

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, February 12, 2024, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Vice President Barnard called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Members Present: Mr. Barnard, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Noffsinger, Ms. Cota Hill, Mr. Childs (Tardy 7:50 pm.)

Members Absent: Jessica Whaley (non-voting member)

23-24-081 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray 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.

23-24-082 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes: January 8, 2024 Organizational & Regular
January 21, 2024 Regular**

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 2,520,085.99

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Sarah Masell – 6.5 One-on-One Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
- Madalyne Harrelson – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- NONE

E. Leave of Absence:

- NONE

F. Recommendation for Tenure:

- NONE

G. Recommendation for Termination:

- NONE

H. Contract Updates:

- NONE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

District Impact Team Update: Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith reported the following: The i-Ready data was reviewed and updated. The data from Homestead Hills was analyzed, and insight was provided on how the pilot is going. The focus was on training teachers on how to use data to support student learning. Personalized instruction seems to be a big plus.

A Lake Ann Tuning Protocol was focused on ways to increase student voice and community involvement in Move This World and Caught You Doing Great Programs. Another Lake Ann Tuning Protocol was about how to create a 10-minute protocol around RCD implementation.

Middle School/High School did a Tuning Protocol about how we are tracking students. The discussion revolved around the legality, equity, and benefits of tracking students. The questioning of the way students are separated into groups, especially honors, was the focus.

There was a CSI Update with a focus on mapping the curriculum for better alignment with students. The team is working to create universal supports and how to document them with assignments. Monthly meetings with Northwest Ed for support and caseload were also discussed. BIT is researching information with a data dive regarding classes.

The Parent Community Survey Data was also reviewed at one of the DIT Meetings.

ISSN updates were discussed, and the team wondered about flipping the support model, where a support person could cover a classroom so the teacher could handle students. Each building has its support/crisis team, and the team is getting more people CPI trained. CPI is the leading provider of trauma-informed de-escalation training for educators and support staff. The team is ready to roll out a Student Solutions Document, which is a form to start documenting students who need support. It can be used for behavior or academic support.

The Betsie Valley Tuning Protocol started as a review of a previous topic on ways to align building-level practices with district policies. They've made improvements with better onboarding, regular staff meetings, and mentoring new teachers and new support staff. The next plan is to create more descriptions of behaviors and motives.

The CPM Math Update was the primary focus during this meeting. Mike led the team through a Study using CPM strategies. Teachers are learning to trust the system and shift from teacher-centered to student-centered instruction.

Administration Report:

A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there was no meeting today. They are meeting Wednesday, Feb 14 in Lansing with House and Senate appropriations committee chairs as well as members of the Governor's cabinet to review budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

B. Early Childhood Update – Early Childhood Director, Melinda Coger – Mrs. Coger introduced Tiffany Ockert, Extended Day GSRP, and shared current enrollment numbers for the following programs:

- Lake Ann Infant/Toddler
- Lake Ann GSRP
- Lake Ann GSRP/Tuition
- Homestead Hills Infant/Toddler
- Homestead Hills Strong Beginnings
- Homestead Hills Extended Day GSRP
- Betsie Valley GSRP
- Summer and Fall Enrollment interest to date

In addition, she shared the upcoming summer care rates/costs:

- Infant/Toddler \$65.00
- PreK-School Age \$55.00

C. Lake Ann Elementary Update – Principal, Rachel Anderson – Mrs. Anderson presented on the following:

- Caught You Being Great Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Project
- Caught You Being Great Breakfast
- District and Building Level Work with Formative Assessment and Terry Morgan
- LA's VIP Lunch Table
- New Monthly Classroom Lessons with Deputy Maul
- LA's SafeNet Support
- NWEA and AIMSweb Testing
- Data Day – Review Winter Benchmark
- Shorter staff meetings – Increased collaboration time
- LA PTO- Winter Ball – February 24

D. Benzie Academy Update – Lead Teacher, Elaine Taghon – Mrs. Taghon shared the following data:

- 87 students registered Semester 1
- 241 total classes completed/passed/credit earned Semester 1
- 7 students completed graduation requirements
- 58 students completed NWEA (65.16%) 2 completed part (2.2%)
- Average RIT Score by grade for Reading
 - 6th grade: 198.3 (3 students)
 - 7th grade: 205 (1 student)
 - 8th grade: 207.3 (6 students)
 - 9th grade: 212.9 (12 students)
 - 10th grade: 211.1 (9 students)
 - 11th grade: 221.8 (19 students)
 - 12th grade: 226.2 (14 students)
- Average RIT Score by grade for Math
 - 6th grade: 204 (2 students)
 - 7th grade: 216 (1 student)
 - 8th grade: 198.2 (6 students)
 - 9th Grade: 212 (11 students)
 - 10th grade: 213 (11 students)
 - 11th grade: 222.4 (19 students)

- 12th Grade: 232.3 (14 students)
- 42 High School students did the Math test Fall & Winter, 7 Middle School students did the Math test Fall & Winter
- 40 High School students did the Reading test Fall & Winter and 7 Middle School students did the Reading test Fall & Winter
- 15 High School students showed growth in Math
- 23 High School students showed growth in Reading
- 1 Middle School student showed growth in Math
- 5 Middle School students showed growth in Reading
- 96 students currently enrolled at the Academy for Semester 2
- (3) Sixth grade students
- (2) Seventh grade students
- (6) Eighth grade students
- (20) 9th grade students
- (18) 10th grade students
- (22) 11th grade students
- (32) 12th grade students

In addition, Mrs. Taghon shared Benzie Academy Counselor, Rebecca Kik's report.

Career Tech Slots

Career Tech Center-Benzie Academy now have their own slots for these programs. BCHS & Academy-4 slots.

4-5 students have already enrolled for next year, this does not include the 9 Career Tech students we have presently.

Ferris State Meeting

February 5, 2024-Benzie Academy students attended their very own Ferris State meeting with Director of Northern Michigan Operations, Kevin D'Aleesandro. A few had been accepted to Ferris State, a few filled out the application for Ferris, and a few others brought their parents and had an individual meeting.

Post-Secondary/FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant -\$4,000 with Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)-award given to districts to participate and implement FAFSA activities, working with HS Counselor, Jeanett Pritchett.

Scholarships

A Google Form was created with individual local scholarship opportunities.

- E. 2024 Spring Break Trip – Girls Softball Program – Coach Scott Brautigam – Mr. Brautigam shared the proposed itinerary for the spring break trip, adding that they are opting to stay in-state this year, more so for attendance purposes, not cost. The vrbo destination is Fennville, Michigan and the program will be utilizing the Allegan Sports Complex in Allegan, Michigan. The cost for the trip is \$300.00 per person, fundraising is taking place to alleviate financial burdens. Coach Brautigam shared that there were currently 11 student-athletes committed, with four chaperones. If approved the trip would take place from Monday, March 25, 2024 through Saturday, March 30, 2024.
- F. Enrollment Projection Report – Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Mrs. Crossman recently compiled the

last five years of student enrollment numbers and sent a request to the *Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity* to prepare a 5-year student enrollment projection. National enrollment methods have shifted in recent years. They no longer rely on birth data and cohort survival as adequate projection methods, due to several factors. The projections have been completed and the Board of Education was provided a copy. This PowerPoint showcases the enrollment projects for Benzie for the next 5 years. Enrollment decline is between 4% and 8% depending on the model and method used. [Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity – Enrollment Projection Services – Benzie County Central Schools.](#)

G. Sale of Buses using Auction Site - Director of Transportation, Mary Radtke would like to sell 9 used buses that are currently not being used. The auction site has a small number of buses currently listed and she feels we could get a good price for them now. The auction site takes a 10% commission for the sale. This is the same site that was utilized before. Board of Education Trustee, Chris Noffsinger added that he would like to see a fleet of Charter Buses for our athletes.

H. Contract Language -Superintendent Cellphone – Superintendent Erfourth’s current contract states that the district will pay a third of the cell phone bill (since her children were on her plan). Her children are no longer on the plan. The previous amount paid (1/3 of the bill) was \$67 per month. The new amount is \$98.28 for the full amount of her single plan.

I. Resignations:

- Annie Leffew – Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
- Misty Tennant – Head Varsity Cheer Coach
- Steve Lowry – Bus Driver – Transportation Department – Effective January 19, 2024
- Justin Weston – Director of Finance – Effective January 23, 2024
- Paige Smith – 1st Grade – Homestead Hills Elementary – Effective February 2, 2024

J. Retirements:

- Tammera Roeske – Secondary Math Teacher
- Kimberly O’Connor – K-5th Title One Teacher
- Tracy Hammar – 3rd Grade – Betsie Valley Elementary

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

- 1. Bond Project Update – President Childs shared that we have broken ground on the new bus garage. Popp Excavating has been onsite all week. Heating units and building materials have been ordered.**
- 2. Construction Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared that gas line repairs have been made to HS lines. We still need to add roof rakes or create a plan to support snowfall.**

3. Building and Grounds Modifications Request – NONE

B. Policy Committee – NONE

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith – Both Mr. Gray and Mr. Smith shared that Director of Finance Interviews took place today. The committee feels that of the three candidates interviewed, they have it narrowed down. Mr. Gray added that the committee has some homework to do and would like to offer the position by Friday of this week, if not Wednesday, the sooner the better.

D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota – NONE

E. Liaison/Curriculum –Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill – There has been discussion around the 2024/25 school calendar.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth - NONE

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) –

John Rothhaar – 3719 Orchard Lane, Beulah – John took the podium speaking as a board member of the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center. He thanked Superintendent Erfourth and the Board of Education sub-committee for their time and work on the proposed sale of the Crystal Lake Elementary property. He added that 5 hours he knew what he was going to say, and that 2 hours ago he was not sure what he was going to say. He pointed out that they had people lined up to do their due diligence to this site. He was disappointed to learn that we didn't quite have a deal; basic, simplified agreement to get to the finish line.

Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave, Frankfort took the podium. Bill was speaking on behalf of the Crystal Lake Elementary and the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center. Bill shared that NMC had offered to do the marketing and advertising for the BWAC committee. The intent was to help brand them and advertise via social media. Bill expressed that he was “fit to be tied” that there were last minute changes on behalf of both parties’ attorneys. Bill stressed the importance of this proposed community center, adding it would make Benzie County a place to live, work and raise families.

Wanda Shreiner - 1261 Michigan Ave., Frankfort took the podium. Wanda shared she is planning swimming lessons for this summer, and she would like them done in the pool, not Crystal Lake. “Let us purchase this property, and just get it done”.

Discussion Topics:

A. Crystal Lake Property Discussion – Superintendent Erfourth shared that

she and John Rothhaar met a week and a half ago to get back to the simple language. She heard late this afternoon. that our attorney stated additional language had been added from the previous language that neither she nor John had discussed. She too thought we were nearing the finish line. Superintendent Erfourth will connect with our attorney to simplify final language. Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray added that he would like to see the property sale as an action item in March.

- B. Current District Enrollment Summary Review – Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Mrs. Crossman shared the district wide enrollment summary broken down by school and grade level as of February 8 2024, as well as district student entry/exit report containing information as to where students are coming from, as well as leaving to. Entry and exit codes were also shared. The district currently rests at 1,250 students which includes our Early Childhood population. This summary and report will be shared with the Board of Education each month.**

Action Topics:

23-24-083 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr.Gray to approve the 2024 Girls Softball Spring Break Trip.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

23-24-084 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Summer Care Costs.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

23-24-085 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Auction Site for Bus Sales.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

23-24-086 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Contract Language – Superintendent Cellphone.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): –

Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave, Frankfort took the podium. Bill reiterated that he would love Superintendent Erfourth and John to just close this and be done within the next couple of weeks. He appreciates the district’s patience, and added a special congratulations to our Benzie Central wrestling team.

**Board Communication:
NONE**

Announcements:

1. February 5-9 -National School Counseling Week – Thank you!
2. February 13 – Versiti Blood Drive – 8:00 AM -3:00 PM
3. February 15 - Band Concert – 7:00 PM
4. February 16 – Early Release – Professional Development
5. February 19 – No School
6. March 8, 9, &10 – The Addams Family High School Musical
7. March 11 – Board of Education Meeting
8. March 25- April 1 – Spring Break
9. April 8, 9, & 11 – Kindergarten Round-Up
 - April 8 – Homestead Hills Elementary
 - April 9 – Betsie Valley Elementary
 - April 11- Lake Ann Elementary

23-24-087 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to adjourn the regular meeting 8:54 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that February 12, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on March 11, 2024.

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!