

## SPECIAL MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 26, 2022, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** NONE

**22-23-042** It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Childs to approve the agenda as presented.

**Ayes:** 6

**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.

**22-23-043** It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented. NONE

**District Impact Team Update:** NONE

**Student Council Report:** NONE

### Administration Report:

#### A. Resignations:

- NONE

#### B. Retirements:

- NONE

**C. DTE Natural Gas Expansion – Chris Hackbarth – Superintendent Erfourth** introduced Chris, the regional manager. DTE presented at Betsie Valley Elementary to explain how Thompsonville and Copemish are included in this project. Working with the communities from Buckley/Mesick to Copemish/Thompsonville to bring natural gas to the area. Customers are required to pay for it. The State of Michigan has a current grant to help cover the cost of expansion. The application has four components with one being- do we have support of the communities and customers. If approved, the expansion would come down into Thompsonville from Honor. The state dollars would pay for the gas main, DTE would pay for the distribution network, customers would pay to connect. Is about \$2K for a customer to hook-up, some change of

appliances, would be about \$3.2K estimated. Return on investment is about two years for a residential customer. Last year, Betsie Valley used 17K gallons of propane. Natural gas would show \$13,382 savings over propane. About 1000 customers would benefit. DTE is seeking a letter of support from the Board. It is a competitive grant process. This project was used as a case study when it was presented to the legislature for this program. About 38 customers/businesses showed up to the meeting at Betsie Valley. Trustee, Chris Noffsinger asked when the grant deadline was and when would service be installed. State dollars have up to 5 years to spend it; \$25mil is planned to be distributed on Oct 1. Application will be turned in the week before Thanksgiving. Decision will be made after the first of the year. Assume dollars will flow in the first quarter of 2023. Hope construction will begin in 2023, but completed in 2024. One of the most important things other than broadband for this part of the county.

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

- A. Buildings and Grounds Committee – No Update**
- B. Policy Committee – No Update**
- C. Finance Committee –No Update**
- D. Educational Foundation – Superintendent Erfourth – No Update.**
- E. Liaison/Curriculum –Trustee, Lori Cota Hill – No Update**
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – No Update**
- G. Benzie Academy – Trustee, Lori Cota Hill – No Update**

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

**Discussion Topics:**

- A. Scott Gray Interview 6:20 PM – 6:35 PM**
  - B. Cameras and Security System Bids Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared with us the bids from Bret Emerson. The Board of Education asked for a bid from the lowest bidder to upgrade to a minimum 5 mega pixel and 12 frames per second. Two quotes were provided. 1) Just under \$200K two servers 80/112TB, 2) \$203K - higher frames per second and greater storage capacity 2-112tb servers and expandability. Eight and nine mega pixel cameras in higher traffic areas; average camera is the 5 mega pixel.**
  - C. Shannon Gillison Interview 7:15 PM – 7:45 PM**
  - D. Tyasha Harrison Interview 7:48 PM – 8:05 PM**
  - E. Sue Campana 8:15 PM – 8:32 PM**
- **Candidate #5 – Mary Miller respectfully withdrew her intent prior to this evenings meeting.**

Mr Gray. Ms. Harrison gave very straight-forward answers, but an interview doesn't always speak to how they will fit to the board. Mrs. Gillison is very well-spoken; the family is highly invested in the community. Ms. Campana regularly attends board meetings and has for a while now; she has enthusiasm for the district and is well respected and liked in the Betsie Valley community. She has had many conversations with our board presidents and asked a lot of questions about time commitment. The question was raised whether she could continue to serve the BV Community Center with the time commitment of the board. Discussion continued to who could hit the ground running. Mr. Gray understands the roles and functions of the board from his past tenure. Three of four candidates are well-known by the current board. Three of four candidates could speak to the district's strengths. Knowledge is power; Mr. Gray has the knowledge of how the board works, but he hasn't attended meetings or put in to run in the November election. Ms. Harrison currently doesn't have children enrolled in the district rather she chooses to home school. Mrs. Gillison has a passion for the district. Ms. Campana attends meetings and with losing Mrs. Johnston's Betsie Valley voice, she would represent that community. With the work Mr. Gray did previously on the board, it would be great to have him see the bond come to fruition. The feeling of some of the board was to let the community vote for the six.

**Audience Participation (Open Topics):** Amber Pomper, 6803 Rayle Rd, Lake Ann shared with the Board of Education her support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> bid package option.

**Board Communication:** NONE

**Announcements:**

1. October 10,2022 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM

**22-23-044** It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Childs to approve Scott Gray for the Board of Education Vacancy.

**Ayes: 5** **Nays: 1 Cota Hill** **Motion Carried**

**22-23-045** It was moved by Ms.Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve to support the DTE Natural Gas Expansion, with a letter to be drafted and signed by the Board of Education.

**Ayes: 6** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

**22-23-046** It was moved by Mrs. Johnston supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the higher bid with the 2-112TB for the Cameras and Security Systems.

**Ayes: 6** **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

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**Secretary, Board of Education**

***Please note that the September 26, 2022 Special 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***