

## REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, January 11, 2021, virtually pursuant to MCL 333.2221 - [meet.google.com/etf-snfy-mcr](https://meet.google.com/etf-snfy-mcr)

Join by phone

(US) +1 630-733-8970 PIN: 899 316 406#

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** NONE

**20-21-097** It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the agenda as presented.

**Ayes:** 7

**Nays:** 0

**Motion Carried**

**20-21-098** It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes:** December 14, 2020 Regular

**B. Business:** General Fund Bills – \$491,559.64

**C. Support Staff Appointments:** NONE

**D. Staff Changes:** None

**E. Leave of Absence:** Nichole Lamkey

**Ayes:** 7

**Nays:** 0

**Motion Carried**

Board of Education President, Brian Childs, gave a formal welcome to Mr. Jason Barnard, our newly elected Board of Education Trustee.

**Board Blueprint Communication:** Stephanie Johnston shared that the District Impact held their first meeting of the calendar year 2021. Our Building Impact Teams (BIT) are sharing up with our District Impact Team (DIT), and our DIT is sharing down with the BIT. Interim Principal, Sharyl Corey, provided a BIT update for Betsie Valley. The DIT also discussed agenda and meeting schedule. During the third week, they plan to deep dive and analyze data. Week four will consist of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

**Student Council Report:** NONE

**Administration Report:**

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared an update today from the Region 2 meeting. In attendance was the new State Representative in Michigan’s 107<sup>th</sup> District, John Damoose. Superintendents shared with him important issues that Region 2 faces; Per Pupil Funding verses Lump Sum Funding, and transportation funding for Northern Michigan schools.**

February meeting – Senate and State Budgets. Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference to take place on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Michigan State Capitol Commission bans open carry of firearms by unanimous vote.

- B. Early Childhood Update – Early Childhood Coordinator, Amber Wilson – Mrs. Wilson was pleased to report that there is a lot going on in the Early Childhood Department, and expressed her gratitude for her staff and their willingness to do all that is asked. Currently, there are (30) GSRP slots (4 year olds) at Lake Ann Elementary, and all (30) are full. Also at Lake Ann Elementary, there are 10 Head Start Slots (3 and 4 year olds), with only 3 openings, as well as 5 Tuition Slots that are all full. There are many highlights to report: **Strong Beginnings Grant** – Strong Beginnings is a federal grant to research the impacts of high quality preschool on three year old children. Only 10 classrooms in the state of Michigan were chosen for this pilot, and Benzie Central is one of them. This is a two year pilot program that provided a substantial start up fund and generous per pupil funding to provide high-quality, whole child and family support. The program requires a fully credentialed lead and associate teachers as well as a Master's level social worker to support children and families. This pilot will drive future legislation for the addition of 3 year old state funded preschool. We are so excited to have the opportunity to bring this to our Benzie County families. **Special Education and General Education Supports** - With our full-time Early Childhood Special Education teacher we have had the opportunity to implement MTSS in each Benzie building providing all preschool children appropriate and responsive supports. The MTSS team of general and special education teachers, associate teachers, ISD itinerants, and mental health specialists has worked together to provide support for over 15 children and classroom wide support for most BCEC classrooms. The work being done will help children and families be successful long after their time in preschool is over. **TBAISD Partnership** - Benzie has partnered with the ISD to provide Early Childhood Specialist and Program Director rolls to support programs and provide extra funds for Benzie to utilize to support our children, families and EC staff. **Building for Our Future** - We have 3 early childhood staff applying for and utilizing the TEACH scholarship, which provides all tuition and fees for staff to complete higher education and obtain further credentials and certifications. We have also partnered with the ISD to provide professional development from Stuart Shanker, Kristie Prettit-Frontczak, and many more Early Childhood experts from around the world. Each early childhood staff member will complete over 24 hours of professional development by the end of the school year! Our goal is to increase our current four star rating to the top 5 star rating by the 2022 school year. **CARES Grants** – This year we applied for and received \$49,200 in grants to support losses we had due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of these grants we also received an additional \$15,560 to help families directly with tuition payments.
- C. Benzie-Kingscott Contract – Document B132-2019 Owner and Architect Agreement – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the contract has been looked over by Thrun Law Firm and is ready to be signed.

- D. Benzie Central 2021 Sinking Fund Project Bids – Kris Gerke -Project Manager, Wolgast Corp. – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Benzie County Central Schools received sealed bids on January 5, 2021, for the 2021 Sinking Funds Project. Wolgast Corporation has reviewed each of the bids and interviewed the low bidders. Wolgast Corporation recommends the following contractors for the award of contracts and described amounts. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, accept a bid other than the low bid and to waive the informalities and/or errors in the bid, which they feel to be in their own best interest.**
- Bid Division – 101400 Post Panel Sign – Volk Corporation, Northville, Michigan
  - Bid Division – 222300 Plumbing/HVAC – D&W Mechanical, Traverse City, Michigan
  - Bid Division – 260000 Electrical – Top Line Electric, Traverse City, Michigan
  - Bid Division – 321200 Paving & Minor Concrete/Site work – Molon Excavating, Traverse City, Michigan
- E. Teacher and School Support Staff COVID-19 Grants/Administration and Central Business Office Staff – Superintendent Erfourth – The Teacher COVID-19 Grant program was created by Public Act 166 of 2020 to recognize the additional time classroom teachers in a district or nonprofit nonpublic school spent outside of normal working hours and additional costs classroom teachers have incurred or experienced to provide a continuity of learning during the period of school closure in 2019-2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was funded under Article 5, Section 949p for grants to eligible K-12 classroom teachers. The School Support COVID-19 Grant program was created by Public Act 166 of 2020 for grants to eligible K-12 school support staff to recognize the additional time spent outside of normal working hours, hazardous conditions, and additional costs school support staff have incurred or experienced to provide services to students during the period of school closure in 2019-2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note if you work for a nonprofit nonpublic school you are not eligible for this grant. The program was funded under Article 5, Section 949q for grants to eligible K-12 school support staff. Superintendent Erfourth recommended to the Board of Education, that she would like to do the same for Administration and Central Business Office Staff. The Board of Education also requested that the Technology Department be added.**
- F. Public Act 165 of 2020 Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans Monthly Submissions –December 2020 –Superintendent Erfourth shared with the Board of Education the December reconfirmation. There was no change in delivery methods from that of November 2020. There has been changes requiring quarantining. Quarantine time is now 10 days for staff, with self-monitoring to take place for the following four days. In addition, the district is required to both report and post on the Benzie Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan: Training on Delivery, Access, and use of Virtual Content. This information must be posted to the districts**

Transparency Link by January 15, 2021. The training reporting consists for that of teachers/staff, parents, and students.

- G. **Public Act 149 of 2020 monthly two-way interaction rates, instructional delivery methods, Benchmark Assessments** – Superintendent Erfourth shared that 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 will be comparing NWEA January 2021 data to that of fall 2020. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared the two-way percentage rates for the first three weeks of December, as the last two weeks were our regularly scheduled holiday break as well as two state approved calendar waived days. Mrs. Crossman emphasized that although it was a holiday break, many of our virtual students continued to work on their course work during that time.
- H. **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. Lori Cota Hill added that that township attorney suggested that a survey description be made part of the agreement. The board will revisit and consider action, once a survey has taken place.
- I. **Benzie County Road Commission - Benzie County Central Schools – Street Maintenance Agreement** – The school has affirmatively found that contracting with the board of the Benzie County Road Commission for the maintenance of school roads within its jurisdiction is in the best public interest. The Benzie County Central Schools Board of Education has been provided a copy of the contract.
- J. **School | Family | Community Partnership Survey** – Superintendent Erfourth – Mrs. Erfourth, along with Board of Education president, Brian Childs, and Board of Education Trustee, Chris Noffsinger shared their intent of issuing this survey was to gain feedback from families, community and alumni. Benzie County Central Schools' Board of Education seeks community input in their vision going forward. Our school district and community are both committed to high expectations and high standards. We must proactively work together to provide skills, knowledge, and resources to all stakeholders ensuring a fully supportive environment for excellence in education.
- K. **Resignations:**
  - Gina Gomulinski – Bus Driver – Transportation Department
  - Katy Knight – Paraprofessional – Middle School
  - Elaine Titze – Title I Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary
  - Scott Gray – Wrestling Coach – Middle School

**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. To date, they are almost set on the elementary school location, have considered a different location for the bus garage (east side) for better flow, have discussed boiler work at Lake Ann Elementary, as well as the two room addition for our Early Childhood Program. Currently, two different scenarios are being considered for the weight room; remodel versus addition. Trustee Noffsinger added that they are looking to save dollars all while getting the best product.**

**Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Cher’rie Brown (4<sup>th</sup> grader at Lake Ann Elementary) 15266 Cinder Rd., Beulah shared some kind words for Mrs. Elaine Titze as she enters into retirement. Cher’rie announced that Mrs. Titze was a nice teacher and that she loved her “titize rolls”. She also added that she was her brothers’ third grade teacher, and that she Mrs. Titze helps kids to read. Nicolette Brown, c/o Robert Brown, (7<sup>th</sup> grader at Benzie Central Middle School) 15266 Cinder Rd., Beulah shared that Mrs. Titze made him feel secure and ready, better behaved, and better. He too enjoyed her “titze rolls”.**

**Discussion Topics:**

- A. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) – Approval every month; aligned with district regularly scheduled board meetings, including December reconfirmation plan and MCL 333.2221. In addition, the district is required to both report and post on the Benzie Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan: Training on Delivery, Access, and use of Virtual Content. This information must be posted to the districts Transparency Link by January 15, 2021. The training reporting consists for that of teachers/staff, parents, and students.**

**Action Topics:**

**20-21-099 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Benzie-Kingscott Contract – Document B132 – 2019 Owner and Architect Agreement.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**20-21-100 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Benzie County Central Schools 2021 Sinking Fund Project Bids.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

20-21-101 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Teacher and School Support Staff COVID-19 Grants/ Administration and Central Business Office Staff.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-102 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Extended Learning Plan (ECOL).

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-103 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Benzie County Road Commission – Benzie County Central Schools – Street Maintenance Agreement.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: Lori Cota Hill is passionate to begin strategic planning. She would like the Board of Education to come up with a wish list of things that they would like to see in terms of the direction they would like to see the district move, as well as follow through with implementation. Amber Pomper suggested that each member pick their top three before the Board of Education Retreat tentatively scheduled for February 2021. Superintendent Erfourth added that the take away should be building budget priorities. Chris Noffsinger agreed, adding that the strategic planning should be through the lens of the blueprint.

#### Announcements:

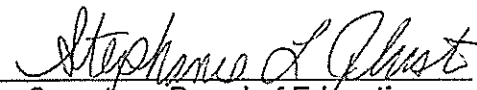
1. January is Board of Education Recognition Month. Superintendent Erfourth thank the BOE members for all their hard work, time given, and commitment to our BCCS district.

20-21-104 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to adjourn the regular meeting 8:19 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

  
Secretary, Board of Education

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Catina Crossman*

*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*

*Board of Education Administrative Assistant*

*Benzie County Central Schools*