

## REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, May 9, 2022, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Ms. Cota Hill, Mr. Noffsinger  
 Maya Musgrave, Student Representative (Non-voting member)

**21-22-160** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Johnston to approve the agenda as presented.

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

**Opening Statement:**

We are a team. We leave our personal opinions at the door and we are bound by Policy 2302 to faithfully discharge the office of a board member and keep in mind our primary concern is the educational welfare of students focusing on governance and fiduciary obligations of the district including duties of loyalty and care, placing the District's interests above the Board member's personal interests.

**21-22-161** It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

- A. Minutes: April 11, 2022 Regular | April 26, 2022 Special**
- B. Business: General Fund Bills – 1,654,047.45**
- C. Support Staff Appointments: NONE**
- D. Staff Assignment Changes: NONE**
- E. Leave of Absence: NONE**

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

**District Impact Team Update:** Board of Education Secretary, Stephanie Johnston shared the following update: The District Impact Team has met twice since our April 11, 2022 regular board meeting. The DIT's focus has been on Cognitive Coaching Protocols and reviewing SEL results from Crystal Lake Elementary, Betsie Valley Elementary and the MS/HS.

**Student Council Report:** Student Council Board of Education Representative, Maya Musgrave was not in attendance. No report. This evening would have been her last meeting, as she will be graduating. We would like to thank Maya for her commitment to the Benzie Central Board of Education.

**Administration Report:**

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Senator Curt Vanderwall spoke on a reform health care, Bill 1012 which would allow for K-12 Mental Health Counselors. These counselors would need to work a percentage of their time in the school setting. The Senate is proposing two billion in tax cuts for all who have pensions, possibly in the form of a rebate. The House/Senate needs 2/3 vote in order to be on the November 2022 ballot. They are proposing a twelve year limit. They are anticipating 110 seats in the House, 38 in the Senate, with an estimated 90 freshmen representatives. Senator Albert spoke on the Special Education formula, 28.6% back, times the cost of the fall foundation allowance without having to subtract the original allowance as before. There is a House Bill proposing a .5 Financial Literacy mandate, which would account for a half semester of foreign language credit. The NMSLA dinner will be held August 2 & 3 or August 8 & 9 at the Haggarty Center.**
- B. Middle/High School Update – Assistant Principal, Michael Hammar – Mr. Hammar shared with the Board of Education the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) approach that has been newly introduced to the MS/HS campus. Mr. Hammar’s focus was what does this building need? The Responsible Thinking Room is in its infancy, as it began only a few weeks ago. Paraprofessional, Jenny Weisman, networks with Mr. Hammar and the main office to provide additional supports to students. The Responsible Thinking Room replaces the ISS/ISD concept in which students just sit quietly. Ms. Weisman, helps de-escalate the students while talking them through the situation, and helps to establish great relationships. In addition, the MS/HS is using the check-in and check-out system and working on action plans to fill in the loop and filter back to the teacher with an action plan and an apology if warranted.**
- C. 2022/2023 District Calendar – The proposed calendar was presented to the Board of Education. The BCCEA representatives; union representation, Steve Cox and Wendy Kalush met to review the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. The calendar stays fairly similar to this past year's calendar, with the exception of 3 PD days August 29, 30, 31. Students will begin on Tuesday, Sept 6. The last day of school will be Tuesday, June 13 (tentative). We have 14 half days (for records, for PD, for PTC, for before a holiday break). This calendar provides us the required 180 days, 183 teacher days, and more than the minimum of 1098 hours. They have agreed to create a two year calendar.**
- D. 2023/2024 District Calendar – The proposed calendar was presented to the Board of Education. The BCCEA representatives; union representation, Steve Cox, and Wendy Kalush met to review the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. The calendar stays similar to the 2022/2023 calendar, with 3 PD days August 29, 30, 31. Students will begin on Tuesday, Sept 5. The last day of school will be Tuesday, June 11 (tentative). We have 14 half days (for records, for PD, for PTC, for before a holiday break). This calendar provides us the required 180 days, 183 teacher days, and more than the minimum of 1098 hours.**

- E. Innovative School Conference – Administration – Superintendent Erfourth - Our district has received a \$20,000 grant for leadership development. This grant was written by Cindy Hunt, our Blueprint coach. The grant requires that the funds be used by September 30, 2022 and can only be used to develop administrators/leaders. The grant will cover the cost of 5 administrators to travel to the Innovative Schools Conference in Las Vegas July 7-10, 2022. We are asking to use the grant funds to travel to this conference which encompasses 4 different conferences in one. <https://innovativeschoolssummit.com/vegas/>. We are also asking to allow Amber Wilson to attend using funds from her GSRP/Strong Beginnings Grant and to pay for me through general fund dollars. This would allow our entire administrative team to attend together. The remaining grant dollars will be spent bringing a virtual training, Poor Students, Rich Teaching author Eric Jensen, on Friday, Aug 5th. This session will be on Leadership with Poverty and Equity in Mind (to include a segment on staff stress). We will include other building leaders and counselors during this session. We will also be working through a book study as a result of this training.**
- F. Secondary and Elementary Principal Interview Process Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that final round interviews started today, May 9. Kyle Taylor presented his 20/30 minute PD to the secondary staff this afternoon at 3:00 PM. Mike Hammar will do the same on Tuesday, May 10 at 3:00 PM. The Lake Ann Elementary finalists will present their PDs beginning on Tuesday, May 10 at 8:00 AM with Jamie Vanderlinde presenting first. Kimberly Kramer will present Wednesday, May 11 at 8:00 AM and Rachel Anderson will present Thursday, May 12 at 8:00 AM. Board of Education members are also encouraged to attend these sessions. We ask that all participants attend all secondary and/or all elementary interviews in order to give feedback and allow the input to be fair.**
- G. Elementary teacher Interview Process Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that virtual screener interviews took place last week. The panel screened twelve candidates and had decided to advance six candidates back for round two. The second round in-person interviews will be held on Wednesday, May 11. We are looking to hire a teacher for Crystal Lake Elementary and Lake Ann Elementary.**
- H. BCCS - Benzie County Central School Custodial Association Master Agreement 2022-2025 – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we are hoping to approve the Custodial Master Agreement this evening that will cover the next three years. Highlights include a wage increase, insurance benefits (dental/vision), and an increase for cash in lieu. An addition, would be that all custodians will wear a Benzie Central shirt with logo, unless approved by their supervisor for nature of the job reasons.**
- I. Henry Road Easement – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Benzie County Road Commission attorneys have approved the easement agreement. We need the Board of Education to approve in order to complete the agreement. Once the agreement is finalized, the Road Commission**

will be able to begin work on the new Henry Rd. with access to the Homestead Hills building site. The hope is to have it paved summer of 2023.

- J. **Twisted Trails Update – Donna Humphrey – Donna was unable to attend this evening for an update. The agreement was approved at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on April 11, 2022.**
- K. **Janene Gee – Tenure – Betsie Valley Elementary teacher – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Betsie Valley Elementary Principal, Sharyl Corey is recommending Janene Gee for tenure. Janene has been an employee of Benzie Schools since 2016 and has been a great asset to Betsie Valley Elementary serving as a 1755 Special Education teacher, Physical Education teacher, Special Education teacher, and Kindergarten teacher.**
- L. **Chartwells Food Service Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Chartwells is asking for a one-year increase due to the increased costs of food and transportation. The state has approved a one-year increase of up to 7%. Chartwells is asking for a 3% increase.**
- M. **2022/23 Food Service Management Company Contract – Chartwells K-12 – As shared in the update, Chartwells is asking for a one-year increase due to the increased costs of food and transportation. The state has approved a one-year increase of up to 7%. Chartwells is asking for a 3% increase. Please note that L and M will be a combined action item.**
- N. **Resignations:**
  - **Mark Dobrzynski – Varsity Girls Basketball – Head Coach**
  - **Leah Bowman – Elementary Physical Education teacher – Betsie Valley Elementary**
- O. **Retirements:**
  - **Kevin Kennedy – Civics & Economics teacher – effective June 30, 2022 – We thank him for his 26 years of service both in the classroom and on the court/field. Mr. Kennedy taught many of our current Board of Education members.**

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –**

1. **Bond Project Updates – President Nicki Brown shared that we are now in construction mode. At this point, Wolgast is leading CORE meetings, and the meetings are fast and furious and the agendas are all over the place. There are many change orders and contracts being processed. We have seen the specs of the new road sign and building sign. We now have an address 8858 Henry Rd. The auditorium flooring begins tomorrow, and we have science room changes made by teachers that have been approved. There is some concern that the roof top air handling system for Lake Ann Elementary may not arrive until January. All air handling units are delayed**

- and we have concerns about units arriving this summer for Betsie Valley Elementary.
2. **Building Use Forms, Procedures, and Fees – Board of Education President, Nicki Brown, shared that going forward, we would like to see separate building use forms for each building. The goal is to go paperless, with a template coming soon. The Policy Committee will meet in the near future to further discuss.**
- B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth shared a Secondary Handbook update. Thrun Law Firm has reviewed our existing policies and made recommendations for changes to ensure the compliance with our district policies. Middle/High School Assistant Principal and a high school team has been working on other revisions to present to the policy committee before seeking Board of Education approval in July.**
- C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Jason Barnard, shared that the Central Business Office is audit preparation mode. There is currently a positive fund balance in both the general fund and early childhood fund. There have been many early childhood grants this past year. Mr. Barnard added that our Director of Finance, Justin Weston was really on top of things and that it was pretty impressive working with him.**
- D. Educational Foundation – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Board of Education Vice President, Amber Pomper would be attending these meeting on behalf of Chris Noffsinger through June. Board of Education Vice-President Amber Pomper shared that the foundation met on Wednesday, April 27. Given they are a 501(c)(3), they are looking to form a partnership with a community foundation, and are currently weighing the pros and cons. Their goal is to secure this foundation for future generations of Benzie Central students. The foundation was concerned that there were only 9 applications for scholarships this year, but did add that this senior class is exceptionally bright, and many students are also working toward the trades which is also a positive sign.**
- E. Liaison/Curriculum –Mrs. Erfourth shared that they met on April 19 to finish up calendar work. There is some concern around the standards based report cards.**
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Custodians met on March 23 with Board of Education members Amber Pomper and Chris Noffsinger. That Master Agreement is an action item for this evening. Paraprofessionals met on April 12 with Board of Education members Amber Pomper and Stephanie Johnston to begin the negotiation process, and will meet again tomorrow, May 10.**
- G. Benzie Academy – Board of Education Trustee, Lori Cota Hill was not in attendance. Superintendent Erfourth shared that she, Lori, Becky Kik, and Elaine Taghon met recently to tour the building. There are currently**

competitions going between the AM and PM Sessions to see which section can complete the most classes by the end of the year, and two students recently graduated. The infant/toddler room is currently in limbo, as 70% of the walls would have to be removed to be compliant with licensing. There is an option to not be licensed, if only children of staff members attend. There will be more to come on this later, with a decision to hopefully be made by the end of May. This would be for one year only, and then would move to Homestead Hills Elementary. Trustee, Brian Childs expressed that there was some concern with the location site.

#### **Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE**

#### **Discussion Topics:**

1. **Return to Benzie Plan – NO CHANGES** – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this will no longer need to be approved, and can be removed from future Board of Education agendas.
2. **Superintendent Contract Amendment** – President, Nicki Brown, shared that they are proposing to add cellphone reimbursement, roughly \$67 each month, and the cashing in of two weeks of vacation time in lieu of taking vacation time during this busy time of bond construction.
3. **Board of Education Retreat** – The retreat was originally scheduled for July 10, but this conflicts with the Innovative School Conference for administration should it be approved this evening. If approved, the date will move to July 17 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

#### **Action Topics:**

**21-22-162** It was moved by Mr. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2022/2023 District Calendar.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-163** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Childs to approve the 2023/2024 District Calendar.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-164** It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Innovative School Conference - Administration.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-165** It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the BCCS – Benzie County Central School Custodial Association Master Agreement 2022-2025.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-166** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Childs to approve the Henry Rd. Easement.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-167** It was moved by Mrs. Johnston and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve Janene Gee – Tenure – Betsie Valley Elementary teacher.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-168** It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2022/23 Food Service Management Company Contract – Chartwells K-12.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**21-22-169** It was moved by Mr. Childs and supported by Mrs. Pomper to approve the Superintendent Contract Amendment.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE**

**Board Communication: NONE**

**Announcements:**

- **FFA Swiss Steak Dinner – May 11 – 5:30 PM**
- **Spring Art Show – May 17 – 7:00 PM**
- **Spring Band Concert – May 19 – 7:00 PM**
- **Pops Concert – May 25 – 7:00 PM**
- **Senior Night – May 26 – 7:00 PM**
- **Commencement – June 5 – 3:00 PM (Board of Education Members arrive at 2:30 PM)**

**21-22-170** It was moved by Mrs. Pomper and supported by Mr. Childs to adjourn the regular meeting 8:30 PM.

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

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**Secretary, Board of Education**

***Please note that May 9, 2022 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on June 6, 2022***

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Catina Crossman***

***Executive Assistant to the Superintendent***

***Board of Education Administrative Assistant***

***Benzie County Central Schools***