

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, July 12, 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 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mrs. Brown, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Pomper,
 Mr. Childs, Mrs. Johnston

Members Absent: Ms.Cota Hill, Mr. Noffsinger

21-22-001 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-002 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr.Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: June 29, 2021 | Special

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$480,159.90

C. Support Staff Appointments:

1. Katherine Jock – Special Education Teacher – Crystal Lake Elementary

2. Ashley Nye Laing – MS Social Studies Teacher

3. Tanika Greisiger – HS English Teacher

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

1. Athletic Director Steve Graetz to Eli Harris

2. Wendy Kalush – MS Mathematics teacher to MS/HS Spanish teacher

3. Dan Long – MS Social Studies teacher to BA Social Studies teacher and Computer Technology teacher

E. Leave of Absence:

1. NONE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: NONE

Student Council Report: NONE

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is frustration with lack of transparency during the pandemic; last minute decisions, many behind closed doors. The Senate feels cut out of the FY 22 decisions. There is a bill that is scheduled to be signed tomorrow, but there are vetoes believed to be on the horizon. The House had a 50 million dollar categorical in three tiers. It did not make the final cut. Hopefully transportation can be assed in FY 23 equating x amount of dollars per square mile rather than by pupil count. Frustration also lies with Special Education Reimbursement severely underfunded. There is work group consisting of 5 Superintendents working on a COVID-19 Plan. They are pushing to not have to quarantine, and guidance from local level and health officials. This plan is also proposing no mask, other than for mitigation purposes. Social Distancing not emphasized, face to face learning recommended over virtual learning, and scaling back on COVID-19 testing. This current plan would not require individuals to be vaccinated to work and/or attend school. If there are COVID-19 outbreaks, this plan would look at student data, rather than community data. Also encompassed in this proposed plan is virtual teachers holding grade level certifications rather the subject certified for at least one more year. This particular plan would also allow Professional Development hours to be counted toward instructional time. This group is also emphasizing to the Senator the tremendous amount of work that has revolved around excessive COVID-19 reporting, and is hoping to eliminate those requirements. These recommendations may come to us late in the game, as they do not meet again until July 27, and then again on August 25. The Board of Education would like to write an official statement regarding masks for the upcoming 21/22 school year. The Policy Committee will draft up a statement on Thursday, July 15, with the opportunity to take action at our next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on August 9, 2021.**
- B. Platte River Elementary Property transfer Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Otwell Mawby conducted soil samples, and thus far everything has come back clean. The survey is scheduled for next week. We have received word that Homestead Township's attorney is not requiring them to revote on the easement update. Therefore, we can proceed with approving the easement. Once this is completed, Superintendent Erfourth will notify the Road Commission that we are ready to proceed with the property transfer.**
- C. AdviseMI – MCAN Contract – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this is the contract we share with Frankfort, created by LCAN (Local College Access Network), to help support students and families with accessing post-secondary education, college, universities, and trade schools. Manual LaMarche shared an update last month about the work created by his position. Manny has taken a new role and we are working with LCAN and the Benzie and Frankfort counselors to hire a new coordinator. Our payment for this position is \$6,000 for the 2021/22 school year. This payment will be \$7,500 for the 2022/23 school year. This memorandum of Understanding expires on June 30, 2023.**
- D. 2021/2022 Early Childhood Handbook/Early Childhood Update – Early Childhood Coordinator, Amber Wilson – Mrs. Wilson shared that it has been a crazy, wild, difficult, yet joyful year. Her team focused on finding the joy in the little things. Highlights included; the addition of Brightwheel to facilitate teacher and parent communication, home visits to build relationships, multi-tiered systems of**

support with the addition of a full time 1755 Special Education teacher, as well as a pilot program for three year olds. Tuition rates will remain the same for the 2021/2022 school year. The preschool calendar will deviate from the school calendar, starting two weeks later, and ending two weeks early. Currently, we have 31 slots allotted, with a petition in to the state to secure 7 more additional slots.

- E. 2021/2022 Elementary Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.
- F. 2021/2022 Middle School Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.
- G. 2021/2022 High School Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.
- H. 2021/2022 Edgenuity Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval. This is the catalog used for 6th-12th grade students at both Benzie Academy and Benzie Central High School.
- I. Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and Benzie County Central Schools - We have received word that Homestead Township's attorney is not requiring them to revote on the easement update. Therefore, we can proceed with approving the easement. Once this is completed, Superintendent Erfourth will notify the Road Commission that we are ready to proceed with the property transfer.
- J. Henry Road Resolution – The Board of Education is looking to take action on the Henry Road Resolution this evening which reads as the following:

WHEREAS, the residents of the Benzie County Central School District have voted for a millage to pay for improvements which include the building of a new elementary school to be located on the middle/high school campus; and

WHEREAS, the new elementary school would be accessed by the portion of Henry Road intersecting with Homestead Road and running north and south; and

WHEREAS, Henry Road is an unpaved seasonal road located in Benzonia Township, Benzie County, Michigan and maintained by the Benzie County Road Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Benzie County Central School Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the school district, in the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, that the unpaved portion of Henry Road running east and west be abandoned by the Benzie County Road Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Benzie County Central School Board of Education supports the abandonment of the unpaved portion of Henry Road running east and west by the Benzie County Road Commission. Superintendent Erfourth, Board of Education Vice President Nicki Brown, and Board of Education Trustee, Jason Barnard, will attend the Benzie County Road Commission meeting on July 29, to discuss both the Henry Road Resolution and the transfer of property.

K. Resignations:

- NONE

L. Retirements:

- NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Updates – President, Brian Childs, shared that the CORE team met this past Wednesday with Kingscott and Wolgast for a site visit. Currently they are in the schematic design phase at Betsie Valley Elementary and are in phase 2 of the schematic design at the MS/HS. So far, we continue to be on track and within budget. The light poles are up in the stadium. The roof project was delayed this past week due to weather, however, the gymnasium roof was completed today. The parking lot was completed at Betsie Valley Elementary this past Saturday. There have been four color schemes for the new elementary presented to the CORE team, and they have it narrowed down to two. Of the two, they will be reworked and sent back to the Board of Education for review. From there, the Board of Education would like to work in community input and feedback. The canopy design has been narrowed down for the new elementary. The team had been discussing the exterior of the new elementary and pallets are being gathered. The HS gymnasium no longer needs to be moved for additional seating. This seating will already be accounted for with the addition of bleachers on the opposite side. The Board of Education will consider a community survey or an Open House voting option for the naming of the new elementary.**
2. **Platte River Elementary Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that she, Board of Education Vice President Nicki Brown, and Board of Education Trustee, Jason Barnard, will attend the Benzie County Road Commission meeting on July 29, to discuss both the Henry Road Resolution and the transfer of property.**

B. Policy Committee –

1. **The policy committee met to discuss the drug and alcohol testing policy. More information is being collected at this time. This committee also needs to meet to finalize recommendations for the MS/HS handbook for athletic discipline. The Policy Committee would also like to prepare a statement regarding the procedures and protocols for the 2021/2022 school year. There are also some policy updates from Thrun that our committee**

will need to review prior to our August meeting. The Policy Committee agreed to meet on Thursday, July 15 at 2:00 PM. Thrun is holding a zoom meeting on July 23 at 8:30 AM.

C. Finance Committee – NONE

D. Educational Foundation – NONE

E. Liaison/Curriculum –NONE

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth

- Transportation Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that she is waiting to hear back from Joe Washington for an update on the transportation contract.
- Secretarial – Superintendent Erfourth shared that she is waiting on having a tentative agreement signed for the secretarial contract.

G. Benzie Academy – NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) - NONE

Discussion Topics: NONE

Action Topics:

21-22-003 It was moved by Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the AdviseMI Contract

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-004 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the 2021/2022 Early Childhood Handbook

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-005 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the 2021/2022 Elementary Course Catalog

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-006 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the 2021/2022 Middle School Course Catalog

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-007 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the 2021/2022 High School Course Catalog

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-008 It was moved by Mrs. Brown and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the 2021/2022 Edgenuity Course Catalog.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-009 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement between Homestead Township and Benzie County Central Schools

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

21-22-010 It was moved by Mr. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Brown to approve the Henry Road Resolution

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

Superintendent Erfourth shared that there was a fire on the MS/HS Campus that occurred on June 30, 2021. The fire began in the Custodial/Maintenance room as a result of spontaneous combustion. There was extensive water damage to the custodial/maintenance room, senior hall, Life Skills room, and band room. We are currently working with Insurance adjustors regarding, replaced flooring, cabinetry, and ADA compliance upgrades. Superintendent Erfourth expressed her gratitude for the Benzonia Fire Department as well as surrounding departments for their quick response. Going forward, they will work with our district’s Emergency Response Guide team.

21-22-011 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Barnard to adjourn the regular meeting 8:06PM

Ayes: 5 **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