

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 11, 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mr. Barnard, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gray, Mr. Noffsinger, Ms. Cota Hill

Members Absent: NONE

23-24-028 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the agenda with one amendment, Add Leave of Absence E 2. Samantha Downs – October 5, 2023 – November 27, 2023.

Ayes: 7

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.

23-24-029 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Gray to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: August 14, 2023

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 5,460,031.12

C. Support Staff Appointments: (Early Childhood - all leads going from Willsub to Benzie Central Employees)

- Amber Hughes – Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Coach
- Christopher Batchelder – Varsity Girls Soccer Head Coach
- Melinda Coger – Early Childhood Director and Early Childhood Enrollment
- Stefanie Colling – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Lake Ann
- Jennifer Miilu – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Lake Ann
- Demae Cicchelli – Infant/Toddler Lead – Lake Ann
- Abigail Fraly – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Homestead Hills
- Tiffany Ockert – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Homestead Hills
- Tammy Lung – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Homestead Hills
- Amy Friosz – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Betsie Valley

- **Melanie Mclauchlan – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary**
 - **Annie Leffew – 6.5 one-on-one Paraprofessional – Multiple Buildings**
 - **Annalise Tallent – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary**
 - **Lisa Servello Strong Beginnings Lead Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary**
 - **Dru Milliron – Designated Building Substitute Teacher**
- D. Staff Assignment Changes:**
- **Katie Johnston – Early Childhood 1755 Services Teacher and Enrollment to Early Childhood Director and 1755 Services Teacher**
 - **Alyssa Holston -6.5 BVE Para to 6.5 BE Special Ed. Para**
- E. Leave of Absence:**
- **Jenny Weisman – Time to be Determined**
 - **Samantha Downs – October 5, 2023 – November 27, 2023**
- F. Recommendation for Tenure:**
- **NONE**
- G. Recommendation for Termination:**
- **NONE**
- Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried**

District Impact Team Update: Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith reported the following: The first meeting will be held tomorrow, September 12, 2023.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Jessica Whaley. Jessica shared that the high school student council met last Thursday in preparation for Homecoming 2023. The theme is Movies 2023. They are disappointed that they are unable to decorate the hallways, and as a result, have opted to do class themed floats in the homecoming parade.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth shared the first meeting of the year was held today. Current legislation in Lansing includes retirement reform to allow retired school staff to return in less than 9 months but caps earnings to \$10,100. Representatives are working to increase the cap to \$15,100 in a calendar year. Another bill being presented is related to schools providing opioid antagonists to counteract the effects of opioid overdoses. Ongoing discussion related to Educator Evaluations and possible revisions to student growth and number of evaluations are being considered. The pre-Labor Day start bill was pulled from the floor due to pressure from the tourism industry. A fall supplemental bill is likely but not for the school aid budget. The new transportation categorical has not been shared as discussion around the formula to use has not been determined yet.**

- B. Early Childhood Fee Change – We are requesting an update to the EC handbook to include this fee schedule change. This reflects the cost of staffing the program and is in alignment with other childcare centers in our area. *There is a \$50 annual school year registration.***

Weekly Schedule Options	Pre-K Tuition	Infant/Toddler Tuition (6 weeks-30months)	I/T Employee Discount
Part-time (Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs)	\$70	\$120	\$100
Full-time (Mon-Thurs)	\$140	\$240	\$200
Full-time (Mon-Fri)	\$175	\$300	\$250
Friday (only available as an addition to the GSRP)	\$35	xxx	xxx
Aftercare	\$8/hour		

****NOTE: Families attending less than 5 days a week may NOT change the days in which their child(ren) attend. This is to respect other families' reserved days and to abide by child teacher ratio laws. If a day is missed, weekly tuition rates still apply, and no other days may be subbed in to make up for missed days. To request a permanent attendance change, please request a schedule change form from the EC Coordinator.***

- C. Middle School/High School Handbook Revisions- MS/HS/BA Principal, Kyle Taylor – Mr. Taylor shared that the dress code language and cell phone expectations are missing from the handbook. They would like to update the handbook to include those missing items. He also asked for input on the proposed CTC driving waiver since students have been permitted to drive in the past. The waiver was provided to the Board of Education.**
- D. Betsie Valley Elementary Update – Betsie Valley Principal, Sharyl Corey – Mrs. Corey shared that the open house format looked differently this fall. Each teacher was given a (15) minute block and each parent was given information ahead of time with the times as to when each teacher was presenting. As always, Betsie Valley Elementary continues to concentrate on the good:**
- Scholar, Leader, and Healthy Hero – The Leader in Me
 - Cleon Township Fire Department Visit
 - Student Council Elections
 - Special Events and Festive Occasions
 - Betsie Valley PTS Holiday Hoopla
 - Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit
 - 1st Grade Igloo Building
 - Kindness is Crazy Good
 - Traveling Attendance Trophy

- Thompsonville District Library STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Support)
- Earth Day Festivities
- Field Day 2023
- Battle of the Books
- Kindergarten Round-Up 2023
- Whitaker and Honey – Therapy Dogs

E. Middle School/High School Update – Principal, Kyle Taylor and Assistant Principal, Nicole Torrey – Mr. Taylor shared with the Board of Education a special tribute to our FFA program received by the state. Our FFA program was recognized for all their great programs and the opportunities that it provides for our students. Mrs. Torrey shared that this past week the staff were able to discuss 504 plans and Individualized Educational Plans (IEP’s). Staff were given list of their students along with their particular needs and accommodations. Mr. Taylor reported that all high school grade levels held their class meetings. The message this year, is *“focus on you.” How are you going to make a difference? What changes are you going to make? Your future starts now. Social Emotional Learning – Cooperate with others. If you see somebody struggling, let’s connect them with somebody who can provide the tools and resources in which they need.* In addition, Mr. Taylor shared that Responsible Centered Discipline presented by Larry Thompson was well received at the secondary level. Incident Management will be implemented through PowerSchool this year, and we are also asking that the Board of Education approved a CTC student driving waiver this evening. We continue with our LIFT and PLC trainings. Lastly, our buildings and grounds are getting there. The new hallway has been well received, and we are asking that are students take care of and value their school, because it is their own.

F. Resignations:

- Ferdinand de Guia – Secondary Math teacher – Effective 9/1/2023
- Danielle Chaprnka – Elementary Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary
- Eric Salyer – Custodian – Lake Ann Elementary

G. Middle School/High School Course Catalog Update – There is one adjustment to our MS/HS Course Catalog to align with our staff CTEIS Certification:

Agricultural Equipment Design and Fabrication

Recommended for Grades: 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

An introductory course designed to give students basic knowledge in ag mechanics (small engines) and equipment design and fabrication. This is a hands-on course where students will be working in the shop most days. You will get dirty and be required to wear proper shop clothing and protective equipment. First semester is the small engines unit where students will learn shop safety,

measurement, tool ID, small engine theory (2-stroke and 4-stroke), fuel mixing and basic maintenance, and small engine parts and systems. Each student will be required to bring in a 2-stroke or 4-stroke one-cylinder engine to disassemble and put back together. Second semester is the equipment design and fabrication unit where students will learn fabrication safety, metal cutting and grinding metals and materials, and fabrication practice and projects. Students will get hands-on experience fabricating straight beads and simple joints and will complete 2 fabrication projects. Students may take the course a second year where they will have the opportunity to do advanced projects and assist beginning students.

H. Retirements: NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Updates –**President, Brian Childs shared that we recently held our Homestead Hills Elementary Grand Opening. There are still a few punch list items needing to be completed. Thus far, he has heard nothing but positive comments. The generator is scheduled to ship the third week of November. The gymnasium floor work began today, the security boots are in plan review. On the MS/HS Campus, we are planning to widen the west entrance. The sidewalk near the auditorium is not ADA compliant, so that area will be revamped.

We continue to work through locker room floor issues, and partitions have been installed. Sound panels were installed on the walls and in the ceilings of the cafeteria. We are working through alarm system, science tables, and door issues. New basketball hoops are scheduled to be installed in the high school gym late October. The roof is complete at Betsie Valley Elementary. We have met with Kingscott on the Bus Garage design. We are hoping to have bids out late October for a December approval. There is issue with the new high school gymnasium floor due to humidity.

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**

We would however like to get the Building and Grounds Committee together soon to review expectations around building requests and the process for requests.

- B. **Policy Committee –** There is one policy update. Policy 5707 School Wellness Policy. This update is required for schools to receive funds for student meal debt forgiveness as provided by the new Section 31k of the State School Aid Act (“SSAA”). Subsection 31k(7) requires eligible school districts to “adopt policies to prevent public identification or stigmatization of pupils who cannot pay for a school meal.” The revisions to Policy 5707 were drafted to be consistent with Subsection 31k(7). This update adds a new subsection I.2. to eliminate “lunch shaming.

- C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Vice-President, Jason Barnard and Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Mr. Gray shared that the Audit began today, and that the software transfer process is ongoing.**
- D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota – Ms. Cota Hill shared that they meet mid-August to wrap up the Benzie Educational Foundation and transfer assets to the Grand Traverse Educational Foundation. They estimate this being a two- or three-month project, and hope to wrap it up by December 2023.**
- 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) –

Diane Tracy, 1926 Ness Rd., Frankfort addressed the Board of Education. She congratulated the Board of Education on the Grand Opening of Homestead Hills Elementary. She shared that she met with Superintendent Erfourth and attorneys to discuss the BWAC’s proposal for the purchase of Crystal Lake Elementary. She noted that there was a move in ready 9- acre parcel in Benzonia for \$140,000 which is another possibility for the BWAC, but emphasized that they would much rather go the Crystal Lake Elementary route. She concluded with the story of Olympic Gold Medalist, Michael Phelps and reiterated that this proposed community center would provide community outreach, and resources for all ages and skills levels.

Discussion Topics:

- 1. Further Verizon Tower Discussion if needed - Superintendent Erfourth shared that a lease agreement was provided to the Board of Education, and she has Thrun reviewing it. She shared that they choose to move forward with a vote, accepting the lease and work with Thrun to approve the language or table and wait until the language is approved or you could turn down the lease agreement entirely. Discussion took place on price \$1,100.00 a month as agreements reads vs. \$1,300.00 a month as presented at the regular August Board of Education Meeting.**
- 2. Further Platte River Parcel Discussion if needed -Superintendent shared that the Benzie County Road Commission is requesting that the orphaned parcel be granted to the Road Commission. This parcel was missed when the original property transfer too place; the south 225 feet of the east half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 9, township 26 north range 14 west.**
- 3. Crystal Lake Property Discussion – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the sub-committee has met and discussed BWAC’s proposal. A counteroffer was sent**

back to BWAC. Currently, BWAC has requested to have their attorney speak to our attorney about the language.

4. **Bus Garage Discussion – Superintendent Erfourth explained that Kari King shared that the client she represents is working with his attorney to review the counteroffer we presented. No new information to share.**

Action Topics:

23-24-030 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Early Childhood Fee Change.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-031 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the MS/HS Handbook Revisions.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-032 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to table the Verizon Tower Lease Agreement until further clarification on monthly payments and percentages.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-033 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Platte River Parcel transfer of Ownership to the Benzie County Road Commission; the south 225 feet of the east half of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 9, township 26 north range 14 west.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-034 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Middle School/High School Course Catalog Updates.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): – Eric Baatz, former bus driver, 3900 Blueberry Lane, Honor took the podium. Mr. Baatz thanked Principal Taylor for his explanation of LIFT. He inquired about the CTC Student Driving Waiver and was curious if there was a system put in place to ensure that students made it to CTC. He referenced the School Wellness Policy and added that there is no such thing as free lunch, it is tax payer lunch. He then provided a copy of his August 14, 2022 resignation letter to the Board of Education and shared that no one had reached out to him regarding prosecuting red light runners.

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

Moment of Silence – Remembering 9/11/2001

- **September 11, 2001 – NEVER FORGET.**
- **October 9, 2023 – Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM**
- **October 11&12, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences**
- **October 13, 2023 – NO SCHOOL**

23-24-035 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to adjourn the regular meeting 8:28 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that September 11, 2023 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on October 9, 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!