

**REGULAR MEETING**

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, June 7, 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.)  
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President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent: NONE

20-21-157 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the agenda as presented.  
Ayes: 6                                  Nays: 0                                  Motion Carried

20-21-158 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.  
A. Minutes: May 10, 2021 Regular | May 23, 2021 Special  
B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$847,565.23  
C. Support Staff Appointments:  
1. Amy Hanson – Payroll/Registrar/Early Childhood Assistant – Central Business Office  
D. Staff Assignment Changes:  
1. NONE  
E. Leave of Absence:  
1. Leah Bowman - .4 Betsie Valley Elementary Physical Education teacher  
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 – May 2021  
Ayes: 6                                  Nays: 0                                  Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Stephanie Johnston shared that the District Impact Team has a lot of behind the scenes work happening the MiCIP this month so the DIT has not met but once. At that meeting they took a look at a great document put together by Rick Vandermolen based on the behind the scenes work with Superintendent Amiee Erfourth and the other administrators. The MiCIP plan is looking at the goal of implementing processes to improve their effectiveness of leadership, organizational capacity and competencies so that 80% of students will meet grade level

expectations for reading, math and SEL. The DIT then broke into smaller groups to look at the suggested strategies and activities for the first area of Leadership. Homework was given to all of them to do the same for the Competency Driver and Organizational Driver prior to this Thursday's meeting.

**Student Council Report: NONE**

**Administration Report:**

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there was no NMSLA update. Legislative leaders and staff began to meet this week, indicating that the budget negotiating process is still moving ahead. We still expect the budget to be passed by the end of the month, ahead of the statutory July 1 deadline, but just in time for the budget to be passed.**
- B. Husky Robotics – Marc Alderman – Marc shared a very successful recap of Husky Robotics for our 2020/2021 school year. The program qualified for a total amount of 27,952 in MDE FIRST/99h Grant funding.**

➤ **VEX IQ Challenge Teams #74484A,B,C,D**

**Grades 6-8**

**Met afterschool Sept-March**

**Four Teams**

**2-6th**

**1-7th**

**1-8th**

**Hosted the only F2F Tournament in Northern Michigan**

**Hosted two Pre-Recorded Remote Skills Only Events**

**74484C - Robot Skills 3rd Place Award**

**Qualified for \$2,260 in MDE 99h/FIRST grant funding**

➤ **VEX IQ Challenge Teams #74484E-Z**

**35 students from 7th Hour Robotics Enrichment Class in Q3 and Q4**

**Met during class hours only**

**Participated in one of two Remote Pre Recorded Skills Only Events hosted by Benzie Central**

**NEW THIS YEAR - Qualified for \$9,072 in MDE FIRST/99h Grant Funding**

➤ **VEX Robotics Competition Teams #74485A & B**

**Grades 9 & 10**

**Met afterschool Sept-March**

**Hosted F2F Tournament**

**Participated in four other local tournaments**

**74485B, Perpetual, advanced to State Championship**

**Awards: Tournament Champions, Robot Skills 1st Place, Judges Award**

**Qualified for \$5,280 in MDE FIRST/99h grant funding**

**Development Programming with Quarkmine**

➤ **VEX Robotics Competition Teams #74485C,D,E,F,G,H**

**Grades 6-8**

**Met afterschool April & May**

**Participated in REC Online Challenges**

**Development Programming with Quarkmine using V5 robots and aerial drones**

**Qualified for \$11,340 in MDE 99h/FIRST grant funding**

**Husky Robotics continues to thrive. The students have set a goal to make it to WORLDS in 2021/2022.**

**Mr. Alderman and our Benzie Central Husky Robotics teams would like to thank the Benzie Sunrise Rotary, Team Elmer's, Rhoades Engineering, and Honor Onekama Building Supply, Inc. for their continued support.**

- C. AdviseMI – Post Secondary Advisor – Manuel Lamarche – AdviseMI is an advising corps from the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). Among their goals, it is to get 60% of Michigan residents to attain a postsecondary degree by 2030; this includes a certificate, trade school, an apprenticeship, community college, and universities. As an advisor, Manuel has to collect four data points for each school he serves: # of one-on-one meetings with seniors, # of SAT registrations for seniors, FAFSA completion, and at least one college application to a post-secondary institution. These are the steps AdviseMI considers essential to successfully enroll in a college. Mr. Lamarche College Advisor shared with the Board of Education the End of Year Report for Benzie Central High School. Benzie Central High School currently has registered 103 seniors, but two seniors are international students and two seniors will be in their 13th year through the early middle college program. Therefore, our number of seniors is 99. Mr. Lamarche shared that as of May 24, 2021, he had one on one meetings with 81% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders, 71% has SAT or ACT Registration, 60% completed the FAFSA process, and 71% and submitted at least one or more college applications. To date, 47% had intent to enroll in a post-secondary institution, and 3% are military bound. Manuel suggests holding financial Aid and FAFSA events, setting aside dedicated time to explore colleges and submit applications, school community following up on students' plans, and a larger investment in dual enrollment funding and Advanced Placement Course support. In addition, he shared information regarding the School Counseling Documents and Resources site that can be accessed from the counseling page of our district website. [www.benzieschools.net](http://www.benzieschools.net). This program has been very valuable in supporting students at Benzie Central and in assisting with the exploration of post-secondary options like trade schools or college.**

- D. MHSAA 2021/22 Membership Renewal - May is the month that begins membership renewal in the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The resolution is on the agenda as an action item this evening, June 7, 2021. This membership is for the year, August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022. Athletic Director, Steve Graetz, detailed the divisions and classes that Benzie Central will be participating in for the 2021/22 school year.**
- E. Emergency Response Guide as presented April 12, 2021 – Production Options – Deputy, Geoff Miller - Deputy Miller is looking for the Board of Education to not only adopt the Emergency Response Guide as presented on April 12, 2021, but also to decide on the two different sizing options. Note: The addition of Hazmat will be added. Both Deputy Miller and Superintendent Erfourth recommend the 200 count Poly-board cover bound at top edge. Closed dimension – 9” wide x 7” high. This would allow for extras for replacements as needed. At this time, it was determined that the Wall Mounting Hooks would not be needed. The goal is to place the order by the end of this week, with the intent to have them in place by our District Professional Development sessions that our scheduled in September of 2021. This would allow for staff training and proper implementation. Deputy Miller would like the Emergency Response Guide to be utilized community and county wide.**
- F. Protocols for Board of Education/Superintendent Communication – Superintendent Amiee Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared with the Board of Education the document that Nick Ceglarek, Ed.D facilitated. Data to support the communication protocol is as follows: On May 23, 2021 at the Special Board of Education meeting retreat, the Board and Superintendent outlined communication priorities and protocols. In general, the Board of Education expressed concern around the amount of time the superintendent attends to communication. The plan presented to the Board of Education this evening highlights and codifies agreed-upon communication commitments with informal monthly check ins. If necessary, standing board agenda items to review progress and success of communication protocols. The Board of Education will look to take action on this protocol this evening.**
- G. Budget Amendment #2 – Director of Finance, Justin Weston – Mr. Weston shared with the Board of Education the FY21 Budget Amendment #2 Update. Revenue highlights for FY2020-2021:**
- **State Sources – State Aid increases were significant in the 22b Discretionary payments category; Large increases in revenue come from the State’s 22b discretionary payments, and Federal programs like CRF (Coronavirus Relief Funds \$495k), ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \$674k so far), GEER (Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund \$89k), not much change in the budget for Early Childhood, Food Service, or School Activity Funds.**
  - **Federal Sources – Deadline to Spend  
Several grants were received, all of which are considered to be one-time payments to offset the additional needs to service students.**

- **Coronavirus Relief Funds \$495,208**
- **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund \$89,822**
- **Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds \$244,906**
- **Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds II \$429,617 – 42.6% of total allocation (Expenditures planned for FY22)**

- **Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Expenditure Highlights**

**Federal Grants were used to pay for these District Expenses:**

- **Staff Costs (Salary & Benefits)**
- **Online Class Platform/Resources**
- **Student/Classroom Technology**

**Significant savings only seen in Transportation Fuel expenses for FY21 due to secondary/school closures and fewer extracurricular activities for the school year**

**Increased costs seen in FY21**

- **Substitute staff coverage costs**
- **Sanitation supplies due to Coronavirus**
- **Technology devices for teachers/students and classrooms**
- **Staff Benefits**

**Planning for Fiscal Year 2022**

**In order to plan for the future, the Central Business Office will collect a list of needs from all sites and departments and prioritize a list of projects to determine greatest need with available funding. A few examples of areas or projects are listed below:**

- **Technology (Teacher/Student devices, classroom technology, infrastructure)**
- **Maintenance/Transportation (Vehicles/Busses & Technology)**
- **Ongoing Extracurriculars (Athletics & Band)**
- **New Paging System**
- **Generators for each school**

**Projected FY22 Beginning Fund Balance: \$3,251.759**

**H. Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and Benzie County Central Schools – Superintendent Erfourth – Lori Cota Hill – Mrs. Erfourth shared that we have proper easement descriptions and the Easement Agreement has been finalized and ready to take to the Board of Education for consideration to adopt.**

**I. Resignations:**

- **Cassandra Anouthay – High School English teacher**
- **Cheryl Smith – High School Spanish teacher**

**J. Retirements:**

- **NONE**

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –**

1. **Bond Project Updates – Vice President, Nicki Brown, shared with the Board of Education the Bond Project Updates. The CORE team continues to meet. The timeline has been updated. The team recently met regarding the Bus Garage, MS/HS Kitchen space, new Elementary entry way, Lake Ann Elementary, High School Concessions space, Betsie Valley, and MS/HS roof. Wants vs. what we can afford is currently being assessed regarding the Home Economics/LifeSkills space. Inland Township did not approve the sign permit for Lake Ann Elementary. Superintendent added that she did receive a letter from Thrun Law Firm that we can share with Inland Township detailing the law about schools and zoning. Essentially, the school grounds are the sole jurisdiction of the superintendent and thereby do not fall under zoning regulations.**
  
2. **Platte River Elementary Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Benzie County Road Commission has ordered title work for Platte River Elementary. The Road Commission is having a meeting on June 10 to discuss their plan for preschool. They also have an environmental inspection scheduled for June 16. They also have a survey planned for June 18. In addition, they are working on soil samples, demolishing timeline, and the possibility of saving the gymnasium. There will be auction this coming Saturday, for any remaining contents. The district would like to hang on to some history and incorporate items into new building structures. Blue Vase in Interlochen will take 50 books at a time, and in turn issue certificates to our teachers for new materials.**

**B. Policy Committee –**

**Open Meetings Act- This is the change we discussed last month that now only allows for virtual meetings if a board member is 1. Hospitalized 2. Actively deployed military 3. State of emergency is declared.**

- **Series 2000 Bylaws - – 2500 Board Meetings and Open Meetings Act Compliance -2501 Meetings**
- **Series 2000 Bylaws – 2500 Board Meetings and Open Meetings Act Compliance – 2501A-F-1 Electronic Board Meeting Checklist**
- **Series 2000 Bylaws – 2500 Board Meetings and Open Meetings Act Compliance – 2501A-F-3 Electronic Board Meeting Notice**

**C. Finance Committee – NONE**

**D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Secretary, Stephanie Johnston shared Superintendent Erfourth’s contact information with Doug Rodriguez. The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2021.**

**E. Liaison/Curriculum –NONE**

**F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth**

- **Transportation Update – Superintendent Erfourth, Nicki Brown, and Chris Noffsinger met with the bargaining unit prior to this evenings meeting. Currently, there are no contract changes, mainly salary negotiations.**
- **Secretarial – There has been no request to bargain at this time.**
- **Non-Union Update – These contracts will be ready for approval consideration at our Budget Hearing scheduled for June 21, 2021.**

**G. Northern Michigan Virtual – Benzie Academy – Superintendent Erfourth – The district plans to continue on with Benzie Academy, grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. We are no longer exploring the NMV option for elementary. We are running into many road blocks for creating a new school entity. In order to open a new virtual school, we need to have separate administrators and teachers. This will be very cost prohibitive. We are planning to keep Benzie Academy and will still be able to offer virtual learning for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) - NONE**

**Discussion Topics:**

- A. Extended Learning Plan (ECOL) –Benchmarks have been updated and are on the transparency page of the district’s website.**

**Action Topics:**

**20-21-159 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the appointment of Sharyl Corey – Betsie Valley Elementary Principal.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**20-21-160 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Extended Learning Plan (ECOL).**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**20-21-161 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2021/2022 MHSAA Membership Renewal.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

20-21-162 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Emergency Response Guide as presented on April 12, 2021 – 200 count 9x7 with addition of Hazmat language and Superintendent Erfourth final approval.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

20-21-163 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Protocols for Board of Education/Superintendent Communication, to revisit in June, October, January, March – Superintendent Evaluation.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

20-21-164 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

20-21-165 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and the Benzie County Central Schools

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: NONE

**Announcements:**

- 1. June 11, 2021 – Last day of school – students
- 2. June 15, 2021 – Last day of school – staff
- 3. June 12, 2021 – Auction – Platte River Elementary

20-21-166 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Pomper to adjourn the regular meeting 8:34 PM

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

  
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 Secretary, Board of Education

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
*Catina Crossman*  
*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*  
*Board of Education Administrative Assistant*  
*Benzie County Central Schools*