

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, April 8, 2024, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

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

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

Members Absent: Mr. Noffsinger, Ms. Cota Hill, Jessica Whaley (non-voting member)

23-24-098 It was moved by Mr. Barnard 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.

23-24-099 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: March 11, 2024 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 404,772.14

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Ruth Ann Strickland “Rudy” – Junior Varsity Softball Coach
- Sara Iverson – Accounts Payable – Payroll – Central Business Office
- Amy Fischbach – Elementary Teacher – Homestead Hills 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: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

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

During the past month, the DIT discussed tuning protocols for various subjects, as well as some updates from Curriculum committees.

One of the discussed tuning protocols was the TCRs. Reiterated their goals for the year of consistency, collaboration, and growth. They've used a four-phase approach to all subjects which includes 1) determining the problem of practice and what mastery looks like, 2) creating a common formative assessment that includes collecting and analyzing data, 3) using the data and adjusting for intervention, and 4) using the data and adjusting for enrichment. Their wonderings were how to consistently get teachers to bring data back to TCRs, how closely Pilot TCR teachers should follow the PLC cycle, and how to encourage deeper conversations around effective instructional strategy.

The Middle School/High School Tuning Protocol involved sharing examples from HS Language Arts classes and NWEA scores that focused on how to encourage students to become more invested in their own learning. The goal was to turn learners into assessors by setting goals for assessments and comparing them to previous scores. The plan is to implement these practices throughout the entire school.

The LA Tuning Protocol discussed effective systems for identification, monitoring, and gradual release from Tier 2 intervention. The team discussed the threshold for a student joining their Check In Check Out (CICO) system, but asked how students can graduate from CICO.

The team also discussed an Early Childhood Protocol, which aimed to create consistency within staff Gold observations through training and collaboration.

The most recent Turning Protocol was Betsie Valley's, which focused on staff knowledge and understanding of trauma-informed instructional practices for individuals who have had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), and how to support staff to use that understanding in day-to-day decision-making processes.

Finally, there were a few different updates from curriculum. Mostly we reviewed all the processes that have gone on this year from progress on curriculum mapping and elementary assessments. Also had an update and request to pilot a secondary ELA curriculum program, which will be discussed later. Data suggests we need to strengthen Tier 1 instruction and they see some potential benefits of a consistent curriculum.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Jessica Whaley – No Update.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: Special Guest, Senator Darin Camilleri is a former teacher and the current Senate School Aid Subcommittee Chair. He shared his budget priorities including PreK, at-risk, special education, free breakfast/lunch, school safety and health, transportation funding, student loan forgiveness, and freeing up at risk funds to provide flexibility for a percentage to go to teacher salaries. MPSERS Lawsuit will begin oral arguments start next week. The Dyslexia Package is now in the House and no hearings are scheduled in April. Beaver Island Superintendent Will Cwikiel, introduced a bill he is working on with Sen. Damoose and Thrun Law to change the law on the uses of school funding to incorporate work force housing.**
- B. ESS Midwest, Inc. and Benzie County Central Schools – Addendum to extend Agreement – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Superintendent Erfourth shared that this is our annual contract with WillSub. ESS Midwest uses WillSub to assist districts with their staffing programs, providing an automated substitute placement and absence tracking system to schools. By combining this with the benefits of contract employment and payroll processing, ESS Midwest offers districts a single source that meets the needs of education professionals everywhere. Benzie Central uses this for substitutes for all positions and it is also how we hire our coaches.**
- C. Benzie County Recycling Site Lease Agreement – Lake Ann Elementary – Commencing January 1, 2024 and terminating December 31, 2025. This renewal agreement has been approved as to form by Benzie County Legal Counsel and approved by the Benzie County Board of Commissioners. This lease shall be for a term of two (2) years, unless terminated earlier.**
- D. Roadmaster Driving School, LLC - \$3.00 per student - Superintendent Erfourth shared that this is a contract renewal. He is looking to renew his contract to lease space for the Roadmaster Driving school. He will provide \$3/student as reimbursement.**
- E. ELA Saavas 6th-12th grade Curriculum – 9-week pilot – 4th marking period – Curriculum Director, Carla Gipson and Secondary ELA teacher, Amy Jass – The ELA Dept is requesting a 9-week pilot to utilize the SAAVAS reading materials to trial in their classroom’s grades 6-12. The ELA committee has been meeting this year to review materials and make a recommendation for purchase. They plan to present their final recommendation at the June 10th Board meeting. Both Carla and Amy presented on the teachers request to pilot Saavas for the 2023/24 4th**

marking, and data to be presented to the Board of Education for purchase in summer 2024. Several teachers did thorough reviews on HMH and Saavas extending from December 2023 through April 2024. The Board of Education received a presentation on timeline, data, gateway measures, teacher testimonials, as well as vendor quotes. The committee is requesting a 9-week pilot for 4th marking period using Saavas. The pilot is free of charge.

F. CPM Educational Program Purchase Agreement (including 6th grade) – Secondary Chemistry teacher – Michael Hammar – Mr. Hammar gave an update on the piloting of CPM. He shared that he feels we have a solid structure in place, with great professional development, training, and summer sessions for teachers. Each student received a digital textbook, and classrooms have textbook sets of (25). This is a 3-year agreement with the pilot being year one. The District Math Committee has been working to support instruction in grade 7-12 this year. They have been using CPM math this year in grades 7-12 and continue to find success with the program. They would like to extend this program into 6th grade next school year. They are looking to make a 2-year purchase agreement so that it coincides with the current program contract they are under, which included this year as a pilot program year.

G. District Calendars – 2024/25, and 2025/26 – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Union Calendar Committee met with me to review calendars for the next two school years. They would like to keep the calendar fairly similar to previous years. One change for next year would be to utilize a PD committee, composed of Elem/MS/HS teachers, administrators, and board representatives, to help plan PD. If this committee works to identify PD offerings that align to our school improvement plan, they can be counted as teacher work days and student learning days. We are looking at Nov 1 as a PD day that would also count as a student learning day. If this program works well, we will explore this format for future years.

H. Post-Secondary Dual Enrollment Agreement – Ferris State University – Kevin D'Alessandro presented the Secondary Partnership Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Ferris State University and Benzie County Central Schools.

Kevin D'Alessandro shared that a partnership with Ferris State University would allow for students to earn college credit at an affordable rate of \$155 credit hour and \$12 fees per credit hour. Ferris partners with other universities to allow credits earned to transfer. Students who earn a C- or better in a course at Ferris are eligible for a renewable \$1000 per year scholarship. Ferris can also offer onsite classes at Benzie and will also work with Benzie instructors to allow certified Benzie educators to teach college-level courses. Ferris also offers two programs that allow students to graduate with hospitality and cyber security certifications.

I. 2024/25 Infant Toddler and Early Childhood Handbook – Early Childhood Director, Melinda Coger – Melinda shared that there were minor changes from this year; developmental screeners, and raising tuition for the fall of 2024.

J. MS/HS Athletic Update – Athletic Director – Eli Harris – Mr. Harris presented to the Board of Education a 2024 Winter Sports Update.

High School

SPORT	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
BASKETBALL	33	16	49
WRESTLING	29	3	33
BOWLING	7	0	7
SKIING	0	4	4
TOTAL	69	23	92

Currently, there are 301 students enrolled in the high school. Out of the 92 athletes, 23 are Academy students. This indicates that 30% of our high school student body and 3% of the Academy (101) were involved in athletics for the fall sports season.

Middle School

SPORT	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
BASKETBALL	17	14	31
WRESTLING	15	3	18
TOTAL	32	17	49

Currently, there are 230 students enrolled in the middle school. Out of the 49 athletes, 0 are Academy students. This indicates that 21% of our middle school student body and 0% of the Academy (11) were involved in athletics for the fall sports season.

Winter Awards Recognition

All-Conference Selections (19)

Boys Basketball:

1st team

Jaxon Childers

2nd team

Miles Pritchett

Andrew Gray

Honorable Mention

Rowan Zickert

Girls Basketball:

1st team

Kara Johnson

2nd team

Flora Zickert

Honorable Mention

Grace Heiges

Wrestling:

Benjamin DeRidder

Tyrone Brouillet

Dan Wallington

Jacob Gillison

Michael Pfeiffer

Dalton Geetings

Dayne Gillison

Nathan Higgins

Owen Cruden

Lane Sanchez

Ryan Kincaid

Joe Morse

Record-Eagle Dream Team (11)

Boys Basketball

Jaxon Childers

Miles Pritchett

Girls Basketball

Kara Johnson

Bowling

Tyler Brooks

All-State Selections (7)

Jacob Gillison

Cambrie Lawrence

Tyrone Brouillet

Dane Gillison

Lane Sanchez

Dalton Geetings

Nathan Higgins

Team Academic All-State

Boys Basketball (3.3617) GPA

Girls Basketball (3.64) GPA

Wrestling (3.389) GPA

Team Champions

Wrestling District and Regional Champions

Regional Coach of the Year Cody VanDonkelaar

Mr. Harris added that there were 8 female participants for middle school competitive cheer, which was added mid-year.

K. Return to Learn Plan – Updated COVID Guidance -Superintendent Erfourth shared the Updated COVID Guidance from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). When you have a respiratory virus, stay home and away from others. These symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, runny nose, and headache, among others.

- **Your symptoms are getting better overall, and**
- **You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). A fever is considered 100.4 when taken on a temporal artery.**

The district must continue to use this plan through the remainder of the 2023/24 school year.

L. Course Request – Treble Ensemble – Choral Director, Kirsten Cline – Mrs. Cline shared the current course descriptions for our Fine Arts Department. She is requesting the addition of a new course; Treble Ensemble. This is recommended for students grades 9-12, full year, 1 credit. This auditioned ensemble is designed for the singer who had demonstrated advanced vocal technique, theory, ensemble and musical skills. Singers in this choir must have vocal ranges that fall within the categories of soprano, mezzo-soprano, and/or alto. Attendance at out-of-school practices and performances is required.

M. 2024 Operating Millage Renewal – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Mrs. Banasiak shared that there were (2) options recommended by Thrun Law Firm for the renewal of the Operating Millage in August. Option 1 was a straight renewal at 19.2543 mills, allowing us to levy the 18-mill maximum, with a 1.2543 Headlee Rollback buffer to prevent dropping below 18 mills over the next 5 years. Option 2 was a renewal of the 19.2543 mills with a 0.5 mill increase as an additional rollback buffer. Considering the current community climate and other items potentially on the ballot in the fall, it was decided that the recommendation to the Board would be the more conservative option- a straight renewal at 19.2543.

N. Resignations:

- **Sarah Masell – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary**

O. Retirements:

- **Michael Hammar – Secondary Chemistry, Advanced Placement Chemistry, Geometry, Honors Geometry, Honors Math – Effective July 1, 2024**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –**A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –**

- 1. Bond Project Update – President Childs shared that over spring break, crews worked on doors and repair of drywall crack. Painting will take place on Monday for the hallway and conference room B. We are working with Kingscott and Wolgast on the cafeteria ceiling concerns. Homestead Hills also has some concerns that are being addressed with the well's pressure, filters on the HVAC units on the roof, and a gas line on the cafeteria roof being impacted by snow runoff from the gym roof.**
- 2. Construction Update – President Childs shared that work continues on the new bus garage. Waiting on permits to begin digging footings. Should be 1 to 2 more weeks. Colors are being reviewed for windows, doors, and garage doors at the bus garage.**
- 3. Building and Grounds Modifications Request – Asa Kelly and Shane Iverson – The request is for a pole vault pit at the high school track. There would be no cost to the district. The funding would be provided by Benzie Central Track and Field, and be constructed by volunteer labor.**

B. Policy Committee – NONE**C. Finance Committee – Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith – NONE****D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota – NONE****E. Liaison/Curriculum – Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill – NONE****F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – Transportation met this afternoon with their list of needs to begin the negotiation process.**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

Discussion Topics:

- A. 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 April 5, 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 1,235 down from 1,237 from the last Board of Education Meeting. This includes our Early Childhood population. This summary and report will be shared with the Board of Education each month.**
- B. Graduation Protocol for Benzie Central Staff – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Asa Kelly has requested that we allow staff to hand out their child's diploma. We previously discussed this but did not land on a decision or protocol for implementation. She feels this could be a good will gesture to offer staff. She thinks this would be an offer extended to anyone who is a staff member at Benzie Central.**

Action Topics:

23-24-100 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve ESS Midwest, Inc. and Benzie County Central School Addendum to Extend Agreement – July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-101 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Benzie County Recycling Site Lease- Lake Ann Elementary -Commencing January 1, 2024 and terminating December 31, 2025.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-102 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Roadmaster Driving School, LLC - \$3.00 per student.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-103 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the ELA Saavas – 6th-12th grade Curriculum – 9-week pilot -4th quarter.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 2

Motion Carried

Gray, Gillison

23-24-104 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the CPM Educational Program Purchase Agreement (including 6th grade).

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-105 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the District Calendars – 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-106 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Post-Secondary Dual Enrollment Agreement – Ferris State University.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-107 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Superintendent Evaluation – Amiee Erfourth

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-108 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Early Graduation Request for Alivia Gray (2025).

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-109 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Return to Learn Plan – Updated COVID Guidance.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-110 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Course Request; *Treble Ensemble* as presented beginning the 2024/25 school year.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-111 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2024 Operating Millage Renewal as presented.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-112 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Pole Vault Mini-Gym building and grounds request as presented.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

23-24-113 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Graduation Protocol for Benzie Central Staff as presented.

Ayes: 5 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

Audience Participation (Open Topics):

Eric Baatz, 3900 Blueberry Lane, Honor took the podium. Eric shared the Board of Education follow-up that he requested from the Board of Education at the last regular Board of Education meeting. He continued to express concerns about the lack of safety for students and drivers, as well as the transportation department and the Director of Transportation.

**Board Communication:
NONE**

Announcements:

1. **April 8, 9, & 11 – Kindergarten Round-Up**
 - **April 8 – Homestead Hills Elementary**
 - **April 9 – Betsie Valley Elementary**
 - **April 11- Lake Ann Elementary**
2. **April 9 – Versiti Blood Drive – 8:00 AM**
3. **April 10 – Senior Walk to Elementary Buildings**
4. **May 13 – Regular Board Meeting**

23-24-114 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 8:59 pm.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that April 8, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on May 13, 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!