

## REGULAR MEETING

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

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Members Present:** Mr. Childs, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gray, Ms. Cota Hill (tardy)

**Members Absent:** Mr. Noffsinger

**23-24-001** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray 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.

**23-24-002** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes: June 26, 2023 Special | June 26, 2023 Regular**

**B. Business: General Fund Bills – \$2,175,562.11**

**C. Support Staff Appointments:**

- Michael Hammar – Middle School Cross Country Coach
- Meghan Carra – Crystal Lake Elementary Teacher

**D. Staff Assignment Changes:**

- Jeanne Pettengill – Lake Ann Elementary to Betsie Valley Elementary
- Barbara Powell – 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Counselor to Counseling Support

**E. Leave of Absence:**

- NONE

**F. Recommendation for Tenure:**

- NONE

**G. Recommendation for Termination:**

- NONE

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

Mr. Gray questioned if the Counseling Support position was a created position, and whether it would exceed beyond the 2023/24 calendar year.

**District Impact Team Update:** Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith reported the following: No summer meetings. The Committee will reconvene in September 2023.

**Student Council Report:** Student Council Board of Education Representative, Jessica Whaley. Jessica will be joining us in the fall of 2023.

**Administration Report:**

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth** shared that there was no meeting this month. Mrs. Erfourth invited the Board of Education to join her at the Haggerty Center on Thursday, August 3 for the Legislative Dinner. She needs a head count by Friday, July 14.
  
- B. **Michigan State University Extension – Caitlin Lorenc, Community Nutrition Instructor – Michigan State University (MSU) Extension** delivers affordable, relevant, evidence-based education to help adults, young people, and families in urban and rural communities be healthy. Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills they need to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; breastfeed their babies; and stretch their food dollar. Ms. Lorenc shared with the Board of Education a Program Impact Report; a summary of nutrition education programming that took place in the Benzie County Central School District within the 2022/23 calendar year. The students participated in either the *Show Me Nutrition* or *Teen Cuisine* nutrition education curricula; each session lasting 20 to 30 minutes. Each curricula focuses on improving diet quality, promotes regular physical activity, and teaches youth about food safety practices. A total of 523 youth (preschool through 7<sup>th</sup> grade) participated in programming during the 2022/23 school year. The students (3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 7<sup>th</sup> grade) were asked to complete a pre/posttest behavioral survey at the beginning or end of the series, respectively.
  
- C. **Early Childhood Handbook; including Infant/Toddler – Early Childhood Coordinator, Amber Wilson. Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (1755), Katie Johnston and Early Childhood Lead Teacher, Melinda Conger** reported in Mrs. Wilson’s absence. Both Katie and Melinda shared summer camp updates and fall enrollment numbers.

**Summer Camp**

**Total Enrollment:**

- Infant/Toddler: 10
- Preschool: 27
- K-5th: 56

**Field Trips:**

- Almira Township Park
- TC Pit Spitters’ Game
- Cognition

- Blair Splash Pad
- Interlochen Public Library
- Garden Theater

### Fall Enrollment Numbers and Classroom Updates and Additions

#### **Betsie Valley Elementary:**

- We are opening one classroom at BV
  - GSRP/Tuition
  - Up to 16 students, currently have 10.

#### **Homestead Hills Elementary:**

- Great year of programming, continuing with infant/toddler care
- Infant/Toddler: 18 students (full & part time)
- Preschool: 20 students (full & part time)

#### **Lake Ann Elementary:**

- Addition of Infant/Toddler classroom
- Infant/Toddler: 18 students (full & part time)
- Preschool: 54 students (full & part time)
- Will continue to have Before/After care programming

There are only two changes to the Early Childhood Handbook: Tuition and Enrollment Prioritization Policy.

Tuition - Tuition will increase for infant/toddler care, it will increase from \$50 a day to \$55 a day. Employee discount will decrease to 10%.

Enrollment Prioritization Policy - A policy on how our prioritization of slot allocation happens. In the event of a wait list, this policy will go into effect to ensure that district students have priority enrollment in our Early Childhood Programs.

- D. Elementary Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.
- E. Middle School Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.
- F. High School Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.
- G. Benzie Academy Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.

- H. Edgenuity Course Catalog – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.**
- I. Michigan Virtual Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.**
- J. 1.0 Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) Resolution – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality. She would like the Board of Education to approve a resolution defining what a 1.0 FTE looks like at Benzie Central. The Board of Education was provided a copy of the Resolution. Students are considered a 1.0 FTE based on the full-time bell schedule as board approved in each of the building handbooks unless students are enrolled as Dual Enrolled, Early Middle College, Career Tech Center, Work-Study, or on a personal curriculum. Students must be scheduled for a minimum of 180 days and 1098 hours per year, unless otherwise indicated in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Whereas;**

- *Approval for BCCS students to enroll in dual enrollment courses subject to district approval, course availability, and requirements being met by interested students***
- *Approval for BCCS students to enroll in the Benzie Early Middle College program in partnership with Baker College of Cadillac***
- *Approval for BCCS students to enroll in virtual coursework through both state and district providers (Michigan Virtual, Edgenuity and Apex)***
- *Approval of BCHS, BCMS, Benzie Academy, and Elementary Course Catalogs***
- *Approval of BCHS / MS Handbook***
- *Approval of Benzie Central Elementary Handbook***
- *Approval of Benzie Academy Handbook***
- *Approval of resolution to define a full day for students***

- K. Sex Education Advisory Board Curriculum Recommendations – Benzie Central MS/HS Teacher, Carmen Briggs, and parent representative, Danielle Gray shared the following recommendations with the Board of Education. These recommendations will be up for approval at the August 14 regularly scheduled meeting, with the exception of #5, *HS Data Collection Survey-postponed for further revision.***

The recommendations are as follows:

1. Data points: SEL/Healthy Relationships, Consent, STI Prevention/Contraceptives, Law. These will be tracked via an in class high school pre/post survey, and data from the local police departments and health department as well as the CDC and MiPhy surveys.
2. K-5 Personal Safety Lessons:
  - a. [Personal Safety Grade K-3](#)
  - b. [Personal Safety Grade 4-5](#)
3. New 5th grade video:
  - i. Boys-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XF0awGRTWs>
  - ii. Girls-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv21b3ZpSLg>
4. New parent letters:
  - a. [5th Grade Parent Letter](#)
  - b. [MS Sex Ed Parent Letter/Exclusion](#)
  - c. [HS Sex Ed Parent Letter/Exclusion](#)
5. HS Data Collection Survey-postponed for further revision – POSTPONED
6. New MS PPT explaining puberty, anatomy & physiology, growth and development:
  - a. [Benzie MS Puberty, Anatomy, Pregnancy](#)
7. Abortion statement: Generic scripted response to be given to any student asking for information regarding abortions.  
*\*I am sorry, but I am not legally able to respond to that question. That is something you need to follow up with an adult at home, or the health department, or your family doctor.*
- L. Resignations:
  - Aimee Eggleston – Middle School Cross Country Coach
  - Luke Krolkowski – Assistant Alpine Ski Coach
  - Scott Barker – Head Girls Varsity Soccer Coach
- M. Retirements: NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. Bond Project Updates –Board of Education President, Brian Childs introduced Senior Field Manager, Chris Kuhl from the Wolgast Corporation.

Mr. Kuhl shared the following updates:

**Lake Ann Elementary**- New furniture is due to arrive on Monday, July 17.

**Betsie Valley Elementary** – Mechanical work, exterior work, ceilings going back in.

**Middle-High School** – West parking lot is completed. South parking lot began today. Mechanical work, electrical work, air handlers, Central Business Office work, Science wing, ceilings beginning to go back in.

**Homestead Hills Elementary** – Exterior doors, kitchen equipment, playground area mulch, plumbing fixtures. Henry Road work should be taking place mid-August. To date, we are on schedule pending the electrical panels.

Chris pointed out that due to Mechanical, Plumbing, Building Code, and Fire Code Issues, there is roughly \$350,000 worth of overages.

In addition, the Board of Education was provided an electronic copy of the Benzie County Central Schools - Series 1 Budget Recap Report .

2. Construction Update – Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – No Update. All updates were shared in the Bond Updates.
3. Building and Grounds Modifications Request –
  - Rich Gottardo – Baseball.

Board of Education President, Brian Childs, shared that Coach Gottardo is looking to build a pole barn for the baseball program. He is looking to wait another year before beginning the project, so that the program has that additional time to fundraise. Mr. Gottardo is also requesting to add an additional batting cage near the visitors' dugout next to the woods. Mr. Childs requested feedback from the Board of Education as to what the Building and Grounds Committee is able to approve. His recommendation is that permanent structures would need full Board of Education support. He feels that temporary structures are something that the Building and Grounds Committee could approve. Collectively, they agreed to this language going forward.

- B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the July Thrun Policy Updates were emailed this past Friday. We will need to hold a Policy Committee meeting to go over these policy changes. The Board of Education will approve the updates at their August 14 regular meeting. Board of Education Vice-President, Jason Barnard, and Board of Education Trustees, Shannon Gillison and Matt Smith agreed to meet on July 25.
- C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Vice-President, Jason Barnard and Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray shared that there is no update.

- D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota Hill shared that the next meeting is July 11 at 7:00 PM.**
- E. Liaison/Curriculum –Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill shared that there is no update.**
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is currently no update. She would however like to begin the negotiation process sooner than later for those contracts set to renew next.**

**Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Diane Tracy, 1926 Ness Rd., Frankfort addressed the Board of Education. She thanked the Board of Education for providing the property discussion this evening. The Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center (BWAC) is seeking the Crystal Lake Elementary facility for purchase. She shared recent drowning statistics from the New York Times, and reiterated the importance of our children and parents learning how to swim. In addition, she shared that today was the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual free swimming lessons for K-4 grade students. She reminded the Board of Education of the time sensitivity of this decision non-profit grant opportunities, as well as economic development grant opportunities. Deadline is August 31 to meet all requirements.**

**Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave., Benzonia addressed the Board of Education. He reminded the Board of Education that with all these things they are currently dealing with, sex education, early childhood, and obesity that our community needs more choices. He feels this proposed community center would allow more choices and resources for our students and families. He feels they could easily obtain 1,000 memberships out of 18,000 people. He feels this would attract more families and students to our community and schools, and urges the Board of Education to make this happen.**

**Rhonda Nye, 6515 South St., Benzonia addressed the Board of Education. She introduced herself as a Benzie County Commissioner, but notes that she was speaking as herself. Although it is appealing to look at the Crystal Lake Elementary building as a source of revenue, she asked that the Board of Education take a chance on this BWAC endeavor, adding that nobody wants to see that building sit vacant for ten or twenty years. She referred to the BWAC as a group who is always forward motion, and urges the Board of Education to give this endeavor a shot.**

#### **Discussion Topics:**

- 1. Board of Education Retreat – Schedule January 2024 date. Board of Education President, Brian Childs requested that they select a date for the January Retreat. Sunday, January 21 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM was scheduled.**
- 2. Verizon Tower Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Verizon did accept the site that our Building and Grounds Committee offered. They are willing to pay \$1100.00 a month with a 1 to 1.5% escalator clause each year or purchase the property for a flat rate. The Board of Education will revisit this before any action is taken.**
- 3. Henry Rd. – New Rd. Update - 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. Superintendent Erfourth shared the suggested names with equalization. Though the Board of Education did want to have the community help decide and vote, it was decided that there are too many time constraints. The Board of Education chose Husky Trail.

4. **Property Discussion – Board of Education Trustee, Lori Cota-Hill, did some research on the minor legal description issue on roughly 4 acres of the Platte River Elementary Property. Discussion took place on whether to deed it to the township or road commission. Board of Education President, Brian Childs opened up the Crystal Lake Elementary Property discussion asking if any members had changed their minds on how the Board of Education proceeds going forward. They discussed both the bus garage/playground parcel, as well as the elementary building parcel. They agreed to move forward with the bus garage/playground parcel, and agreed to assemble a committee of Gillison, Gray, and Barnard to counter offer the elementary parcel to meet time sensitive deadlines.**

#### **Action Topics:**

**23-24-003 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 23/24 Early Childhood Handbook; including Infant Toddler.**

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

**23-24-004 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the 23/24 Elementary Handbook.**

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

**23-24-005 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 23/24 MS/HS Handbook.**

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

**23-24-006 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 23/24 Benzie Academy Handbook.**

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

**23-24-007 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 23/24 Elementary Course Catalog.**

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

**23-24-008 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Middle School Course Catalog.**

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

**23-24-009 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the 23/24 High School Course Catalog.**

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





**Board Communication: Additional Reminder: Mrs. Erfourth invited the Board of Education to join her at the Haggerty Center on Thursday, August 3 for the Legislative Dinner. She needs a head count by Friday, July 14.**

**Announcements:**

- **August 14 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

**23-24-015** It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to adjourn the regular meeting 9:06 pm.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

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**Secretary, Board of Education**

***Please note that July 10, 2023 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on August 14, 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***

***Go Huskies!***