

## REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, April 10, 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Ms. Cota Hill

**22-23-113** It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard 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.

**22-23-114** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes:** March 13, 2023 Regular

**B. Business:** General Fund Bills – \$469,708.69

**C. Support Staff Appointments:**

- Irv Meachum – Middle School Baseball Coach

**D. Staff Assignment Changes:**

- NONE

**E. Leave of Absence:**

- NONE

**Ayes:** 6

**Nays:** 0

**Motion Carried**

**District Impact Team Update:** Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith reported the following:

Betsie Valley Elementary reviewed their problem of practice on creating a plan to repair learning gaps in students' performance at dramatically varying academic levels and how to create a structure where all students are challenged and monitored at a level for optimal learning. This time the DIT looked at how student attendance might be correlated to the problem. Betsie Valley has since come up with new ways to monitor classes with the best attendance and created a traveling trophy. They are already starting to see improvements in attendance.

There was an ISSN update and discussion on how to develop a "Benzie Gold Standard" for tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 instruction. They're trying to make these more cohesive across the district.

Lake Ann Elementary quickly reviewed behavioral data that was previously shared. They are starting a CHAMPS camp. This will bring the entire school together to set expectations and teach the students how to reach those expectations. There was a lot of positive feedback about starting this at this point in the school year. Also, they were encouraged to keep it going throughout the rest of this year and beyond.

Elementary Counselor, Carrie Gray shared elementary SELWeb (Social Emotional Learning) data from March.

The ELA Team is looking at historical and causal factors. They are reviewing whether CKLA needs a reboot or possibly looking at a new program.

There will be no DIT meeting on Tuesday, April 11, as Terry Morgan will be visiting.

**Student Council Report:** Student Council Board of Education Representative, Gloria Stepanovich reported the following:

- Snowcoming was a success
- National Honor Society previously held a successful Blood Drive, and there is another scheduled for May.
- Student Council is working on Teacher Appreciation Week ideas.
- National Honor Society is holding a can drive.
- Prom will be held at Crystal Mountain Resort on May 6.

**Administration Report:**

A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following report from her April 10 NMSLA meeting:

Sen. Camilleri, former teacher, is from Brownstone Township (Downriver) and is the Chairman of the Senate School Aid Subcommittee. He is focusing on how to raise beginning teacher pay, working on a supplemental package with possible student loan forgiveness for teachers, 2024 budget should be released in the next few weeks. Tax cuts should not impact the state aid budget at the school level. We shared our priorities especially around equitable funding of transportation and infrastructure. Representative Betsy Coffia has introduced HB 4335 addressing equitable funding for transportation on a per pupil tiered funding system.

### **Budget Update**

- House and Senate timing for FY 23 supplemental and FY 24 Budgets should be shared in the next week. 2-3 weeks. Senate is significantly bigger than House on State Aid budget.
- Revenue Update Special Ed 51 formula is a big priority to get phased in. Tutoring money \$150 million onetime funding, potential 20% cut for cyber schools, GSRP budget looks good including offset costs for staff.

### **Policy Update**

- Representative Betsy Coffia has introduced HB 4335 addressing equitable funding for transportation on a per pupil tiered funding system. This is important to Benzie as we currently incur following costs:
  1. Transportation Categorical - We recorded the following on the FID for FY22:
    1. Total transportation expenditures \$1,395,719
    2. Total Riders per week: 947
    3. Per Pupil Cost for the Year: \$1,473.83
    4. Per Pupil Cost all Students (1,177): \$1,185.82
- HB 4044/Labor Issues Rep Koleszar working to push this through
- Sinking Funds/Transportation - Transportation Bill to use sinking funds should get to the Gov by end of month. Would work for new sinking funds that are passed.
- MDE teacher certification fines Plan to address large fines for pupil accounting issues like sub permit fees. Applied for and fee not paid by a certain date resulting in lost funding per pupil.
- ORS – 30 days to return and set out v. 90 day set out
- Retirement Rep Koleszar working with ORS and how we can get a fix for the 9 months sit out for people who have retired. A-F bill on the senate floor.

**B. Kindergarten T-Shirts 2023/24 – Superintendent Erfourth recommended a t-shirt purchase for Kindergarten Round-Up with the addition of Homestead Hills Elementary. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman, set up a design using the block BC with all six (6) buildings represented.**

**C. Husky Robotics Update – Fundraising – World Finals Bound – Science and Robotics Teacher, Marc Alderman – Mr. Alderman shared the exciting season highlights.**

### **2022-2023 Season Highlights**

- 6 Middle School VEX IQ Competition (VIQC) Teams - 16 team members
- 3 High School VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) Teams - 8 team members
- 4 regular-season VRC Tournaments
- Event Partner for both VIQC and VRC Tournaments at BC
- Multiple VIQC Awards: Teamwork Champion x2, Teamwork 2nd Place x2 (one at State Championship), Robot Skills Champion, Design Award

- **Multiple VRC Awards: Excellence Award x3, Tournament Champions x2, Robot Skills Champion x2**
- **Two VIQC teams qualified for the Michigan State Championship**
  - **74484A Gassy Cats, 74484B The Joestars**
- **One VRC team qualified for the Michigan State Championship**
  - **74485B Perpetual**
- **One VIQC team qualified for World Championship**
  - **74484A Gassy Cats**
- **Volunteer at Peak2Peak Mountain Bike Race at Crystal Mountain**

**Financial Support from:**

- **Rhoades Engineering**
- **Team Elmers**
- **Endoman Productions**

**Material Support from:**

- **Honor Building Supply**

**Educational Support from:**

- **Quarkmine**

**Other Team Revenue Sources:**

- **MDE 99h FIRST Grant**
- **Season fees from team members**
- **Registration fees at BC VIQC and VRC EP tournaments**
- **Maintaining the BC cardboard trailer**
- **Private donations from Benzie Sunrise Rotarians**
- **Husky Robotics family contributions**
- **Husky Robotics clothing sale through KelGraphics**

**[www.kelgraphics.com/benzie-robotics](http://www.kelgraphics.com/benzie-robotics)**

- **Biggby Coffee Fundraiser - TC Locations**

**Mr. Alderman was joined by 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Wyatt Jaquish (in the program for 2 years), and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Lucas Lint (in the program for 3 years) who demonstrated their robots. Lucas was eager to share that he would continue on with Robotics in high school next year.**

**For the first time in Benzie Central History, Robotics has qualified for WORLD FINALS. Mr. Alderman shared the estimated VEX Worlds Trip cost, and is asking the Board of Education for trip and fundraiser approval this evening. (Estimated cost below). Congratulations to Mr. Alderman, and this amazing program.**

### **VEX Worlds Estimated Cost**

- Registration \$1200
  - Hotel Accommodations (three rooms, four nights) \$2640
  - Airline Tickets (five tickets) \$2242
  - Meals \$ - Unsure as it is our first time going to WORLDS
  - Promo Materials (giveaways to other teams) \$672.30
    - includes stickers and buttons for VRC and IQ State Championship giveaways
- D. Two Benzie Electoral Designated Representatives – Northwest Ed., ISD – Biennial Election – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we need to identify a Board of Education member that can meet in person on June 5 at Northwest Ed. ISD to cast Benzie Central’s vote. We will also need to identify a proxy in the event that our named person is unable to attend to cast the vote. We will know the candidates on May 8. The resolution naming the primary and alternate representatives is up for approval this evening.**
- E. Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan (CSI) – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth was able to meet with our state contact, Dan Reardon, on Thursday. The state has not yet finalized the format they are requiring for the plan submission. She walked him through our plan that is in the MICIP platform and shared the action plan/strategies for the middle school. We will not need to approve yet since we will need more guidance from the state. We did meet with Paul Bauer from the ISD. He will assist us with our monthly meeting requirements. That being said, it is recommended to table the approval of the Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan this evening.**
- F. Roadmaster Driving School, LLC - \$3.00 per student – Superintendent Erfourth shared that this is a contract renewal. They utilize our parking lots for driver's training. We will offer them Crystal Lake Elementary parking lot for the summer of 2023 while we are having the parking lots paved at the MS/HS Campus.**
- G. Move this World/Social Emotional Learning – Elementary Counselor, Carrie Gray – Mrs. Gray presented information about our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and the most recent results of our social-emotional learning assessment. SELweb Assessment.**
- H. Math Curriculum Committee Purchase – Assistant Principal, Michael Hammar – Mr. Hammar shared that the Math Committee has been reviewing two curriculum programs for the MS/HS; College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) and Envision. CPM is a student-centered group orientated math program, that is based on the idea that students learn math over time. The program spirals and scaffolds learning. Homework problems and assessments are always reviewing previous material based on a 40% new 60% review principle. It was created by a non-profit and designed by math teachers. Envision is a traditional textbook with many traditional lessons. It has many online student and teacher resources to support the learning process. It was created and designed by the Pearson Corporation. Mr. Hammar presented the strengths and weaknesses analysis for both CPM and**

**Envision, as well as the student survey for feedback. After piloting, the committee recommends CPM. Mr. Hammar presented the three-year quote to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will consider taking action on the curriculum at their regular meeting on May 8, 2023.**

- I. Early Childhood Update/Intense Student Support Network (ISSN) – Early Childhood Coordinator, Amber Wilson – Mrs. Wilson was pleased to share that this is her third year, along with some of the Early Childhood Program highlights: Registration has begun for fall, with a lot of infant/toddler interest. We have the most GSRP slots that we have ever had, and they are all full, and we were able to provide free preschool to many families. They are pleased with their new classroom additions at Lake Ann Elementary, have attended many staff trainings, and even traveled to Lansing to speak with legislators. She was also happy to report that the percentage of the children *meeting or above* of the growth chart ranges anywhere from 75%-88% in all areas.**

**Mrs. Wilson also gave an Intensive Student Support Network (ISSN) Update.**

*Benzie Central Schools will provide a safe, supportive school environment where each student's values, beliefs, background, and identity are respected in order to reach his or her highest potential. Every student has the right to an equitable educational experience. Each student reaches this potential as a result of a system that responds to their unique and individual academic and nonacademic needs. The district is committed to engaging with every student to maximize both his/her academic and social learning. This engagement is grounded in supportive practices and universal norms including:*

- 1. Care- Every adult supports every student with a ferocious unwillingness to accept student failure*
- 2. Support- For students to build confidence and a willingness to invest themselves, their participation in academic tasks must be accompanied by systematic supports addressing the social, cultural, and academic needs of each student.*
- 3. Safety- Community values are developed, taught and reinforced. Expectations are clear, firm and consistently enforced. Action is responsive to students' individual needs.*
- 4. Membership- Students are engaged in a variety of ways. Students are not just physically present, but intellectually immersed, socially connected and emotionally centered.*

**Caring adults in a caring school community can be the hook to achievement, graduation and a future of meaningful options. To that end, Benzie Central Schools is committed to:**

- Making sure everyone feels welcome in our school community
- Working collaboratively to create a culture of physical, social, emotional and academic safety across the district
- Providing each student with social, emotional, health and nutritional support on a continuum of intensity that is matched to individual student needs
- Embracing and celebrating each individual's values, beliefs, background, and identity
- Engaging with families to better connect students to the school community and foster a sense of belonging
- Partnering with community agencies to provide support in areas that may extend beyond the capacity of the district and school to provide alone

- Bringing the learner in as a full and active participant in enhancing and shaping his or her own learning

#### One Step Forward (Tier 1)

1. What can we do as a district to make sure everyone feels welcome in our school community?
2. What can we do as a district to embrace and celebrate each individual's values, beliefs, background and identity?
3. What can we do as a district to engage with families to better connect students to the school community to foster a sense of belonging?
4. What can we do as a district to bring each learner in as a full and active participant in enhancing and shaping their own learning?

**J. MS/HS Athletic Updates – Athletic Director, Eli Harris – Mr. Harris provided the Board of Education with a winter 2023 Sports Update. With that, he shared that he has only had positive feedback surrounding the new high school gymnasium, bleachers, and locker rooms.**

**4/10/2023**  
**Winter Sports Update**

**Participation**

**High School**

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BASKETBALL	24	18	42
WRESTLING	32	2	34
BOWLING	7	0	7
SKIING	0	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>88</b>

Currently, there are 318 students enrolled in the high school. Out of the 88 athletes, 2 are Academy students. This indicates that 27% of our high school student body and 2% of the Academy(80) were involved in athletics for the fall sports season.

**Middle School**

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BASKETBALL	26	27	53
WRESTLING	13	3	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>69</b>

Currently, there are 247 students enrolled in the middle school. Out of the 69 athletes, 0 are Academy students. This indicates that 28% of our middle school student body and 0% of the Academy(16) were involved in athletics for the fall sports season.



## Winter Awards Recognition

### All-Conference Selections (22)

#### Boys Basketball:

1st team

Jaxon Childers

2nd team

Miles Pritchett

Honorable Mention

Andrew Gray

Rowan Zickert

#### Girls Basketball:

1st team

Gloria Stepanovich

Kara Johnson

Honorable Mention

Marie Riedlinger

#### Wrestling:

1st Team

Benjamin DeRidder

Tyrone Brouillet

2nd Team

Landen Pangborn

Jacob Gillison

Michael Pfeiffer

Dalton Geetings

Honorable Mention

Dayne Gillison

Mason Childs

Nathan Higgins

Owen Cruden

Cael Katt

Lane Sanchez

Liam Jones

#### Bowling:

Dream Team

Dominic Lopez

1st Team

Alberto Lopez

## **Record-Eagle Dream Team (7)**

### **Boys Basketball**

Jaxon Childers

Miles Pritchett

### **Girls Basketball**

Gloria Stepanovich

Kara Johnson

### **Wrestling**

Regional Champion Cambrie Lawrence

Regional Champion Landen Pangborn

### **Bowling**

Dominic Lopez (**Bowler of the Year**)

## **All-State Selections (4)**

Jacob Gillison

Cambrie Lawrence

Michael Pfeiffer

Landen Pangborn

## **Academic All-State**

### **Wrestling**

Landen Pangborn

Cael Katt

Ben DeRidder

## **Team Academic All-State**

Boys Basketball (3.25) GPA

Girls Basketball (3.76) GPA

Wrestling (3.59) GPA

## **Team Champions**

Skiing LMC Conference Champions

Bowling GNHSBC Conference Champions and Regional Champions

Wrestling District and Regional Champions

Regional Coach of the Year Joshua Lovendusky

**K. Resignations:**

- Kate Johnson – Middle School Girls Assistant Basketball Coach
- Lynn Mertz – Chemistry Teacher

**L. Retirements:**

- NONE

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –****A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –**

1. Bond Project Updates –Board of Education President, Brian Childs shared the following

**Betsie Valley Elementary-****Main Heating piping installed**

Start installing branch lines into classroom

Continue heating piping for next couple weeks.

All work is second shift

**Homestead Hills Elementary****Unit 100**

- All Ceiling grid installed will start dropping ceiling tile week of 4-10
- Bathroom Vinyl floor being installed
- Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing finishes has started
- Classroom flooring to start week of 5-1
- Windows are on site and will be installed

**Unit 200**

- Electrical, Mechanical, plumbing above ceiling continuing
- Paining of drywall and CMU walls on going
- Ceiling grid will start week of 4-17
- Gym Walls finish painting will be completed by middle of week

**Unit 300**

- Fire proofing around Gym will be completed mid-week
- Metal studs at dinning commons has started
- Mechanical and electrical rough at kitchen and bathrooms
- Continued Boiler room work
- Bathroom CMU installs
- Continued MEP rough ins

**Unit 400**

- Drywall finishes completed Friday 4-7
- Painting of CMU and drywall to start 4-10
- Ceiling grid install to start week of 4-17
- Casework to be installed week of 4-24

**Exterior Work**

- Playground area has been graded and ready for Concrete
- Side walk prep around 100 to start 4-10
- Start grading front walk way to building and get snowmelt system in week of 4-10
- Start pouring concrete at playground & around 100 sidewalks week of 4-17

- Mason will have all brick installed by 4-14
  - Mason will start clearing out his stuff week of next week into 4-17
  - AJ's Excavating to start grading east side of building week of 4-17
  - Start getting black dirt pile taken down so we can install the well.
2. **Construction Update – Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray shared that there was no update.**
- B. **Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is no update.**
  - C. **Finance Committee –Board of Education Vice-President, Jason Barnard, shared that he and Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray are waiting to meet with the Director of Finance.**
  - D. **Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota Hill- no update.**
  - E. **Liaison/Curriculum –Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill was not in attendance. Next meeting is scheduled for April 17.**
  - F. **Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is no update.**

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

**Discussion Topics:**

1. **Social Media Lawsuit – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Franz Group (the same law firm that represented us in the Juul litigation) is looking to go after social media including Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, and others because they assert these companies targeted minors to maximize profits and disregarded the detrimental impact it has on children.**
2. **Verizon Tower – Board of Education Secretary, Chris Noffsinger – Mr. Noffsinger shared that the Building and Grounds committee met with a representative for Verizon. Verizon is looking to locate a tower within a half-mile radius of the high school property. They need approximately 100 ft X 100 ft to enclose the entire tower and backup generator within it. The lease agreement would be for 30 years and negotiation of the lease could start at \$1100. There is also an escalator clause that would increase each year. This price is negotiable.**

**Action Topics:**

**22-23-115 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve Kindergarten t-shirts for 2023/24.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-116 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Husky Robotics Dallas, Texas WORLDS trip and fundraising.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-117** It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Two Benzie Electoral Designated Representatives; Jason Barnard, and Lori Cota Hill as alternate.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-118** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to table the approval of the Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan pending further clarification.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-119** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Roadmaster Driving School, LLC annual agreement with the understanding that they will utilize the Crystal Lake Elementary parking lot during the summer of 2023 given the bond work timeline.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-120** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Move this World/Social and Emotional Learning

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 1**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-121** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Superintendent Evaluation 2022/23.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**22-23-122** It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the joining of the Social Media Lawsuit, thus approving the Thrun Board of Education Resolution and Thrun Attorney-Client Fee Contract.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Audience Participation (Open Topics):** – Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave., approached the Board of Education. Being a member of the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center, he expressed the importance of attracting families to our community, and what better way than with a Community Center. The BWAC has joined forces with the Benzie Resource Center, and would very much like the Crystal Lake Elementary building for a future Community Resource Center site.

Nancy Call, 7661 Worden Rd. also approached the Board of Education regarding the Crystal Lake Elementary building. Being on the Board of the Benzie Resource Center she attested that they were running out of space with meals on wheels, in home service, etc. They would very much like the Board of Education to grant them some time to come back to the table with something more specific in regard to Crystal Lake Elementary.

Julia Johnson, 1188 S. Pioneer, approached the Board of Education. She shared an experience with her son here at school, that she deems bullying and unresolved. She shared statistics with the Board of Education, expressed her concern and encouraged the trauma-informed training.

**Board Communication: NONE**

**Announcements:**

1. **Early Release – April 21**
2. **Kindergarten Round-Up – Lake Ann Elementary - April 24**
3. **Kindergarten Round-UP – Crystal Lake Elementary – April 26**
4. **Kindergarten Round-Up – Betsie Valley Elementary – April 28**
5. **Board of Education Meeting – May 8**

**22-23-123** It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to adjourn the regular meeting 9:53 pm.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

---

**Secretary, Board of Education**

***Please note that April 10, 2023 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on May 8, 2023.***

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Catina M. Crossman***

***Executive Assistant to the Superintendent***

***Board of Education Administrative Assistant***

***Pupil Accounting Specialist***

***Benzie County Central Schools***