

SPECIAL MEETING

A Special meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:30 AM in the Middle School Computer Lab, 9300 Homestead Rd., Benzonia, MI. 49616

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:34 AM

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Pomper, Mr. Noffsinger

Members Absent: Mrs. Johnston, Ms. Cota Hill, Mrs. Brown

20-21-136 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the agenda as written.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

20-21-137 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

- A. Minutes: - NONE
 - B. Business: General Fund Bills - NONE
 - C. Support Staff Appointments: NONE
- Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Student Council Report: NONE

Administration Report: NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports: NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

- A. Contact Tracing and Quarantine Procedures – Board of Education President, Brian Childs, opened the discussion by stating he is pleased that we as a district have been on top of things when it comes to restrictions. With that, Mr. Childs believes it is equally important to be on top of things when procedures shift. He then shared a written statement from Vice-President, Nicki Brown.

"With disappointment I am unable to attend today's meeting because of work obligations. I want to be able to thank those who put this meeting together, especially the hard work of Catina Crossman and her diligence in making sure everything ran smoothly for us board members. Even though I am unable to hear today's discussion, I want it to be known that I myself is ready to be moving forward with normalcy for our students. With all political views pushed aside, I believe what our local health department is proposing the first steps

towards our kids not fearing the implications of contact tracing and quarantining. I hope our state starts going towards regional approaches regarding the pandemic but I want it to be said that our data for our district is solid for myself to confidently agree with this new protocol. I will state I believe this meeting could have been held at a time not during working hours, where those who could attend such as staff and parents were able to have their voices and concerns heard. We as a board work hard for every child in our district and I ask that we take the time of a special meeting into consideration in the future. Thank you board members in attendance for being able to make this step and thank you for giving me a chance to write down my thoughts."

Superintendent Erfourth followed by sharing with the Board of Education guidance from both the MHSAA, as well as the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department. In summary, the offer to Superintendents is as follows: *"We would like to offer our superintendents the opportunity to discuss the option of implementing a change in the process for identifying close contact exposures within the classroom setting by using the criteria of having been within 3 feet of a positive case (rather than 6 feet) for a cumulative 15 minutes or more. Throughout this surge we have exercised the highest level of caution by maintaining the gold standard of a 14-day quarantine for close contact exposures. We have always strived to maintain a holistic approach to wellness and recognize that viral risk is not the only risk our communities face. Because repeated quarantine of students results in significant disruption of in-person learning and now that cases are trending downward, we will likely be moving forward with changing this recommended quarantine period back to 10 days."* In addition, an additional safeguard in place, is that student-athletes who are contacted traced and quarantined, are tested upon return. Students who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days, or are fully vaccinated within the window, will not have to be tested.

Superintendent Erfourth followed up by sharing that during the 2020/21 school year, Benzie County Central Schools has contact traced 400+ students and staff, and zero have resulted in a positive close contact. Since January alone, we have quarantined 207 students. Should the board approve the 3ft, 10 day shift, it would allow for up to 20 students to return to school immediately. In addition, there are several students who have been contact traced quarantined multiple times, resulting in some cases, of 6 weeks of missed school. To date, Superintendent Erfourth is pleased with the safety procedures and protocols that our district has implemented district wide, and feels when looking at the data, they are working. Mrs. Erfourth shared that by moving from the 6 ft., 14 day to 3ft., 10 day would allow for our district to make safe and data based decisions for the fall of 2021.

Action Topics:

20-21-138 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the ECOL with updated Contact Tracing and Quarantine Procedures.
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

20-21-139 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 8:01 AM.

Ayes: 4 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