attached tabulation of the proposals received, we recommend the appointment of JP Morgan as senior managing underwriter for the District’s upcoming bond issue. As discussed, JP Morgan has the largest sales force, largest capital position, adequate Michigan experience, the lowest underwriting fee, and a local Traverse City office. As discussed, the indicative interest rates**

provided did not assume an underlying rating on the School District, as the RFP had directed, which means they should be slightly higher than the others.

- I. **Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and the Benzie County Central Schools** – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this resolution will provide an easement to the township as well as eliminate the revert of the property to the school. With that, Mrs. Erfourth shared a discrepancy in the easement's legal description.

- J. **2020/21 Calendar Waiver (December 21&22) – Hourly Employee Association Agreements** – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Benzie County Central Schools was approved through MDE for their calendar waiver submission. This waiver extends the holiday break by two extra days, December 21 and December 22. Given the extension, there are four District and Association Agreements up for approval; The Benzie County Central Education Association, Transportation, Paraprofessionals, and Secretarial.

- K. **Resignations:**
 - Karen McDaniel – Bus Driver – Transportation Department

Board of Education/Committee Reports – President Childs spoke on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Since the passing of the bond, the Buildings and Grounds Committee consisting of Kingscott, Wolgast, Superintendent Erfourth, Director of Operations, Mike Zielinski, Board of Education President Brian Childs, and Board of Education Trustee Chris Noffsinger) have met numerous occasions; three-four times a week. They are focusing on reviewing the site location, elementary building details, timeline, design strategies, sinking fund projects school by school, as well as schematics and designs. Each project will consist of a design team, including building administrators and CORE team members for cohesive design, flow and purpose. The CORE team consists of Kingscott, Wolgast, Superintendent Erfourth, Director of Operations, Mike Zielinski, Board of Education President Brian Childs, and Board of Education Trustee Chris Noffsinger. Community and staff input will be considered. The CORE team will track meetings and content throughout the process for organization and transparency purposes.

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

- A. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) – Approval every month; aligned with district regularly scheduled board meetings, including November reconfirmation plan and MCL 333.2221.**
- B. Thrun Board Policy - Series: 4000 District Employment Policy 4225 Temporary Remote Work Policy for Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) Compliance – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this policy is recommended for approval in order to comply with the MIOSHA remote working policy. Pursuant to MIOSHA Emergency Rule 5(8), dated October 14, 2020, “The employer shall create a policy prohibiting in-person work for employees to the extent that their work activities can feasibly be completed remotely.” This Policy will expire April 14, 2021, unless Emergency Rule 5(8) is otherwise extended, or unless expressly extended by the Board.**
- C. Sinking Fund Resolution to combine remaining sinking fund and bond proceed dollars – Board of Education President, Brian Childs, shared the intent of the resolution is to essentially makes these dollars go further. The Resolution would allow the Board of Education, at their discretion, the use of sinking fund dollars combined with the bond proceeds to accomplish a greater scope of work for the District to leverage quantity and timing of work for the most efficient use of funds.**

Action Topics:

20-21-080 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Extended Learning Plan (ECOL).

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-081 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the Benzie County Central Schools Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Bonds and other Matters Relating Thereto, using JP Morgan as their Underwriter.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-082 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve to table the Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and the Benzie County Central Schools until the January 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-083 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the Thrun Board Policy 4225 Temporary Remote Work Policy for Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) Compliance.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-084 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the 2020-21 Calendar Waiver (December 21 & 22)- Hourly Employee Association Agreements.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-085 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Resolution to combine remaining sinking fund and bond proceed dollars.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-086 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Ms. Cota-Hill to approve the 2020/21 Budget Amendment #1.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: Please look at your calendars for February for an upcoming Board Of Education Retreat. This retreat will allow for board training, goals and visions, and pave the way for solid communication. Board of Education members, as well as Superintendent Erfourth thanked, as well as presented a plaque to Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray, for his six years of service and dedication as he rides off into the sunset. Scott Gray wished to express his gratitude to the community for their support.

Announcements:

1. January 11, 2021 - January Regular and Organizational Board of Education Meetings.

20-21-087 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to adjourn the regular meeting 9:03 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried


Secretary, Board of Education

Catrina Crossman

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Board of Education Administrative Assistant

Benzie County Central Schools