

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, August 14 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

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

Members Absent: Mr. Noffsinger, Ms.Cota Hill

23-24-016 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.

23-24-017 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Gray to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: July 10, 2023

B. Business: General Fund Bills –

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Jacob Parrotte – 8hr. Custodial (Willsub to Benzie Central Employee)
- James Rhodes – 8 hr. Custodial (Willsub to Benzie Central Employee)
- Kyle Locke – Secondary Social Studies teacher

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: 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 update.**
- B. **Building and Grounds and Operation Update – Director of Maintenance, Mike Zielinski – Mr. Zielinski thanked the Board of Education for approving the two new Benzie Central custodians; Jacob Parrotte and James Rhodes. He reported that he is now at 13 custodians district wide. He also expressed appreciation to the Board of Education for approving the recently purchased Maintenance vehicle. Mike provided an overview of the work being done at Betsie Valley Elementary, Homestead Hills Elementary, Lake Ann Elementary and the Middle/High School Campus. Mr. Zielinski thanked his custodial staff for their work, given additional duties during the course of this bond work.**
- C. **(5) 2024 Model Year Thomas School bus, 77- Passenger, 100-gallon Diesel Fuel Tank – Director of Transportation, Mary Radtke – Ms. Radtke shared that Thomas buses are less expensive than the International buses that we have purchased in the past, and have the same engine as our current buses. In addition, Thomas provides services work that will come to us for all warranty work which will be a savings to the district. By switching from International to Thomas, we can purchase (5) buses rather than (4). The unit price for each bus is \$111,135.00 for a total cost of \$555,675.00. If approved, the anticipated delivery time would be September/October 2023.**
- D. **Truck Purchase for Transportation Department’s Bus Garage – Director of Transportation, Mary Radtke – Ms. Radtke is asking for approval to purchase a 2019 Ford 250XL including an 8’2” Boss Poly V Front Blade (like new), an 8’-12’ Boss Pro Drag Rear Plow. This would replace the 2012 Dodge. The 2012 Dodge would be utilized for a back up plow truck and sander. This truck would be purchased from Frankfort-Elberta Schools.**
- E. **Director of Curriculum, Professional Learning, and Systems – 1 yr. Contract – Superintendent Erfourth – Mrs. Erfourth has shared with the Board of Education a recommendation for Hire for Carla Gipson. In addition, she provided a 7-month draft timeline for a vertically aligned K-12 Curriculum.**
- F. **Early Childhood Benzie Central Contracts and Pay Scale – Superintendent Erfourth – Mrs. Erfourth is recommendation that our Early Childhood Directors and Lead teachers go from Willsub Employees to Benzie Central Employees, and provided a competitive wage 5-year pay scale for approval. This will allow for**

employee health insurance, insurance to conduct home visits, retirement, and upward mobility.

- G. Bond Resolution to Issue Series 2 and 3 – Director of Finance, Justin Weston – Mr. Weston shared a Bond Structure and Sales Method with the Board of Education illustrating the cost savings to sell series 2 and 3 together. The revenue from this sale would be just over 1 million. This revenue would be added to remaining bond dollars to complete additional projects.**
- H. Transportation Department Site Plan – Superintendent Erfourth shared the transportation building lay out. The building will be structural steel, with three bays and doors facing the East. If the plan is approved this evening, we will be taking bids in October and approving them in November.**
- I. Road Commission Maintenance Contract for 2023-2028 – Superintendent Erfourth shared the Benzie County Road Commission and Benzie County Central Schools Street Maintenance Agreement. This is the standard agreement for road commission and salt purchase.**
- J. Resignations:**
- Amber Wilson – Early Childhood Coordinator – Effective August 31, 2023
 - Michelle Laffleur – Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
 - Heather Hall – Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
 - Rebecca Knop (Frieholtz) – Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
 - Carrie Gray – Elementary Counselor
- K. Retirements: NONE**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Updates – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following update from Senior Field Manager, Chris Kuhl from the Wolgast Corporation.**

Construction Update: 8-14-23

1. **Final Building and Fire inspection is 8/28 at 9am**
2. **All electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical inspections will happen week of 8/21**

Homestead Hills

1. **Parking lot Top coat going down Monday/Tuesday- Painting to follow**
2. **County is schedule to pave Husky Trail W-Fri**
3. **Septic tank 48hr test and inspection happening this week/ early next week**
4. **Fill building with water this week-check for leaks-**
5. **Well is up and running- need to test water once building is filled**

6. Install remaining Wall protection and corner guards
7. Install LVT at cafeteria
8. Install Toilet partitions at Pre-K restroom
9. Fire Glass for main office vestibule ships 8/18
10. Mechanical startups this week
11. Added Casework is schedule to be on site next week and installed

High School

1. Parking lot Base and Top this week
2. Sound Panels at Cafeteria
3. Remaining ceiling tile install next week
4. Science lab casework install Tuesday- MEP to follow
5. MEP Finishes ongoing
6. Wood door installs on going
7. Painting ongoing
8. Gray carpet on site end of week install once on site
9. Bathroom partitions install this week
10. Base throughout
11. VCT at conference corridor end of this week

Betsie Valley

1. Roof work continuing
2. Remaining ceiling tile next week
3. Mechanical startups this week/ first of next
4. EFIS work continuing

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 –
 • NONE

B. Policy Committee – The Board of Education was provided with the Thrun July 2023 Policy Updates, along with the summary of changes. The following are up for approval this evening.

- 2303 Violation of Board Code of Ethics
- 2306 Board Member Compensation
- 2405 Board Officers
- 2501 Meetings
- 2501A Electronic Board of Education Meetings
- 2506 Organizational Meetings
- 3118 Title IX
- 3301A Purchasing and Procurement with Federal Funds
- 3303 Gifts and Donations
- 3308 Distribution of Printed Material and Advertising in School
- 3405 Bloodborne Pathogens

- 3407 Asbestos Management
- 3408 Firearms and Weapons
- 4101 Non-Discrimination
- 4102 Anti-Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment
- 4103 Whistleblowers' Protection
- 4104 Employment Complaint Procedure
- 4105 Workplace Accommodations for Employees and Applicants with Disabilities
- 4216 Personal Communication Devices
- 4220 Use or Disposal of District Property
- 4227 False Medicaid Claims

- 4228 No Expectation of Privacy
- 4404 Performance Based Compensation for Teachers
- 4504 Performance Based Compensation
- 4106-F FMLA- Fitness for Duty Form
(See: *A.G.s and Forms Updates*)
- 4224-F Cash in Lieu Form
(See: *A.G.s and Forms Updates*)
- 5202 Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Against Students
- 5206B Student Discipline - Students with Disabilities
- 5407 Instructional Program and Curricular Development
- 5411 Student Promotion, Retention, and Placement
- 5419 Reading Assessments, Instruction, Intervention, and Retention
- 5510 Student-Initiated, Non-Curricular Clubs
- 5707 School Wellness Policy
- 5305-F Schools-of-Choice Denial Letter
(See: *A.G.s and Forms Updates*)

- C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Vice-President, Jason Barnard and Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Director of Finance, Justin Weston shared that the audit will begin on September 11, and the Workman’s Comp. Audit will be sometime the end of September.**
- D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota – Next meeting will be held on August 15.**
- E. Liaison/Curriculum –Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill – No Update.**
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is currently no update.**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) –

Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave., Benzonia addressed the Board of Education. He thanked the Board of Education and Benzie Central staff for all the work as we prepare for opening day. He expressed that they all should feel good about what they have done.

Discussion Topics:

1. **Further Discussion on Sex Ed. Advisory Board Curriculum Recommendations if needed.** Superintendent shared that there is one small change to the language of teacher response that was reviewed by Thrun- Here would be the new phrase: *"I am sorry, but I am not legally able to respond to that question but I encourage you to talk to your parents or legal guardians or an adult you trust."*
2. **Discussion about Platte River Parcel - The Road Commission has sent a letter asking the board to consider giving them the remaining Platte River parcel.** This parcel is approximately 3 acres and they have been in discussion with Homestead Township to create water system there and potential paved parking.
3. **Verizon Tower – Lelan Calloway – Lelan discussed the tower and the options of leasing the land or selling.** If we lease, we have the option to increase the payout yearly. The current rate would be \$1300 a month utilizing a 100 x 100-foot area. If we sell, it would be a one-time payment of anywhere between \$25,000-\$42,000. They would be asking for an acre instead of a 100 x 100-foot area.

Action Topics:

23-24-018 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the appointment of Carla Gipson – Director of Curriculum, Professional Learning, and Systems.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-019 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the purchase of (5) 2024 Model Year Thomas School Bus, 77-passenger, 1000-gallon Diesel Fuel Tank.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-020 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the truck purchase or the Transportations Department's bus garage.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-021 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Thrun July 2023 Policy updates as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-022 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Bond Resolution to Issue Series 2 and 3.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-023 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Transportation Department Site Plan.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-024 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Early Childhood Benzie Central Contracts and Pay Scale.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-025 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Road Commission Maintenance Contract 2023-2028.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-026 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Sex Ed. Advisory Board Curriculum Recommendations.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): –

Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave., Benzonia addressed the Board of Education. He shared that he is serving on the BWAC Sub Committee to purchase Crystal Lake Elementary for a Community Center. Bill reiterated that they need time to work with community groups and architects to see how the footprint works together for the community center. Bill shared that the Benzonia High School sold, and he hopes that the Board of Education sees the opportunity for the BWAC to close on this deal.

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

- **Youth Football Camp – August 18 – 7:30-9:00 PM**
- **New Teacher Orientation – August 22 and 23**
- **6th Grade Open House – August 29 – 5:00-6:00 PM**
- **Betsie Valley Open House – August 30 – 4:30-6:00 PM**
- **Homestead Hills Open House – August 30 – 4:30-6:00 PM**
- **Lake Ann Open House – August 30 – 5:00-6:00 PM**
- **7th-12th Grade Open House – August 30 – 6:00-7:00 PM**
- **Homestead Hills Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – 849 Husky Trail - August 30 – 4:30 PM**
- **First Day of School – September 5**
- **Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 11 – 7:00 PM**

23-24-027 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 8:02 pm.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that August 14, 2023 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on September 11, 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!