

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 13, 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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Vice President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Childs, Mr. Noffsinger

Betsie Valley Elementary students led the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance, via video.

21-22-033 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the agenda with the Amendment to move the Buildings and Grounds Committee Bond Project Update (Kingscott) under Administration report B.
 Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

21-22-034 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

- A. Minutes: August 9, 2021 | Regular | August 30, 2021 Special | September 3, 2021 Special
- B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$891,834.12
- C. Support Staff Appointments:
 - 1. Steven Wright – Junior Varsity Volleyball
 - 2. Christopher Batchelder – Boys Varsity Soccer Coach
 - 3. Bryce Ropp - .9 Elementary Music Teacher
 - 4. Raine Johnson – MS|HS Secretary
 - 5. Michelle Laffleur – Betsie Valley Elementary – Paraprofessional
 - 6. Lisa Dood – High School – Mathematics teacher
 - 7. Scott Barker – Girls Varsity Soccer Coach

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

1. Lara Bishop - MS|HS Secretary to Crystal Lake Elementary Secretary
2. Danielle Banasiak – CBO – additional duties as a result of payroll shift
3. Catina Crossman – CBO – additional duties as a result of payroll position shift and Pupil Accounting
4. Justin Weston- CBO – additional duties as a result of payroll shift

E. Leave of Absence - NONE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Board of Education Secretary, Stephanie Johnston, shared the District Impact team will meet tomorrow for the first time this academic year.

Student Council Report: Kirsten Cline, Student Council Co-Advisor, introduced Benzie Central senior, Maya Musgrave. Maya shared that the student council had held one meeting over the summer, and will have their first official meeting of the 2021/22 school year tomorrow. The student council is in the planning stages of Homecoming 2021. The theme is Bright Lights, Big Cities. Hallway decorating will take place on Sunday, September 19. Monday, September 20 begins Spirit Week.

- Monday, September 20 – Neon
- Tuesday, September 21 – Young vs. Old
- Wednesday, September 22 – Dress Up Day (Western)
- Thursday, September 23 – Dress Up Day (Theme Day)
- Friday, September 24 – Dress Up Day (Red and White) – Powder Puff game, Pep Assembly, Parade
- Saturday, September 25 – Homecoming Dance

In addition, all grades will compete in a food drive competition and penny war. The food drive will support BACN and the penny war will support a local SEL related organization.

If Policy 2104 is approved this evening, Maya Musgrave would attend each board meeting and offer insights and participate in discussions, however, she would not be allowed to introduce, support or vote on motions.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth that there was no NMSLA report due to Labor Day. She plans to update the Board of Education in October.
- B. Building and Grounds Committee – Bond Project Updates – Kingscott – Dan Tryles, John Davids, and Laura Sarelis were all on site. Dan shared with the Board of Education the *Benzie Central Schools Bond Project Overview*.

- **High School Phase 1 – Addition and Remodeling**
 - Weight Room Addition
 - Locker Room Remodeling
 - New Gymnasium Bleachers
 - Concessions Remodeling
 - New Official Room
 - Toilet Room Remodeling
 - New Display Cases
 - Auditorium Lobby Flooring
- **New Elementary**
 - Site Plan
 - Floor Plan
 - Exterior Options; #1 and #2
 - Color Pallet Options; Orchard View and Sunny Point
- **Lake Ann Elementary – Addition and Remodeling**
 - Preschool classroom additions
- **New Transportation Building**
 - Floor Plan; lounge, office areas, restrooms, storage, (2) Services Bays, Wash Bay
 - Parking Lot
 - Traffic Flow
- **Betsie Valley Elementary - Remodeling**
 - New Interior Designs
 - Soffit & Fascia Replacement
 - New Roof
 - Ceiling Replacement
 - HVAC Upgrades
 - Electrical Upgrades
- **Middle School/High School Phase 2 – Remodeling**
 - Science classroom remodeling
 - Group toilet room remodeling
 - New Ceiling in Cafeteria
 - Kitchen/Serveries Expansion
 - Ceiling Upgrades
 - Flooring Upgrades
 - Restoration of South Corridor
 - HVAC Upgrades
 - Plumbing Upgrades
 - Electrical Upgrades

Benzie County Central Schools Community Survey Input for exterior materials and colors:

Exterior – Option #1

Colors –Sunny Point

The Board of Education thanks the community for the input, and Kingscott will move to the next phase now that the exterior and colors have been decided.

- C. **Woodside Wesleyan Church – Pastor, Lyle Deeren – This past summer, the church held a Vacation Bible School and participated in project fundraiser to help support their community. They raised \$370.00. The check was presented to Benzie Central**

Elementary Physical Education teacher, Bruce Stoltz. Bruce plans to allocate the funds to Social and Emotional Learning, gearing it around fitness based curriculum and fitness benchmarks. He intends to purchase fitness and exercise equipment.

- D. Betsie Valley Elementary Update –Sharyl Corey, Principal – Principal Corey shared a presentation on Betsie Valley Elementary. Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year. Whatever you focus on will grow.**
- Arrival, cafeteria, and hallway procedures.
 - Champ Camp: We start with expectations. Clear is kind.
 - Growing the Leader in Me
 - Habits – making one positive change
 - Helpful Routines and Helpful Habits
 - Paradigms – Understanding other people. What you see may not be what other others see.
 - Principles – Guiding thoughts and actions, decision making
 - Student Council
 - Professional Learning Communities

Betsie Valley Elementary continues to reach up, reach in, and reach out. They are hoping to work toward a 16x24 pavilion to house additional outdoor fitness equipment.

Betsie Valley Elementary invites you to Coffee and Conversation. Friday mornings from 9:00-9:30 AM. Coffee and Tea provided. Bring your own cup.

Sue Campana updated the Board of Education on the Betsie Valley Community Center

- Services Van – On the road since October of 2020
- Recreation and Community Engagement Committee – Participation in Copemish Heritage Days and Family Fun Nights at Betsie Valley Elementary school.
- The Board continues to meet monthly, with the next being scheduled for September 28.

E. 2021/2022 District Calendar Update – Changes made to April 2022 as a result of Labor Day falling later in the month. School resumes on Monday, April 4. No School April 15 - Good Friday, Half Day Students | PD afternoon – April 22

F. Bus Purchases – Transportation Department – Two (71) passenger busses, \$88,205.00 each. Zarembo Equipment, Inc. Busses fall under the fleet bid pricing which means we did not need to put out for 3 bids.

G. Resignations:

- Brooke Capser – Crystal Lake Elementary Principal
- Michael Hammar – High School Math teacher
- Amy Hanson – Payroll – 6-12 Registrar – Early Childhood Administrative Assistant
- Annette Bumgardner – Bus Driver – Transportation Department

H. Retirements:

- NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Updates – Kingscott team members, Dan Tryles, John Davids, and Laura Sarelis – See *Administration Report B*.**

2. **Platte River Elementary Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that she heard back from our Thrun Law Firm, P.C. Attorney, Kirk Herald. He shared the following, “Road Commission Purchase Agreement. I provided responsive comments to the Road Commission’s proposed changes to the agreement on August 8. As of August 31 the Road Commission was still discussing these issues with its counsel. I suspect the general comments are less of a priority as the Road Commission seems primarily concerned with the 16.5-foot “gap” in the property’s legal description. The Road Commission wants the district to commence a “quiet title” action to clarify its ownership of the 16.5-foot gap via adverse possession. (Briefly, adverse possession allows one to take legal title to property if treated as its own for at least 15 years, which seems to be the case for the district.) A quiet title action of this sort is usually successful, but can be time-consuming (e.g., researching the prior owners, their heirs, publishing court notices in proximate newspapers, declaring default, at least one court hearing, etc.). There will also be related costs. My recommendation is to continue to sell the property via quit claim deed – which, again, means that we are selling everything we own, which might include the 16.5-foot gap (and might not). The Road Commission, as our successor in interest, would have our right to pursue a quiet title claim after it acquires the property via quit claim deed, and I believe that the appropriate course. However, the decision may ultimately depend on (1) how bad the district wants to rid itself of the property, and (2) whether the Road Commission will take the property without title being clarified. Please let me know how you would like to proceed. For now, I have recommended to the Road Commission that it can pursue a quiet title claim after purchase, and the district will provide reasonable assistance thereto. I have not had a response.”**

B. Policy Committee –

1. **2104 – *Student Representative on the Board* - To provide the Board with a greater insight into student activities, programs, and needs, and to encourage student involvement in District governance activities, the Board may allow 1 non-voting student representative on the Board. The student representative’s role is advisory. Selection and Term of Student Representative High school students may select the student representative in a manner developed by the building principal(s) and student council. The student representative may be selected in the spring and may serve a 1-year term for the next school year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. Guidelines The student representative may sit with the Board during open session at all regular and special meetings, but will not attend a closed session from which the public is excluded, unless specifically authorized by the Board. The student representative may participate in Board discussions but will not introduce, support, or vote on motions.**

2. 3301 – Purchasing and Procurement – Errant cross reference was brought to Thrun’s attention in subsection E

C. Finance Committee – Board of Education Treasurer, Amber Pomper, reported that preparation for the field Audit scheduled for this month is taking place. She shared the disbursement for the additional duties in the Central Business Office, as well as discussion on hiring an Early Childhood Assistant, which would allow for Central Business Office support.

D. Educational Foundation – NONE

E. Liaison/Curriculum –NONE

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth

➤ **Transportation Update – This contract has been approved by the Union and is ready for signatures.**

➤ **Secretarial Update – This contract has been approved by the Union and is ready for signatures.**

G. Benzie Academy – NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

- 1. Return to Benzie Plan – There have been no changes made to the Return to Benzie Plan for all Benzie County Central Schools falling under the jurisdiction of the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department mandate. It was shared that Betsie Valley Elementary is in Manistee County, and therefore falls under the jurisdiction of the Manistee County District Health Department, DHD10. Masks are optional in DHD10. With that, our Policy Committee intends to meet regarding Betsie Valley Elementary and their masking policy.**

Action Topics:

21-22-035 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the appointment of Michael Hammar – MSJHS Assistant Principal
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

21-22-036 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the Bus Purchases (2)
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

21-22-037 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Transportation Contract 2021-24.
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

21-22-038 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve

the Secretarial Contract 2021-24.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-039 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Policy 2104 Student Representative on the Board

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-040 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve Policy 3301 Purchasing and Procurement –Errant cross reference per Thrun in subsection E

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

21-22-041 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Return to Benzie Plan with the understanding that the Policy Committee will implement the adoption of a plan for Betsie Valley Elementary, as it does not fall under the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department jurisdiction.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): Benzie Central teacher, Wendy Kalush, asked that the Board of Education take into consideration the COVID-19 cases at the MS and HS when making their decision regarding Betsie Valley given many of these students are siblings.

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:


- Board of Education Retreat cancelled – September 26, 2021
- Board of Education Retreat – January 30, 2022 (tentative) January 23, 2022 back up date.
- Parent – Teacher Conferences – October 13 and 14

21-22-042 It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mrs. Johnston to adjourn the regular meeting 8:36 PM

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