

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, January 9, 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

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

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Noffsinger, Mr. Smith, Gloria Stepanovich (non-voting member)

Members Absent: Ms. Cota Hill

22-23-075 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the agenda, amending to table Administration items E. 2021/22 Audit Review, G. Betsie Valley Elementary Update, as well as Action item C. Approval of 2021/22 Audit Review.

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.

Welcome and Introduction of new and current Board of Education members. New members Shannon Gillison and Matt Smith. Returning members, Brian Childs, Jason Barnard, Chris Noffsinger, and Scott Gray. Not in attendance, Ms. Cota Hill.

22-23-076 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: December 12, 2022 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 1,810,333.18

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Duncan Ramsay – Full-time Custodian (Willsub to BCCS)
- Gregory Kempton – Middle School Wrestling Coach

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Kathy McManus - 6.5 Lake Ann Elem. Para to 6.5 Crystal Lake Elem. Para
- Lisa Cook – 5.5 Lake Ann Elem. Para to 6.5 Lake Ann Elem. Para

E. Leave of Absence:

- Michaela MacGirr – Extended Leave of Absence through March 13, 2023.
- Ashley Lindstrom – Leave of Absence ending early; January 9, 2023, 2 days a week, then returning full time January 30, 2023

- Cynthia Herron – Leave of Absence – 3 months – Beginning January 20, 2023. Expected return date May 1, 2023.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

District Impact Team Update: Superintendent Erfourth shared that the next meeting is January 10. The Board of Education will need to assign a representative to this committee at the Board of Education Retreat scheduled for January 22, 2023.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Gloria Stepanovich shared that we are closing in on ending our 1st semester. The Christmas luncheon went well, along with all the activities, raffle, and games. The student council is in the planning stages of trying to secure a date for Snowcoming.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth** shared that with the change over in Lansing, there is no report this month. The next meeting will be on February 15 in Lansing where the K-12 committee chairs will meet with NMSLA members to share budget priorities.
- B. **Parent Survey Results – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth** shared that there were 134 responses to the parent survey. The majority were family members/parents/guardians, and 6% were community members. The majority of responses came from Crystal Lake Elementary and Lake Ann Elementary, followed by the Middle School and High School. Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith suggested a breakdown of the survey results by building.
- C. **Benzie Wellness + Aquatic Center (BWAC) Update – Matt Rush, BWAC Project Management Team, and Bill Kennis, BWAC Advisory Group – Matt Rush** shared the BWAC vision and proposal for consideration for the site of Crystal Lake Elementary (CLES); a “pool to possibility” story. [BWAC](#)
- D. **Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool – 3-year Contract Request – Bianca McLaren.** Bianca was not in attendance. Superintendent Erfourth shared that following: The Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool is interested in a 3-year lease agreement for a room within the District. They are willing to meet each November to review enrollment and decide where they will be located the following school year. The cost of the lease will be \$2,000 annually should the Board of Education approve the 3-year proposed contract.
- E. **2021/22 Audit Review – Julie Burks – Dennis, Gartland, Niergarth – (Agenda amended)** This Audit review will be on our February 13, 2023 agenda.
- F. **Furniture Bids Update – Kingscott Interior Designer, Josie Rickert – Superintendent Erfourth** shared that Josie Rickert, Kingscott Interior Designer, will be presenting the bid package for the furniture order. The plan is to purchase all new furniture for Homestead Hills Elementary, new student desks/chairs for most of the MS/HS classrooms, new student desks/chairs at Betsie Valley Elementary, new tables and chairs for Lake Ann Elementary K-1 and

new chairs for Lake Ann Elementary 2-5. Also, new teacher chairs and teacher desks for the district teaching staff. The hope is to approve the furniture costs at the February 2023 Regular Board of Education meeting and have the furniture delivered in the summer of 2023. Josie joined virtually, and shared all district building furniture designs and bid packages with the Board of Education.

**G. Betsie Valley Elementary Update – Principal, Sharyl Corey - (Agenda amended)
This update will be on our February 13, 2023 agenda.**

H. MS/HS Update – Assistant Principal, Michael Hammar – Mr. Hammar shared with the Board of Education the protocols for our new MS/HS After School tutoring program. This program is currently offered Monday – Thursday each week, with a Math or English teacher available Monday, a Science teacher available Tuesday, and English and Social Studies teacher available Wednesday, and a Math teacher available Thursday. The only requirement is someone needs to pick the students up promptly at 4:00 PM or have a parent/guardian set up a Benzie Bus to transport them home. We currently have some Benzie Bus passes available. Mr. Hammar was pleased to announce that they average 8-12 students per day. Mr. Hammar concluded with the MS/HS tardies and skipping process and procedures.

I. Early Childhood Update – Early Childhood Coordinator, Amber Wilson – Mrs. Wilson shared Early Childhood Year in Review with the Board of Education. The district currently has Early Childhood classroom at both Lake Ann Elementary and Crystal Lake Elementary. The program also facilitates playgroups:

- Zumbini – Music/Movement program for infant/Caregivers**
- Partner with local Betsie Valley district librarian to bring story time once a month**
- 5to1 Neighborhood Network Partnership**
- Books for every child to take home each week**
- Weekly summer playgroups at Thompsonville Skate Park, average group 14 during the summer of 2022**

Mrs. Wilson was pleased to announce the growth of the program. There are currently:

- 23 staff members**
- 88 students from 6 weeks – 5 years old**
- 25 playgroup participants**
- 57 before/after care students**
- 65 summer campers, 3 to 12 years old**
- 42 GSRP slots, 14 Strong Beginnings slots, and 12 infant/toddler slots**

With that, she shared the following grants that her program has received:

- Spring: \$40,465.00 and \$71,372.50**
- Fall: \$50,750.00 and \$62,735.00**
- Expansion grant: currently applying for an expansion grant to cover their infant/toddler expansion and new elementary school.**

The program also facilitates summer camps, half day camps, related services, community partnerships, MTSS, Applied Educational Neuroscience, and Family Liaison Position.

Amber concluded in sharing how we are supporting our next generation of Early Childhood Educators. We currently have Christopher White, a high school senior assisting with summer camp/after care, Alice Dixon is assisting in our Strong Beginnings program and is a 2020 Benzie Central graduate, as well as preschool aide, Autumn Skiver, a 2021 Benzie Central graduate.

- J. E-Rate Cabling Bids – Justin Weston - Mr. Weston was not in attendance. Bret Emerson shared the following: Bret Emerson shared the results of the bid. Bid Pack #1 included cabling and fiber for Homestead Hills. Topline Electric was the low bidder coming in at \$72,600. Topline was able to provide a lower bid since they are already mobilized onsite working on other bond projects.
- K. Homestead Hills Elementary – Cabling Audio/Video Upgrade Bids – Bret Emerson- Bret Emerson also presented Bid pack #2 for Audiovisual work and bid pack #3 for paging. Master Electric was the low bidder for Bid Pack 2 with a cost of \$149,930.92 and Shoreline Power/Ascom North was the low bidder for Bid Pack 3 with a cost of \$62,850.00.
- L. Resignations:
 - Rachel Evans – High School Social Studies – Effective January 23, 2023
- M. Retirements: NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. Bond Project Updates – Wolgast Project Manager, Chris Kuhl – Chris shared the following update: Betsie Valley Elementary- electrical panel upgrades happened over winter break. Homestead Hills Elementary -Still working through the exterior brick issues. Unit 100 MEP rough-ins are in progress. Ductwork installation is in progress. Electrical in wall and plumbing rough-in is in progress. Hydronic heating steel pipe through the corridor and classrooms is in progress. Pex piping installation for the domestic water supplies through the corridor and classrooms is in progress. Roofing system installation is ongoing. Steel stud wall construction is complete. Alcove bulkhead framing is complete. Interior metal door frames installation is ongoing. Unit 200 Exterior spray foam insulation is ongoing. Roof joist installation complete and steel decking is in progress. Parapet pressure-treated wood blocking is in progress. Gym roofing system installation is complete. Temporary window and door enclosures are in progress. Unit 300 MEP is in progress. CMU interior wall construction for the kitchen 309 area is complete. Roof joist installation is complete. Unit 400 MEP rough ins is ongoing. CMU exterior and interior wall construction is complete. Roof joist installation is complete. The west parking lot gravel base installation is complete. Storm water basins rough

grading is ongoing. Parking lot light pole concrete bases are installed. Middle School/High School- The cafeteria ceiling was completed over break. Hallway painting by the gym is ongoing. The painting on the mezzanine is completed. The locker rooms are ready for use but a few punch items remain- bench installation, panel for the locker ends and locker numbers that were incorrectly numbered. Weight Room flooring has been installed. Ceilings installed. Windows installed. Plumbing and cabinet install ongoing. Tile floor completed. Exterior brick will be painted in the spring to match the window lines. Also, columns and trainer wall will be painted in the spring. The gym asbestos abatement 90% completed. Gym floor installation will proceed. Lake Ann Elementary – Hoping for occupancy next week.

2. **Bond Budget Recap - President Brian Childs shared the [Bond Budget Recap Report](#).**
3. **Construction Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that a meeting was held with the Vice President for Wolgast and Owner of Kingscott. We have seen an improvement with the schedule creation for Homestead Hills Elementary. We are waiting on schedules for the other projects. Foreman meetings are happening twice a week with Chris Kuhl. Budget update was provided. With the included sinking fund dollars, we have approximately \$700,000 in contingency. This budget does include the bus garage at the bid price of 2.6 million. The core team plans to meet again in a month with these two representatives. Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray thanked Chris Kuhl for getting us back on track.**
 - B. **Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is no update.**
 - C. **Finance Committee –Board of Education Vice-President, Jason Barnard shared there is no report as the 2021/22 Audit Review will now take place in February.**
 - D. **Educational Foundation – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the next meeting is January 18 at 7:00 PM.**
 - E. **Liaison/Curriculum –Trustee Lori Cota Hill – Ms. Cota Hill was not in attendance. Superintendent Erfourth shared that the meeting for December was cancelled. The building representatives from each building have started scheduling regular meetings with the building administrators to help improve communication and alleviate concerns.**
 - F. **Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is no update.**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Ashley Lindstrom, 6536 Center Rd., Thompsonville – Ashley thanked the Board of Education for allowing her to return early from her original extended leave of absence. She appreciates them allowing her to take time off to get her daycare center started.

Sue Campana, 5463 Traverse Rd., Thompsonville – Sue shared her appreciation of the Benzie Wellness + Aquatic Center. Having lost her own child to a drowning she feels this project is of importance and will be an asset to our community.

Discussion Topics: President Childs shared his recommendation for a CORE Team Community Liaison. Given Nicki Brown was not re-elected in the November election, he feels that she has put countless hours of her time and knowledge into these bond projects and that team would benefit as a whole if she were able to continue to assist and see these projects through. Mr. Childs is recommending Nicki Brown for CORE Team Community Liaison. Board of Education Secretary, Chris Noffsinger expressed agreement with Mr. Childs.

Action Topics:

22-23-077 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool 3-Year Contract. 2023-2026.

Ayes: 6

Motion Carried

22-23-078 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the E-Rate Cabling Bid; Topline Electric Bid Pack 1 \$72,600.00

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-079 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Homestead Hills Elementary Cabling Audio/Video Bids; Master Electric, Bid Pack 2 \$149,930.92 and Shoreline Power/Ascom North, Bid Pack 3 \$62,850.00.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-080 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to approve Nicki Brown as the CORE Team Community Liaison.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): – NONE

Board Communication:

Board of Education Retreat Discussion – January 22 – 9 AM-12 PM.

Superintendent Erfourth shared with the Board of Education that she has shared a google document with them for agenda topic input.

Announcements:

- **January 13 – Vaccination Clinic – 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM**
- **January 16 – No School**
- **January 20 – Early Release**
- **January 20 – End of 1st Semester**
- **January 22 – Board of Education Retreat**
- **January 23 – 2nd Semester begins**

22-23-081 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to adjourn the regular meeting 9:24 pm.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that January 9, 2023 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on February 13, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catina M. Crossman

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Board of Education Administrative Assistant

Pupil Accounting Specialist

Benzie County Central Schools