

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 12, 2022, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

Members Present: Mrs. Brown, Mr. Childs, Ms. Cota Hill, Mr. Noffsinger, Mr. Barnard

Members Absent: Mrs. Johnston

Betsie Valley Elementary students led the Pledge of Allegiance via video.

22-23-034 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the agenda with the exceptions of amending by adding action topic F. Appointment of Vice-President for the Board of Education.

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.

22-23-035 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Childs to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: August 15, 2022 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$1,309,208.19

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Amber Hughes – Volleyball Coach – 7th Grade
- Patrick Mangan – Teacher- Lake Ann Elementary
- Ashley Brown – Bus Driver – Transportation Department
- Ben Summerfield – Math Intervention Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary
- Lisa Cook – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- Amber Pomper - 6.5 Title I Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- Dylan Lightfoot – Social Studies Teacher – High School (Long Term Sub)
- James Rhodes – Custodian – Elementary Rotation
- Levi Johnson -Custodian – Middle School/High School
- Blair Moss – Designated full-time substitute teacher – Secondary

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Jennifer Haveman – Full time bus driver to sub
- Dan Moore – Full time bus driver to sub
- Lori Helms – Full time bus driver to sub
- Katherine Ames – Full time bus driver to sub
- Cynthia Herron – Paraprofessional -6.5 Lake Ann Elementary to 6.5 Crystal Lake Elementary
- Meagan Zych – 5.5 to 6.5 Paraprofessional Lake Ann Elementary

E. Leave of Absence: NONE**Ayes: 5****Nays: 0****Motion Carried**

District Impact Team Update: Board of Education Secretary, Stephanie Johnston was not in attendance. Superintendent Erfourth shared that the next DIT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13.

Student Council Report: NONE

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared that NMSLA has been moved to next Monday, September 19, and she would share an update at the regularly scheduled October 10 meeting.**
- B. Fall 2022 Enrollment Update – The Board of Education was given the Fall 2022 enrollment as of September 9, 2022. Numbers are up but we will not know how many drops we have until the 10th day. Our preschool numbers are strong and our kindergarten enrollment greater than our 2022 senior class. Superintendent Erfourth shared that we have budgeted on 1200 given the trend, and we currently set at 1329 if you include the preschool numbers. After the (10) day drop for no-shows, if the number levels to 1250, not including preschool, we can honor the 1% increase as discussed and approved in the tentative agreement.**
- C. Ski-Cooperative Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Benzie Central Athletic Director, Eli Harris was attending a meeting this evening for discussion on adding Mesick to our ski-cooperative. Currently, it is Benzie Central and Frankfort-Elberta sharing the cost. Adding Mesick, would both boost numbers, and lower the overall cost.**
- D. Cameras and Security System Bids – Bret Emerson – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we received 3 bids for this project. Master Electric, MOSS, and Knight Watch. The apparent low bidder has provided 2.1 mp cameras and Bernie Killeen, IT, is requesting a price for 4 mp. 4-8 mp is the range of quality cameras. This is for all buildings; security system revamping, new cameras, and new servers. Bret Emerson shared that the lowest bidder was Master Electric coming in at \$174,826.00. Bret is confident in this vendor, and believes it will be one cohesive system. The Board of Education agreed, after input from Mr. Killeen, to**

move to a higher quality of camera. Board discussion was to not exceed \$200,000.00.

- E. Northwest Ed. Special Education Millage -Nick Ceglarek, Northwest Education Services Superintendent – Mr. Ceglarek shared Regional Special Education Millage PowerPoint with the Board of Education; overview of North Ed., Special Education, explanation of the proposal, why the millage is needed, what would it do, and what is the local impact. Northwest Education Services (North Ed) is the intermediate school district (ISD) for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties. They support local school districts and public-school academies with: Early Childhood, Special Education services, Career and Technical Education and Early College programming, Career Tech. facility, professional development, and technology, business, transportation, and communication services. Regarding special education, the current 2-mill levy supports roughly 3,00 students (about 14%of the region’s total student population) annually.**

- 400+ Special Education staff
- Early Childhood and Infant/Toddler Services
- 4 center-based regional programs

The proposal is 0.5 mill for (10) years (2023-32). They would need approval from majority of all voters across the ISD. This would allow North Ed to maintain the existing 2-mill levy. Taxpayers would need see levied millage rate go above 2 mills. The millage is need to support students, allowing stable funding for high quality services for 3,000 students each year who have the greatest need. There is a legal obligation to provide FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education). As property values increase faster than inflation, Headlee rollbacks decrease amount of millage levy. If property values continue rising, causing total millage rate to drop below 2 mills=less funding for special education services.

Benzie Central has 186 students receiving special education, 16 staff members, and \$387,765 in ISD support. For more information:

Visit: tinyurl.com/NorthEdMillage

Call: 231-922-6200

- F. Updated High School Course Catalog Civics .5 Credit/.5 Government Credit, MS/HS/BA Principal, Kyle Taylor – Principal Taylor shared with the Board of Education that currently Civics is a 1 year course here at Benzie Central, and a .5 semester course in all other schools in our region. Currently, our graduation requirements are different than that of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Mr. Taylor is proposing a .5 Civics credit, and .5 Government credit for the 2022/23 school year, and a .5 Civics credit, and .5 Financial Literacy credit for the 2023/24 school year.**
- G. Life Skills Presentation – Jill Bradford & Crystal Mountain – Mrs. Bradford shared a Community Work Based Learning PowerPoint with the Board of Education. This partnership was with Northwest Ed. and M.R.S. (Michigan Rehabilitation Services). The mission of M.R.S. is to develop customized workforce solutions for businesses and individuals with disabilities. The vision is a diverse and**

inclusive workforce that unites businesses and individuals with disabilities toward a common good. This past summer, Mrs. Bradford worked at Crystal Mountain's Waters Edge Park alongside Suttons' Bay virtual graduate, Jared, Joslin, current Benzie Central student, and Samantha, Benzie Central graduate. They performed job duties such as set up canopy, prep towels, clean loungers, clean pool deck, vacuum, clean windows, hand out towels, keep count of towels, interact with guests, employees, and supervisors, and keep park beautiful for guests to enjoy. Soft skills achieved, were communication, team work, listening skills, problem solving, time management, dependability, work ethic, adaptability, positivity, critical thinking, and compromise. At the end of the summer, Crystal Mountain graciously gave the group a pass to enjoy their amenities for the day. Benzie Central graduate, Samantha Garlinghouse shared with the Board of Education her positive experience with the program. Both Jared and Samantha were offered jobs at Crystal Mountain. Mrs. Bradford and Mr. Taylor are looking to expand this program and job coach with local businesses yearly. Both Agnes and Jennifer from Crystal Mountain loved this program, and also hope to expand it. Principal Taylor would like to broaden and expand the program by connecting not only special education students, but also general education student to our communities with similar programs.

- H. Betsie Valley Elementary Update – Principal, Sharyl Corey – Mrs. Corey shared with the Board of Education the presentation that was displayed at this fall's open house. The presentation provides the Board of education, families, and the community with an overview of the values and vision of care, support, safety, and membership of Betsie Valley Elementary School. *There is an overall purpose for the things that we do. Being a leader is what we highlight and profess to be important. We have systems we employ to meet our goals with student recognitions. We include various ways for students to see themselves as successful learners. We have regular processes to recognize and acknowledge accomplishments. Being successful in school can take many forms and find multiple means of expression. We embrace and encourage the growth of the whole child as that is important to us. We structure our days to support all children; both inside and out. We take time to help students express their own vision of a perfect school. We take time to appreciate each of our supportive staff members. Learning can be fun, and that recognition helps us express our care, support, safety, and membership of all students. We value friendships. We experience real life events together. We support the growth of all our students. We make new friends and share smiles. We make special memories both in and out of school. We experience learning in larger groups, and enjoy sights and sound that we would not otherwise experience. We participate in district activities that show support for our school and community. We have special events to celebrate our growth and prepare us for the future. We welcome our new Huskies with a Kindergarten signing. We experience and enjoy the beautiful area by taking fields trips and exploring our community. We have fun and embrace education during and after school. We love our Therapy Dog, Whitaker.*

- I. **Vehicle Purchase – Director of Maintenance – Superintendent Erfourth shared the link to the MiDeal Website [Truck Purchase Information](#), it is the vehicle purchasing program through the Department of Technology, Management, & Budget with the State of Michigan. Many Districts have stated that pricing through this program is the best they could find. Director of Finance, Justin Weston, has asked Mike to reach out to the dealers on the website to see if they have what he needs. We are requesting the Board approve \$30,000 for the purchase and up to \$10,000 for the purchase of a plow. The Board of Education discussed \$30,000 being low for a truck purchase, and wondered about approving this for a total of \$40,000, in the event a plow came in lower, and the truck higher.**
- J. **Resignations:**
- **Eric Baatz – Bus Driver – Transportation Department**
 - **Ashley Pappas – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Crystal Lake Elementary**
 - **Amber Pomper – Vice-President – Board of Education – Effective September 2, 2022.**
- K. **Retirements: NONE**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Updates – Board of Education President, Nicki Brown, shared that the cafeteria is operational. The servery was completed. Beams still need to be painted. The plan is to do this over Christmas Break. We are exploring options to help with the sound since the acoustical panels are not absorbing the sound. Kingscott will be writing a non-conforming report. More to come on this. The weight room has exterior walls and insulation has been added. Beams should be installed next week. The locker room is set to get hard ceilings next week. Primer was added this week. Floor installation is being planned for the next week or two. Homestead Hills has exterior walls for the gym and cafeteria. Interior walls are going in. LA has exterior brick and has been insulated. Still waiting on windows. The inside room has been painted and drywall was completed. Cabinets should arrive next week. We are shooting to have this room ready by October 1. We are still waiting on the roll up doors for the concession area. We are waiting on doors for the new bathrooms, concession area, nurse's station, and referee's room. We are working with Kingscott and Wolgast to review the door schedule for all projects. We have discovered that all of the exterior doors have been specified to be full glass. Kingscott is creating three options to present for pricing (add 3m film, add aluminum sandwich plate, or change to narrow light doors). We are also working to get bids on the Huskies sign on the weight room and the new sign/lettering for Homestead Hills.**

B. Policy Committee –

1. **No Update**

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Jason Barnard – No Update. Jason will be meeting with Director of Finance, Justin Weston soon.

Superintendent Erourth added that we are working through the audit, and that auditors will be on site next week.

- D. Educational Foundation – Superintendent Erfourth – No Update. Given Amber Pomper’s resignation, the Board of Education would like to designate Board of Education Secretary, Stephanie Johnston to the committee in the interim.**
- E. Liaison/Curriculum –Trustee, Lori Cota Hill – No Update. Next meeting is September 20.**
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is no update.**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Amber Pomper, 6803 Rayle Rd., Lake Ann, thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to serve at the board level. Although she enjoyed serving, she enjoys working with children more. She shared that she appreciated all that they do and what is accomplished.

Sue Campana, 5463 Traverse Rd., thanked Principal Sharyl Corey for the trip down memory lane with the Betsie Valley Elementary presentation. Sue shared that they started preschool at Betsie Valley Elementary and she knew right away that they had found their school. She was thankful for walking into Betsie Valley Elementary that day. She concluded that her children are both enjoying 6th grade so far.

Discussion Topics:

- 1. Return to Benzie Plan – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we are required to keep this posted and review it every 6 months as a requirement for ARPA funds. There are no changes to the plan.**
- 2. Property Transfer Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there was a request by a Benzie resident to transfer their property into Frankfort's school district. Northwest Ed Board voted and denied the request. The family has been notified and told they may appeal this decision to the state.**
- 3. Athletic Bussing – Board of Education Trustee, Chris Noffsinger expressed concerns regarding the lack of athletic bussing to and from events and feels that a solution is needed Superintendent Erfourth shared that many efforts have been made to aid in the bus driver shortage. We continue to explore any and all options to secure drivers and transportation for our students. We downsized from 18 routes to 12. We offered a bonus of \$5000 and full insurance benefits for full-time drivers. Athletic coaches are being encouraged to get their endorsement to drive so we have bussing for athletic trips. Superintendent Erfourth has called 6 former drivers to see if they will consider taking athletic trips. She has also reached out to community members for leads on potential drivers. She is also presenting to the Rotary on September 27**

Action Topics:

22-23-036 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Ski-Cooperative addition of Mesick.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-037 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Cameras and Security System Bids, to not exceed \$200,000.00.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-038 It was moved by Mr. Childs and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the updated 22/23 High School Course Catalog; .5 Civics credit and .5 Government credit.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-039 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Childs to approve the Vehicle purchase for the Director of Maintenance, with the package not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-040 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Childs to approve the appointment of Lori Cota Hill for Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Ayes: 4

Abstain: Cota Hill

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: The Benzie County Central School District is seeking applications for the current vacant position on the board of education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position through Dec. 31, 2024 and will be replaced by the individual elected to the position (based upon the November 5, 2024 election results) on Jan. 1, 2025. Interested persons must submit a letter expressing interest in the board position and their qualifications for the position to the district office no later than 5 p.m. on September 22, 2022. Following a review of the submitted materials, the board will schedule interviews with selected candidates. Not all candidates for the board vacancy will be interviewed. If you have any questions concerning the role of the board of education and the responsibilities of a board member, please contact Amiee Erfourth, Superintendent of Schools, at 231-882-9653 ext. 2001

Announcements:

- **September 26, 2022 – Special Board of Education Meeting – Purpose: To fill the Board of Education Vacancy.**

22-23-041 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Childs to adjourn the regular meeting 8:49 PM.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that September 12, 2022 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on October 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catina Crossman

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Board of Education Administrative Assistant

Benzie County Central Schools