

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, February 8, 2021, virtually pursuant to MCL 333.2221 - meet.google.com/zjs-eemv-akp – Join by phone
(US) +1 475-441-4701 PIN: 602 890 101#

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

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

Members Absent: NONE

20-21-105 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-106 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: January 11, 2021 Organizational | Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$645,719.36

C. Support Staff Appointments:

1. Dave Egeler – Wrestling Coach - Middle School

2. Alyssa Holston – Paraprofessional 5.5 - Betsie Valley Elementary

3. Elizabeth Miller – Paraprofessional 5.5 – Lake Ann Elementary

D. Staff Changes:

1. Erin Schoch – Paraprofessional 5.5 to 6.5 – Middle School

E. Leave of Absence:

1. Linda Cutsinger – Bus Driver

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Stephanie Johnston shared that the District Impact Team revisited the ISSN, redefined the committees' purpose. The DIT looked at many aspects that contributed to the social-emotional support of our students and determined that it needs to begin with staff wellness. It was also determined that the handbooks need to be revised and made to align with ISSN goals. Professional development for February 12 was planned. It was determined to be a building-level PD. The book study has continued. Collectively, DIT members discussed what quotes jumped out at them in their reading. They looked at their adaptive communication profiles, and discussed about how to build trust amongst the team so that conflict can happen in a safe space. Trust is the foundation of teamwork, vulnerability is part of trust. The following week the team dove into conflict. Everyone shared acceptable and unacceptable behaviors for debate. It was fascinating to see the themes that came out; being an

engaged listener, avoid condescension, sharing air time, and validating other people's feelings.

Student Council Report: Alyssa Brouwer shared that the student council is planning their holiday luncheon, this Thursday, February 11. This is a re-scheduled event that was to take place prior to the holiday break. Given COVID-19 guidelines, they will not be able to decorate like they have in the past. They are also in the planning phase for Snowcoming 2021. Again, given the pandemic, they hope to have dress up days during Snowcoming week, and engage in virtual games against classes, to keep the competitiveness and excitement going. Most importantly, the student council is focusing on student morale.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the NMSLA Update was moved until next week, so she will report at our next regularly scheduled meeting on March 8, 2021.**
- B. **School | Family | Community Partnership Survey Feedback – Superintendent Erfourth. Superintendent Erfourth shared that the survey had 165 responses, providing quality feedback. The community and family take away was there is much appreciation for our Honors and Advanced Placement Courses. A large number of responses were geared around wanting to see more vocational/trades programs, as well as Life Skills courses. These results will be revisited and will be used in the districts strategic planning going forward.**
- C. **Lake Ann Elementary Update – Principal, Larry Haughn – The Lake Ann Elementary Update will be rescheduled for March 8, 2021.**
- D. **Investment of Bonds Proceeds Vendor – PFM – Tom Armstrong – Tom Armstrong spoke on behalf of PFM. Public Financial Management (PFM) is the vendor recommended to handle the bond investments.**

President Brian Childs joined the meeting.

- E. **Public Act 165 of 2020 Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans Monthly Submissions –January 2021 –Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared with the Board of Education the January reconfirmation. The significant change in delivery methods from that of December 2020 to January 2021, was that high school students were allowed back to school for face-to-face instruction. Reconfirmation plans are submitted at the beginning of each month.**
- F. **Public Act 149 of 2020 monthly two-way interaction rates, instructional delivery methods, Benchmark Assessments – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared with the Board of Education the two-way percentages for the month of January, citing that each month gets better, and that she is very proud of the work our district is doing. 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 results are comparing fall 2020 to winter 2021 and using student growth projections based on NWEA 2020 norms. The conditional growth index (CGI) is a normative growth measure that is a standardized measure of observed growth. Essentially, this means that any growth over 0 is a positive growth gain. Students in K-5th are meeting the growth projections, as compared to other K-5 students across the nation, 51% of the time for reading and 52% of the time for math. A few grades (2nd in all subjects and 3rd in math) outperformed CGI and ranked in the 99th and 93rd percentile for growth. Some grades (1st, 6th, 7th, and 8th) demonstrated a significant loss in gains in language arts. We will do a deeper dive into our student results at individual buildings during Building Impact Team (BIT) meetings. Superintendent Erfourth shared the Board of Education charts for both Achievement or Growth on Benchmark Assessment K -5th and Achievement or Growth on Benchmark Assessment 6th-8th.

- G. **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 hired a new surveyor. This has caused a delay in the property agreement as the easement issue has not yet been resolved. The board will revisit and consider action, once a survey has taken place.
- H. **Roofing Replacement Bids – Kris Gerke** – Kris Gerke was unable to virtually access the meeting. Superintendent Erfourth shared with the Board of Education, that two companies that provided bids based on the specs are approximately \$400,000 over budget on this project. One company was able to provide a 30 year product warranty and was able to come in under budget. Wolgast recommends accepting the Award Recommendation to Bloxsom Roofing, in the amount of \$1,408,180.00, for the 2020 Bond Project BP #1 to include a complete tear-off and rebuild for the Middle School and High School roof that includes a 30-year warranty. Kudos to Director of Operations, Mike Zielinski, for all of his hard work.
- I. **Ratification Resolution – Sale of Bonds** – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this will need to be approved (with revisions from the bond sale) in order to close the bond agreement on February 11, 2021. *By resolution adopted on December 14, 2020 (the "Bond Resolution"), the Issuer authorized the issuance of not to exceed Thirty-Seven Million Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$37,625,000) 2021 School Building and Site Bonds, Series I (the "Bonds"), and In the Bond Resolution, the Board authorized the sale of the Bonds and delegated authority to the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Director of Finance (each an "Authorized Officer") to accept the offer of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC to*

purchase the Bonds subject to parameters established in the Bond Resolution; and Based upon information provided by the Issuer's financial consulting firm, an Authorized Officer accepted an offer from J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, and the other underwriter listed in the bond purchase agreement (the "Underwriters") to purchase the Bonds, and the Board desires to ratify and affirm the acceptance of the offer. The Authorized Officer's acceptance of the offer as set forth in the bond purchase agreement dated January 28, 2021 (the "Bond Purchase Agreement"), and the terms and conditions set forth therein. The Bonds shall be dated February 11, 2021.

- J. Benzie County Central Schools (BCCEA) Contract Agreement – Superintendent Erfourth shared that at this time, the BCCEA has reviewed the proposal and a tentative agreement has been made. Final approval will be tabled until March 8, 2021.
- K. Technology Consultant – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we are waiting on cost projections and fund allocation for technology on the bond projects. We have 3 potential consultants to work with. Each has a similar skillset and fee schedule. Until numbers can be produced to put out to bid, we are unable to get a true cost comparison. One vendor has the ability to offer PD to teachers as part of their bid package. We continue to work with Wolgast and Kingscott to get this information. This will be tabled until March 8, 2021.
- L. Advertising Campaign – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that our contract for billboards is up. An ad-hoc committee will investigate the cost of producing a television and/or radio/Spotify ad to share programming here at Benzie and to help with the advertising of K roundup.
- M. Benzie Academy full time FTE Bell Schedule Equivalency – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Catina shared that although this bell schedule had been discussed with the approval of our virtual learning software this past summer in lieu of the COVID-19 Pandemic, that our Pupil Accounting Auditor recommends that the Board of Education adopt a bell schedule for Benzie Academy. Mrs. Crossman recommended to the Board of Education the following: Benzie Academy, Northern Michigan Virtual, and 100% virtual students must have a minimum of four courses to constitute as a full time student with a 1.0 FTE, ensuring that core courses are met, and students are on track to graduate and meet the Benzie Academy graduation requirements, unless otherwise stated in their Individualized Education Plan. Students must still meet the 180 days and 1098 hour requirement.
- N. Northern Michigan Virtual full time FTE bell schedule Equivalency – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Catina shared that although this bell schedule had been discussed with the approval of our virtual learning software this past summer in lieu of the COVID-19 Pandemic, that our Pupil Accounting Auditor recommends that the Board of Education adopt a bell schedule for Elementary, Middle School and High School. Mrs. Crossman

recommended to the Board of Education the following: Northern Michigan Virtual students (both elementary and secondary, and 100% Virtual) must have a minimum of four courses to constitute as a full-time student with a 1.0 FTE, ensuring that core courses are met, and students are on track to graduate and meet the Benzie Central High School graduation requirements unless otherwise stated in their Individualized Education Plan. Students must still meet the 180 days and 1098 hour requirement.

- O. **Schedule B – Middle School Sports Coaches – Superintendent Erfourth –**
 Superintendent Erfourth shared that during contract negotiations, a change was made to Schedule B. Freshman Football positions were eliminated in exchange for a middle school baseball and a middle school softball coaching position. This was on the agenda for the April 2020 board meeting. She wanted to ensure Board of Education members were aware these new positions that will be posted.
- P. **Resignations:**
 - Diane Shepard – Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
- Q. **Probationary Termination:**
 - Cindy Greeley – Paraprofessional – Middle School/High 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 diving more into the future planning. The Core Team, along with Deputy, Geoff Miller, and MS/HS Principal, David Clasen laid out the whole campus with an overall master plan. The vision is what the district will look like after the bond in terms of layout and property. Kingscott has laid out the plans, and we will soon be able to share a rendition of the plan on our website, so the community can share in the direction that we are taking. The Elementary design phase is close, discussion on weight room location has been determined. These decisions were made with our Physical Education and Body Mechanics teachers, Josh Lovendusky and Jason Katt. Athletic Trainer, Arthur Adkins was also able to add some insight. To date, they are still determining the need of overall size. Bus Garage site plans are coming along nicely, and a good layout has been selected on the east side of the property near Homestead Rd. Discussion has centered on traffic flow in terms of safety and parent drop off and pick up. It is the hope that Kingscott can present at our March 8, 2021 Board of Education Meeting. Community presentations will be contingent upon MDHHS Epidemic Orders. The goal is schematic design and wants versus needs with the Core Team and individual sub committees.

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only): NONE

A. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) – Approval every month; aligned with district regularly scheduled board meetings, including January reconfirmation plan and MCL 333.2221. January two-way and benchmarks were shared per Public Act 165 of 2020 and Public Act 149 of 2020.

- ### Action Topics:

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Ayes: 7

Ayes: 7 **Nays:** 0 **Motion Carried**

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Ayes: 7 **Nays:** 0 **Motion Carried**

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Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: Given the COVID-19 Pandemic, overall staff morale is low. The Board of Education would like to address ways to help boost morale. The Board of Education retreat, tentatively scheduled for February 2021 will be postponed to March 2021. They are hoping that they can resume in person in the near future.

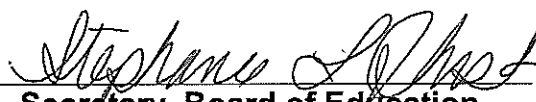
Announcements: NONE

20-21-116 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to adjourn the regular meeting 8:12 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