

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, October 11, 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, Mr. Noffsinger, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Brown,
 Ms. Cota Hill (tardy)
 Maya Musgrave, Student Representative (Non-voting member)

Members Absent: Mr. Childs, Mrs. Pomper

21-22-043 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

21-22-044 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

- A. Minutes: September 13, 2021 Regular
- B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$1,456,318.21
- C. Support Staff Appointments:
 - 1. Michael Cox – Boys Head Soccer Coach – Middle School
 - 2. Elizabeth Rucki – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- D. Staff Assignment Changes:
 - 1. Mikel McDonald – Betsie Valley PM Custodian to Betsie Valley AM Custodian
- E. Leave of Absence - NONE

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Board Blueprint Communication: Board of Education Secretary, Stephanie Johnston, shared the District Impact team has met three times since the 2021/22 school year began. The DIT has been focusing on building level ISSN and how to report data analysis back to DIT, and reviewing MICIP goals. Grant opportunities have been presented, and they are in the planning stages of scheduling walk-throughs on quality instruction.

Student Council Report: Board of Education Vice President, Nicki Brown, welcomed Benzie Central senior, Maya Musgrave as our new Board of Education Student Representative. Mrs. Brown shared that Maya 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. Maya shared that Homecoming 2021 went very

well. The theme was Bright Lights, Big Cities. The dance was held in the gymnasium this year, allowing for more air flow, and an outside area for students to assemble. Maya was happy to report that the seniors won spirit week. Looking forward, the student council is in the planning stages for their holiday luncheon, are about to vote on their executive board, and have finalized Saturday, February 26 for Snowcoming 2022. They will assemble a snack cart and deliver to teachers during parent teacher conferences. Trunk or Treat will be held on Friday, October 22 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM in the front MS/HS parking lot. The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 PM. The BCHS Pride group is back with their Ice-Cream Wednesday.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following September 20, 2021 NMSLA Update. Looking for some Pupil Accounting help with attendance requirements of 75% related to when students are quarantined. Possible solution is to take the denominator of total enrollment and minus students that are quarantined and use that number for the denominator. Looking for some Pupil Accounting flexibility when students are quarantined to provide virtual instruction. Looking for support with recruitment of teachers. If giving Post-Secondary schools State Aid dollars require them to provide FREE Tuition or front loading of debt relief for students enrolled in education programs. Looking for additional funding for districts that have Transportation. This cost is significant for Central and Northern Michigan Schools vs. downstate. Looking for softening of out-of-state licensed individuals to be able to obtain Michigan Teacher Certification. Seems easier for Michigan teachers to go out of state than it is for out of state to come in (Need Reciprocity). Looking for help with allowing expired teacher certifications a fast track to being recertified. Looking for help with regards to certain reporting requirements (teacher certification like REP and CEPI) when an honest mistake is made VS financially penalizing schools.
- B. Section 98b Public Act 48 of 2021 – Goals/Strategic Plan - [Public Act 48 of 2021](#) section 98b requires districts, traditional public, public school academies, and intermediate districts, who wish to receive state aid for 2021-2022 year to:
- Present, not later than the first board meeting in February 2022 and not later than the last board meeting of the academic year, on accomplishments of established goals.
 - Ensure that the information presented to the board is disaggregated by grade level, by student demographics, and by the mode of instruction received by the pupils to which the information applies.
 - Post the information through the transparency reporting link located on the district's website.
 - Ensure that, by not later than September 15, 2021, each *school building leader of each school operated by the district*, in conjunction with all teachers and school administrators of the school, establishes educational goals expected to be achieved for the 2021-2022 school year for the school. The goals described in this subdivision must specify which educational goals are expected to be achieved by not later than the middle of the school year and which goals are expected to be achieved by not later than the last day of the 2021-2022 school year.

Further, the law provides specifics around the mandated goals and the reporting on the progress of said goals.

This section clearly states that the established goals are to be developed for each building. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) believes that districts and schools should establish academic goals which span for all students – including early childhood programs, CTE programs, and special education programs. MDE recognizes that short September 15, 2021 deadline imposed by the legislature on local staff, schools, and districts. To assist with meeting this deadline, MDE is encouraging districts and schools to use existing goals to meet the legislated requirements of this section, including but not limited to school improvement goals, district improvement goals, MICIP submitted goals, local district strategic planning goals, and previously measured COVID-19 learning goals. Districts are encouraged to review the law to ensure that their existing goals meet the requirements of the legislation. What does this mean for Benzie Central? Each building adopted, by September 15, 2021, the goal of 10% increase in student achievement, based on NWEA, by the end of the school year. This will be reported to the Board of Education in February 2022 and May 2022.

- C. **Lake Ann Elementary Update – Larry Haughn, Principal –** Principal Haughn started by introducing Lake Ann Cross Country coach, Jill Graetz. Jill shared that this is her second year coaching. Given the COVID-19 restrictions, they only held two practices during the 2020/21 school year. Jill is pleased to announce that they currently meet two or three times each week for three hour intervals. There are currently three programs, Lake Ann Elementary, Crystal Lake Elementary, and Betsie Valley Elementary with a combined total of nearly 80 Husky Pups. Mrs. Graetz stressed the importance of needing joy and excitement during these uncertain times, and feels strongly that this cross country program allows for “normalcy” for our young students. Principal Haughn shared with the Board of Education the Lake Ann Elementary M-STEP Percent Proficient – X Chart, comparing the MI School Data Overview. The school overview shows a performance summary for all students, and the percent of students proficient in all subjects on state tests. Mr. Haughn presented the data on Lake Ann Elementary students in relation to average of similar schools by student characteristics, and the State of Michigan average. Principal Haughn concluded with the Lake Ann Elementary Metrics and Building Network.
- D. **2021/2022 Food Service Contract – NMCAA Classrooms – Vended Meal Contract with A National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Vendor –** This contract between Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, hereinafter called the NMCAA, and Benzie County Central Schools, hereinafter called the Vendor, agree that the Vendor shall be retained by NMCAA to prepare meals/supplements for the period of 10/1/2021 to 9/30/2022.
- Betsie Valley – breakfast, lunch, snack
 - Platte River – breakfast, lunch, snack
 - Meals will be picked up in bulk form.
- E. **Qualified Forest Program – Copemish Property – Approved August 9, 2021 –** Superintendent Erfourth shared that Kevin, from the Qualified Forest Program, shared that this program is not really a benefit to the schools. He was surprised to receive our application. If we moved forward with this and Twisted Trails decided to sever our agreement or we decide to revert the property back to exempt, the district would be responsible for the last 7 years of taxes (times two). The current benefit to Twisted Trails would be around \$2000 a year. Given his input and experience with this program,

he recommended the district NOT proceed. He is holding our application until the Board of Education can reconvene and review the plan.

F. Resignations:

- NONE

G. Retirements:

- NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Updates – Superintendent Erfourth shared that transportation and Lake Ann Elementary addition bids are going out late October, early November. Laura Sarelis will be on site at the MS/HS campus on the October 14 to begin the cabinetry work in our Home Economics classroom. With that, she also shared an obstacle the district is facing with DTE in regard to crossing the gas line to get to Henry Rd. DTE Gas Co.-BCCS Sinking Fund projects are progressing nicely. The lights are up, the Betsie Valley Elementary parking lot is completed, and the Lake Ann Elementary boilers are working and just need the management systems set up. Superintendent Erfourth discussed the issues with the LED signs and both Betsie Valley Elementary and Lake Ann Elementary. The LED portions are low functioning, with the incorrect pixilation. Neither of these were up to the bid specifications by Volk Signs. The MS/HS roof is almost complete, with the expectation of the Science wing, and flashing. Weather dependent, Bloxsom Roofing is estimating to be completed by November.**
2. **Review Paging System Bids – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this system could be covered by federal Esser dollars. Bids went out in September 2021, and closed this past Friday.**
 - **Master Electric – Base Bid \$138,166.10 Alternate #1 \$5,278.00**
 - **Electromedia – Base Bid \$191,147.00**
 - **Ascomnorth – Base Bid \$96,575,00 Alternate #1 \$16,485.00**
 - **Top Line Electric – Bid sent to wrong location and thus not a responsible bidder**
3. **Platte River Elementary Update – Property Transfer – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following from Kirk Herald, Thrun Law firm: *“Regarding Ms. Cota performing a title search, MCL 380.1203 addresses board member conflicts of interest related to “contracts” or “other financial transactions” that require board approval. Since Ms. Cota is not charging for the work, she is simply providing information to administration, and there is no board action required, I do not believe the conflict is triggered. However, even if it was, it would only require her to abstain from voting. There is another statute dealing with contractual conflicts between public entities and public servants, but, again, I do not believe this a contract within the meaning of that statute. The Road Commission may want to conduct its own title search, but I don’t see a problem with Ms. Cota simply seeking out information that may help resolve a dispute.”***

We have not heard back from the Road Commission on whether or not they are willing to proceed as is or if they want the quiet title work done first.

B. Policy Committee –

1. The Policy Committee will plan to meet to review handbooks for possible revisions.

C. Finance Committee – Superintendent Erfourth shared that our Audit is beginning this week. Mrs. Erfourth shared the allocations of Esser I, Esser II, Esser III and Geer funds.

- **Esser I**
 - PPE
 - Technology
 - Chromebooks
 - Salaries
- **GEER**
 - Online Platform
 - Kindles
 - Touch screen chromebooks
- **Esser II**
 - Salaries
 - Extended Summer learning
 - Technology
 - Elementary Counselor
 - New projectors/Elmos
- **Esser III (Not yet released)**
 - Paging systems
 - Safety features
 - Cover cost of project costs that are over budget

Today, we held interviews for an administrative assistant in the Central Business Office. The interview team has decided to bring two promising candidates back on Monday, October 18 for second round interviews.

D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee, Chris Noffsinger, shared that he is amazed at what this foundation does for the students in our district. Very impressive.

E. Liaison/Curriculum –NONE

F. Negotiations – NONE

G. Benzie Academy – NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

1. **Return to Benzie Plan – Superintendent Efourth shared the following changes to the Return to Benzie Plan.**
 - **Masks -Medical Exemptions, provided by a medical doctor, will be accepted. Students with a medical mask waiver will be given a shield. If a student is unable to wear a mask or shield, the medical exemption from the doctor should state they are unable to wear a mask or shield for medical reasons.**
 - **COVID-19 Contact Tracing - *Close contact is defined as closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. In a school setting, if both the exposed individual and the positive case are wearing masks, the closed contact is defined as anyone closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period.**

- **An individual who is a close contact* to someone with COVID-19 and is not vaccinated may return to work/school on the 8th day** from the exposure date as long as all of the three following conditions are met:**

1) **The exposed individual does not have any symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, runny nose/congestion, or nausea/diarrhea.**

2) **The exposed individual has a negative COVID-19 test on day 6 or after, before entering the school building or work site.**

3) **The school/employer accepts the 7 day/negative test quarantine option instead of the 10-day quarantine.**

****Example: Exposed on 9/1/2021. First day of quarantine is 9/2/2021. Test can be done on 9/7 at the earliest. If negative, can return to work/school on 9/9/2021. *Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19. If the student was masked and within 3 feet of the masked COVID positive student:**

- **The close contact may be quarantined for 10 days (OR)**
- **The child may continue to attend school but test daily each morning at the school prior to starting classes**
- **If the student is vaccinated, they may continue to attend school and test once on day 3, 4, or 5. If the vaccinated student is displaying symptoms they should receive a negative test to resume activities.**

2. **Protocols for Board/Superintendent Communication – The Board of Education is pleased with the communication and direction of Superintendent Erfourth. They expressed gratitude to both Mrs. Efourth and Mrs. Crossman for their work. They agreed to review the communication protocols quarterly.**

Action Topics:

21-22-045 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the 2021/2022 Food Service Contract – NMCAA Classrooms

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

21-22-046 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve to revoke the Approval of the Qualified Forest Program – Copemish Property approved August 9, 2021

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

21-22-047 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the Paging System Bid with alternate speaker package, Ascomnorth, Inc.

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

21-22-048 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve to table the Platte River Elementary Property transfer.

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

21-22-049 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Johnston to approve the Return to Benzie Plan.

Ayes: 4 **Nays: 1 Noffsinger** **Motion Carried**

21-22-050 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Protocols for Board/Superintendent Communication.

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

Audience Participation (Open Topics): Eric Baatz, Bus Driver, 3960 Blueberry Lane, Honor, took the podium and asked the Board of Education for support regarding the safety of our children. Mr. Baatz is concerned about the running of red flashing light occurrences, and urges the school resource officer (SRO), and law enforcement to do their jobs.

David Parker, 14857 Pauls Place Rd. Beulah took the podium to address two concerns. First, Mr. Parker would like to know where the Board of Education stands on the state mandated COVID-19 vaccine, and when and if it will be implemented. Secondly, If there is another shut down, he wants clarity on whether or not there will be paychecks for the transportation department. This question, as a result of many bus drivers being on the fence as to whether or not to stay or leave their current positions.

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

- **Parent – Teacher Conferences – October 13 and 14**
- **No School – October 15**
- **BVCC Family Fun Night Spooky Science – COGNiTiON –Betsie Valley Elementary – October 22**
- **Trunk or Treat – MS/HS front main parking lot – October 22**

21-22-051 It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to adjourn the regular meeting 8:34 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