

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, June 26, 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:23pm

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Smith, Mr. Noffsinger

Members Absent: Mr. Gray, Ms. Cota Hill, Gloria Stepanovich (non-voting member)

22-23-154 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Smith 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.

22-23-155 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: June 5, 2023 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$268,040.99

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- NONE

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- NONE

E. Leave of Absence:

- NONE

F. Recommendation for Tenure:

- NONE

G. Recommendation for Termination:

- NONE

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

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

There has only been one DIT meeting since the last School Board meeting. That was the final DIT meeting of the school year.

Amber Wilson presented an Early Childhood Tuning Protocol. Shared data that showed a lot of growth among the kids in Social Emotional Learning, Math, and English. The group believes that they are sending kids to kindergarten who are very prepared to do so.

The math team has scheduled a mid-August training for CPM. The English Team is developing a rubric to evaluate the current CKLA program.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Gloria Stepanovich was not in attendance. No Update.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we met on June 12th with Rep Tom Kunse. He shared the continued forward movement of HB 4354 passing out of the House 56-53 along party lines. It is now headed to the Senate. This impacts previously prohibited topics of bargaining like layoff and recall, teacher placement, and discipline. It is likely to pass out of Senate along party lines and be moved to the Governor's office. The budget is projected to be released on June 29.**
- B. 2023/2024 District Calendar Change – Opening Day - After discussion with Wendy and the membership, it was decided to adjust opening day from August 29 (Tuesday), to August 28 (Monday) to accommodate our guest speaker. The 28th will be our opening breakfast.**
- C. Athletic Director – Non-Union Contract Change – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Athletic Director Harris was moving from 200 days to 207 days, thus reflecting the salary adjustment.**
- D. Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following [CSI Plan](#).**
- E. Adoption of 2023/24 Budget – Director of Finance, Justin Weston – Review of the requirements to hold a joint public meeting for Truth in Taxation and Budget Adoption. The District will levy 19.2852 mills for Operations, 0.8684 mills for Sinking Fund, and 1.9900 for Debt Retirement. State funding per pupil for the 2022-2023 school year was \$9,150.00 There is a 5% expected increase in Per-Pupil Foundation bringing the amount to \$9,608.00 per pupil in 2023-2024. Other impacts on over changes in revenue are: Last year of ESSER III Funds, about the last third of funds to be spent in FY24, pending approval for more one-time funding in 31aa & Section 97, Investment of Equity funds, and last year of 31o funds.**

Total General Fund revenues expected to be collected for the 2023-2024 school year total \$17,317.79. General Fund expenditures are set at \$17,123,543 leaving a

remaining budget of approximately \$194,136 which will be used for other expenses or savings for future planning. The District continues to have a fund balance well above normal levels. With this, the plan is to continue to move funds into our designated savings. We will plan to have a designated fund balance of: \$2,875,000 for athletics, buses/vehicles, curriculum, furniture, equipment, technology and future capital projects. We will plan to have an undesignated fund balance of \$2,100,867 for uninterrupted summer/fall operation without borrowing.

With the bond still ongoing, the sinking fund spending is minimal. As the bond projects reach completion, the district will address projects with sinking fund monies. In the meantime, the district has a short-term investment of \$1,500,000 currently set to mature October 2023. This levy is set to expire 12/2026. The district continues to monitor bond expenditures. Interest rates have increased steadily over the last year allowing for high interest earnings. Bond funds are currently invested in a liquid MILAF account. We are still waiting for the state to approve the budget for next year, expecting something by the end of June. We are planning to postpone Headlee Renewal and Non-Homestead Operating Millage until the 2024 August Preliminaries.

- F. **2023/2024 Winter Tax Levy Rates – Director of Finance, Justin Weston shared the [2023/2024 Winter Tax Levy Rates](#).**
- G. **Headlee Rollback for November Ballot – Director of Finance, Justin Weston is recommending that this Resolution go on the August 2024 or November 2024 ballot.**
- H. **Two Custodial Positions – With the addition of rooms within our bond work, additional custodial help is needed. Superintendent is asking the Board of Education to approve (2) Custodial Positions contracted through Benzie Central. PCMI third party fees are roughly 30%. If contracted through Benzie, it is roughly 36%, but the employee would have health insurance and retirement contributions.**
- I. **Resignations: NONE**
- J. **Retirements: NONE**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

- A. **Buildings and Grounds Committee –**
 - 1. **Bond Project Updates –Board of Education President, Brian Childs shared that there is no update.**
 - 2. **Construction Update – Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – 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 the 2023/2024 Budget was the current update.**
- D. **Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota Hill was not in attendance. No update.**

- E. **Liaison/Curriculum –Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill was not in attendance, not update.**
- F. **Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is currently no update.**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

1. **The Road Commission shared that the Equalization office stated that the road leading to Homestead Hills Elementary cannot be called Henry Rd since the existing Henry Rd is not being abandoned. They are requesting name suggestions from the District. The following name suggestions were shared with the Road Commission:**

- **Homestead Hills Lane**
- **Homestead Trail**
- **Husky Trail or Husky Lane**
- **BC Parkway**
- **Benzie Boulevard**
- **Huskies Boulevard**
- **Huskies Way**
- **Benzie Way**
- **BC Way**

Action Topics:

22-23-156 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Nicole Torrey as the Secondary Assistant Principal.
Ayes: 5 **Motion Carried**

22-23-157 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2023/2024 District Calendar Change – Opening Day – From August 29 to August 28.
Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

22-23-158 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Athletic Director Non-Union Contract Change from 200 days to 207 days, thus reflecting the salary increase.
Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

22-23-159 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan.
Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

22-23-160 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2023/2024 Budget.
Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

22-23-161 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2023 Winter Tax Levy Rates.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

22-23-162 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the addition of (2) Custodial Positions contracted through Benzie Central.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): – Diane Tracy, 1926 Ness Rd., Frankfort addressed the Board of Education. She shared that the Board of Education was presented with the [BWAC Project Overview](#). She shared that they are working with an experienced project manager consultant. They will pay for this project with capital state, public and private funding and not a millage to support. They too are also working with a grant writer. Operational fees will be covered with user fees. They are working with perspective partners and have financial community support and local group support. She asks that the Board of Education review the project overview and would like discussion and action to take place at the July 10 regular meeting. She would really like clarity sooner than later.

Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave., Benzonia addressed the Board of Education. He shared the many ways this BWAC project would benefit families, children, our schools and community. He is asking that we please give Diane Tracy some time, as she knows donors. He concluded by stating that if this project does not pan out in three years, that the district could have the facility back.

Board Communication: Reminder to look at a January 2024 date for the Board of Education Retreat; possibly a Sunday.

Announcements:

- **July 10 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

22-23-163 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to adjourn the regular meeting 8:13 pm.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that June 26, 2023 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on July 10, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Catina M. Crossman

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Board of Education Administrative Assistant

Pupil Accounting Specialist

Director of Communications

Benzie County Central Schools