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For Immediate Release

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**Benzie County Central Schools HONORS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
FOR ANNUAL RECOGNITION MONTH**

Benzie County Central Schools is joining 544 local and 57 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

"In a year full of challenges for public education not seen in recent history, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2020 to provide the best possible education for our students," said Superintendent Amiee Erfourth. "Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the very small ways to express appreciation for all they do."

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community in the complex system of maintaining and running a district's public schools, Erfourth said. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan.

"Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized," Erfourth said.

The school board's main goal is to support student achievement Erfourth added. To achieve that goal, the board focuses on the following needs:

- *Creating a vision for what parents and citizens want their school district to become and how to make student achievement the top priority.*
- *Setting standards for what students must learn and be able to do.*
- *Assessing whether schools achieve their goals and whether students are learning.*
- *Accounting for the outcomes of decisions and by tracking progress and reporting results.*
- *Aligning the use of the district's human and financial resources.*
- *Creating a safe and orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach.*
- *Collaborating to solve common problems and to support common successes.*
- *Focusing on continuous improvement by questioning, examining, revising, refining and revisiting issues related to student achievement.*

School board members take that responsibility and public trust very seriously, dedicating an enormous number of hours to their work both in and outside of board meetings. Attending school functions, preparing for board meetings, reading financial reports, agendas and proposals, and making a host of difficult and challenging decisions are just a few of the regular activities board members participate in through their service.

“Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part,” Erfourth said. “No matter what challenges lie ahead for our district in 2021, our school board members will continue to govern to improve student achievement and provide exceptional education for all our community’s children.”

The individuals serving **Benzie County Central Schools** are:

***Brian Childs, Nicolette Brown, Stephanie Johnston, Amber Pomper, Chris Noffsinger,
Lori Cota Hill, Jason Barnard.***

Thank you for all that you do!

Go Huskies!