

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, May 10, 2021, in the Middle School Computer Lab. *MDHHS has amended its order to now allow for in-person board meetings that are exempt from the 25 person capacity limit. Updates can be found [here](#). It is recommended that if we are holding an in-person board meeting, we not allow virtual public comment but only allow those in attendance to comment. (If a school board is not conducting a virtual meeting in whole or in part under OMA, MASB recommends that the board limit public comment to individuals who are attending the meeting in person.)*

Join by phone

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President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Members Absent: NONE

20-21-140 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

20-21-141 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: April 12, 2021 | Regular | May 6, 2021 Special

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$572,942.31

C. Support Staff Appointments:

1. Leah Frederick – Bus Driver – Transportation Department

2. Meagan Zych – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

1. NONE

E. Leave of Absence:

1. NONE

F. Public Act 149 of 2020 monthly two-way interaction rates, instructional delivery methods, Benchmark Assessments

G. Public Act 165 of 2020 Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans Monthly Submissions – April 2021 – Essar II Funds and Projections

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Stephanie Johnston shared that the District Impact Team continues to work on the MCIP plan. They have finished their book study on what makes an effective team. They have reviewed the data gathered from the staff on their socio-emotional health when it comes to health and safety similar to the SELWEB data that they gathered from the students.

Student Council Report: NONE

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that GSRP funding will increase next year to the full foundation grant funding. 3rd grade reading bill will take place this year. Parents of 3rd graders not meeting proficiency on spring 2021 MSTEP will receive a letter within 30 days of MSTEP completion. Many potential legislative bills are being discussed, including changes to the 3rd grade reading bill, however, due to time constraints do not appear to be approved for changes for this year.**

- B. MS/HS/BA Athletics Update – Athletic Director, and MS|HS Assistant Principal, Steve Graetz – Mr. Graetz opened with the following press releases: Michigan High School Coaches Association (MHSCA) Multi-Sport Student Athletes of the Year Winners. Benzie Central's Ellen Bretzke AND Sampson Ross as Female and Male Multi-Sport Student -Athletes of the year for 2021. Qualifications to be a recipient of this award, requires being a three sport athlete all four years of high school, and a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher. Both of these two Huskies are All-State Athletes, excellent students in the classroom, talented and dedicated student-athletes, and a couple of the very best teammates to have come through Benzie Central in recent history. Ellen and Sampson will receive their scholarship dollars and commemorative plaque at Benzie Central High School's Senior Awards Night on May 27, 2021 - Benzie Central Auditorium at 7:00 P M. Athletic Director Graetz followed up by sharing the Benzie Central will be hosting a D3 MHSAA Track Regional Finals Meet on Friday, May 22, 2021, as well as a D3 MHSAA Softball District Tournament, Saturday, June 5, 2021. Benzie Central has now moved to Division 3 in Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Volleyball. Athletic Director Graetz presented to the Board of Education the MHSAA Class Breakdowns and a list of Benzie Central individual sports Divisions.**

- C. Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool One Year Renewal Agreement – 2021/2022 – In past years, this has been a two-year agreement. Superintendent Erfourth is recommending a one-year renewal for 2021/2022 given we are unsure about potential numbers for preschool slots within our Benzie Central Early Childhood Program. Early Childhood Coordinator, Amber Wilson, thinks we may have the opportunity for two preschool classrooms at Crystal Lake Elementary next year. We want to ensure that we have enough classroom space, therefore, a 1-year agreement makes the most sense at this time**

- D. 2021/2022 Benzie Central Elementary Handbook – Betsie Valley Elementary Interim Principal, Sharyl Corey- Mrs. Corey shared that the Elementary Handbook revisions and updates were group orientated, along with the District Impact Team and aligned with the Intensive Student Support Network (ISSN) vision. General changes made were ensuring that all contact phone numbers were on the first page, a table of contents consolidated into categories with headings, and the**

addition of the website link www.benzieschools.net on page 7 within the Internet Use Policy. Mrs. Corey provided the Board of Education with a list of areas that were updated to reflect our ISSN Vision of High Quality Statement.

- *Care – We embrace a ferocious unwillingness to accept student failure.*
- *Support – We practice systematic supports that address the social, cultural, and academic needs of each student.*
- *Safety – We develop and communicate expectations that are clear, firm and consistently enforced.*
- *Membership – We pursue ways to ensure our students are intellectually immersed, socially connected, and emotionally centered.*

E. Northwest Education Services (formally TBAISD) 2021/2022 Budget Overview – The Board of Education was presented with the Northwest Education Services 2021/2022 Budget Overview; looking at the General Fund Budget for approval.

F. Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and Benzie County Central Schools – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the survey has been completed, but we are still waiting to hear back from the township. This will most likely need to be tabled.

G. 2020/2021 Calendar Change – Superintendent Erfourth – Mrs. Erfourth shared the recommendation of moving the last day of school for students to Friday, June 11, 2021, from that of Tuesday, June 15, 2021. June 11 would be an early release. The teachers and supports staff last day would be Tuesday, June 15, 2021. The rationale being that we haven't used our six forgiven state days, our students have been in class every day working, no field trips, and no assemblies due to COVID-19. Superintendent Erfourth also shared, that given the pandemic, days and hours have been waived, and is confident that the full scope of content can be delivered by Friday, June 11, 2021.

H. 2021/2022 District Calendar – The proposed calendar was presented to the Board of Education. The BCCEA representatives met with Nicki Brown, Sharyl Corey, Dave Clasen, and myself to review the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The calendar stays similar to this past year's calendar. Our first staff day will be Wednesday, Sept. 1. Students will begin on Tuesday, Sept 7. The last day of school will be Friday, June 10 (tentative). We have 11 half days (2 for records, 5 for PD, 2 for PTC, 2 for before a holiday break) and 3 full days of PDs built-in for a total of 34.5 professional development hours for teachers. This calendar provides us the required 180 days, 183 teacher days, and more than the minimum of 1098 hours.

I. 2021/2022 – Food Service Management – Chartwells K12 Contract Renewal – Superintendent Erfourth shared the state approved renewal. This was tabled from last month as the state representatives were working from home.

J. Superintendent Evaluation - The final rating without student growth is at the applying level. Student growth data is not available yet as students have not finished testing.

K. Resignations:

- **Jody Tito Hernandez – Bus Driver – Transportation Department**

L. Retirements:

- **Marlene Smith – Bus Driver – Transportation Department**
- **Tammy Sedlar-Wing- Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

- 1. Bond Project Updates - Schematic Design – Next Steps – President, Brian Childs – Mr. Childs shared that the CORE team continues to meet on Wednesdays, tying up loose ends on the schematic design. They are now moving on to Phase 2; Renovations and Remodel. Science Labs, Home Economics Room, and Cafeteria. Mr. Childs shared that the roofing materials have arrived for the MS/HS Campus. Given that the cafeteria is going to be a big project, Mr. Childs is requesting input from those Board of Education members who are not on the Building and Grounds Committee as well. Mr. Childs also shared the reworking of the Elementary Preschool entrance, as well as discussion regarding the hallway at the MS/HS Campus that would eliminate having to circle through the cafeteria. An updated timeline was requested. Superintendent Erfourth shared that they also met to discuss the mezzanine area and potential uses including a batting cage. The team room space will be available but will double as a storage space.**
- 2. Platte River Elementary Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that both she, Board of Education Vice President, Nicki Brown, and Trustee, Jason Barnard, met with the Benzie County Road Commission on May 4, 2021 regarding a potential property transfer agreement. Superintendent Erfourth shared with them the benefits this property would bring to the school district. We have spoken to the initial listing agent (3 West) and he said there really isn't a market for schools. He estimated the value of the property to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000 but said it would likely only fetch that price without the building. We contacted Elmer's for a quote to tear down the facility and were told it would cost about \$245,800 to tear down. It would cost us more to tear it down and we still would not be able to recoup the cost of the demo work. We currently expend around \$49,000 a year to continue to maintain the building. The savings of no longer maintaining Platte River Elementary would be returned to the maintenance department budget. We want to continue to allow this property to be a community asset and understand the Road Commission is in need of more space. The Road Commission is interested in a property transfer due to their space restrictions and need to rebuild their facility to**

accommodate their vehicles. Their board voted 3-0 to approve moving forward with the transfer. Superintendent Erfourth is working with Thrun to get together the documents necessary for the transfer. Once the documents are ready to go, then the Road Commission will share them with their attorney. The property owner spoke to Matt Skeels and seems agreeable to the Henry Rd improvement. More to come on this. In addition, Superintendent Erfourth shared that this property was given to the district for public use, and that it would be in good spirit to grant it to another public entity. The above would be evidence of real value. The hope is to take action at the May Special or June Regular Board of Education Meeting.

B. Policy Committee – NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) - NONE

Discussion Topics:

- A. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) –Students K-12 remain both face-to-face and virtual in instructional delivery. Public Act 149 of 2020 Benchmarks are due in May of 2021. Spring NWEA scores are not available yet. The testing window opened the first week of May. Superintendent Erfourth hopes to have the data available by the end of the month. ECOL can be approved and then reapproved again at the end of the month at the special meeting once data is available. Superintendent shared the following health department guidance. Benzie Leelanau Health Department shared an update to their position based on recent litigation. Schools have adopted Mi Safe School Start plans that stated plans would follow guidance from local health departments. Benzie Central adopted our reopening plan stating we would follow our health department. Our health department has continued to recommend that we quarantine students that are considered close contacts of covid positive people. If we choose not to follow their guidance, then we do not have governmental immunity. If we choose to ignore their guidance, then we face potential liability. Thrun Law Firm is recommending we follow our local health dept guidance to keep our governmental immunity. At this time, we do not have enough information to make an informed.**
- B. Resolution to Designate Board Representative – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Board of Education needs to name a voting member and an alternate voting member to cast a vote on Benzie's behalf. The date of the vote will be June 7th at 5:30 pm. Board Representative Lori Cota Hill and Alternate Stephanie Johnston. The Board of Education will take official action this evening on the Resolution to Consider Designation of Electoral Representative for the June 7, 2021 Biennial Election. The board will take official action on the Resolution Designating District's Electoral Representative at their Special Board Meeting on May 23, 2021.**
- C. Board of Education Retreat – Sunday, May 23, 2021. Crystal Lake Golf Club. The Board of Education decided on the time of 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM. This will be Special Board of Education Meeting. The Board of Education is to forward talking points**

and concerns to Superintendent Erfourth, and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman for agenda preparation.

Action Topics:

20-21-142 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the Extended Learning Plan (ECOL).

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

20-21-143 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool One Year Renewal Agreement 2021/2022.

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

20-21-144 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the 2021/2022 Benzie Central Elementary Handbook.

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

20-21-145 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Northwest Education Services (formerly TBAISD) 2021/2022 Budget Overview-General Fund Budget

Ayes: 6 **Abstain: Brown** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

20-21-146 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve to table the Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and the Benzie County Central Schools

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

20-21-147 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Resolution to Consider Designation of Electoral Representative for the June 7, 2021 Biennial Election

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

20-21-148 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2020/2021 Calendar Change. June 11, 2021- Last Day – Half Day for Students. June 15, 2021 Teachers and Support Staff Last Day.

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

20-21-149 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the 2021/2022 District Calendar.

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

20-21-150 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the 2021/2022 Food Service Management Company Contract – Chartwells K-12.

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

20-21-151 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve to table the Approval of Superintendent Evaluation pending final document.

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

Audience Participation (Open Topics): Karen Reidlinger, Wallaker Rd., Benzonia took the podium. She thanked the Board of Education for all of their work. She also expressed thanks regarding the contact tracing and quarantine procedure change. She urged them to keep the mental health aspect in their formulas, and to continue to find loopholes.

Board Communication: Clarification on the Thrun Open Meetings Act. Mrs. Crossman will reach out to Thrun for documentation and Clarification.

Announcements:

1. May 23, 2021 – Board of Education Retreat – 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Crystal Lake Golf Club
2. June 6, 2021 – Commencement – 3:00 PM – Football Stadium
3. May 27, 2021 – Senior Barbeque – 4:00 PM
4. May 27, 2021 Senior Night – 7:00 PM

20-21-152 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Johnston to adjourn the regular meeting 9:05 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