

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, June, 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, Ms. Cota Hill, Mr. Noffsinger (tardy)

Members Absent: Sophie McLaren (non-voting member)

23-24-128 It was moved by Mr. Barnard 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.

23-24-129 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: May 13, 2024 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 1,997,992.66

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Ross Gay – Secondary CTE teacher 2024/25
- Dylan Lightfoot – 6th grade ELA and High School Welding & Fabrication teacher 2024/25
- Sarah Dodge – Elementary Counselor 2024/25
- Michael Kingman – Secondary Mathematics teacher 2024/25
- Allison Schaub – 6th grade Special Education teacher 2024/25
- Claire Marshall – 4th grade teacher – Betsie Valley Elementary 2024/25
- Theresa Edgar – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary 2024/25
- Kyle Locke – Middle School Cross Country Coach 2024/25
- Kaelan Camp – Middle School Social Studies teacher 2024/25

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Sarah Dodge – Elementary teacher to Elementary Counselor 2024/25
- Ben Summerfield – Elementary Intervention Specialist to Elementary Physical Education Teacher 2024/25
- Joshua Hoffman – 6.5 to 5.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary 2024/25

- Sharyl Corey – Betsie Valley Elementary Principal to Lake Ann Elementary Principal 2024/25
 - Rachel Anderson – Lake Ann Elementary Principal to Benzie Academy Principal 2024/25
- E. Leave of Absence:
- NONE
- F. Recommendation for Tenure:
- NONE
- G. Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period
- NONE
- H. Recommendation for Termination:
- Madalyne Harrelson – Early Childhood Lead Teacher
- I. Contract Updates:
- NONE
- Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

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

The final month of DIT meetings included two Tuning Protocol discussions. The Homestead Hills Tuning Protocol was focused on implementing a new Student Learning Festival for next school year that will be based on Project Based Learning. The discussion was on how to increase student engagement, family and community involvement, and any ideas to ensure success of the event.

For the Middle School/High School Tuning Protocol, the discussion revolved around supporting students with test-taking strategies, increasing intrinsic motivation, and reducing guessing in tests. The team analyzed testing data for math and reading to identify the frequency of guessing and discussed strategies to minimize it.

We spent part of one meeting reviewing open-ended responses from the staff survey. The responses could largely be grouped into three categories: talent management, student behavior, and morale. In talent management, the emphasis was on recruiting, training, and retaining staff. Addressing student behavior involved focusing on discipline, providing staff support, and improving communication. Enhancing morale was also a significant point of discussion.

General supervision activities for the 2023-2024 academic year were reviewed, we broke into groups to discuss data reviews from each building across the district.

At last week's meeting, which was the last for the year, Carla provided a comprehensive curriculum update as the academic year ended. The remainder of the meeting was a review of NWEA data, discussing causal theories and developing action plans for next

school year. Some areas of focus for 24/25 will be on maintaining student goal setting, providing training and support for Math Expressions, continuing LIFT meetings and Building TCR outside of school hours, supporting the consistent use of common materials and curriculum throughout the district, and offering tiered support through i-Ready/IXL programs.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Sophie McLaren – Sophie will report beginning September 2024.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: Special guest Emily Laidlaw, Deputy Director Michigan Department of Lifelong Education Advancement and Potential, discussed the work happening with preschool and slot allocations. Budget update. Normally, targets have been set by this point to help with negotiations between house and senate. Budgets have been delayed, impart because of the Governor's focus on economic development and her budget request to prioritize \$600 million request for the next 10 years to fund this with general fund dollars. This, plus the OPEB money debate that could potentially be put back into UAAL to pay down the pension debt from 20.96% to 13.96%, are preventing targets from being set. The plan was to have the budget released by June 17th but that is now being pushed back to June 24. The NMSLA Summer Conference is set for Aug 1 at the Haggerty Center. Board members are encouraged to attend.**
- B. 2024/25 and 2025/26 District Calendars – 3rd Marking Period Adjustments – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we are requesting that we move the 3rd marking period up one week to make a more balanced calendar of 9 weeks, 9 weeks, and 10 weeks, 9 weeks.**
- C. 2024/25 Benzie Academy Handbook Updates – Elaine Taghon – Elaine shared the following Benzie Academy Handbook Updates: [2024/25 Benzie Academy Handbook Updates](#). In addition, Mrs. Taghon shared that Nineteen seniors graduated this year, and fifteen walked in the commencement ceremony. Six students Six students should complete graduation requirements by June 11, with a possibility of seven students completing graduation requirements in either summer school of 1st Semester 2024/25. Mrs. Taghon shared the following spring state testing data:**

**SAT SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS
PARTICIPATION PERCENTAGES**

TEST	# OF POTENTIAL TEST TAKERS	# OF STUDENTS TESTED	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TESTED
SAT	22	22	100%
PSAT 10	16	13	81.25%
PSAT 9	20	15	75%
PSAT 8	6	5	83.3%
TOTAL	64	55	85.94%

Workkeys Participation

# OF POTENTIAL TEST TAKERS	# OF STUDENTS TESTED	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TESTED
22	20	90.9%

M-STEP PARTICIPATION

GRADE	# OF POTENTIAL TEST TAKERS	# OF STUDENTS TESTED	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TESTED
6	3	2	66.7%
7	2	2	100%
8	6	6	100%
11/12	22	21	95.5%
TOTAL	33	31	93.9%

SPRING 2024 NWEA DATA

- **99 Students are listed in the Academy PowerSchool, 9 had finished their graduation requirements prior to Spring Break, leaving 90 students who needed to test**
 - **Of the 90, 65 students took the NWEA test completely, 1 took only 1 of the tests, for a participation percentage of 72%**
 - **6 middle school students showed growth in Math, 4 Middle school students showed growth in Reading from Winter to Spring 2024.**
 - **21 high school students showed growth in Math; 18 high school students showed growth in Reading from Winter to Spring 2024.**
- D. Middle School Handbook Updates – Assistant Principal, Nicole Torrey -Mrs. Torrey shared the notable changes for 2024/25; removal of high school language, removal of 5-point grading scale, graduation requirements, student technology agreement, and the updating of names of staff and Board of Education.**
- E. 2024/25 High School Handbook Updates – 9-12 Counselor, Jeanett Pritchett -Ms. Pritchett presented on the notable changes for 2024/25; update Board of Education names and positions, deleting all middle school information, new school calendar, LINK enrollment paperwork, chromebook agreement, Honor Roll 5-point scale, Top Ten and Valedictorian and Salutatorian language. In addition, the addition of Personal Finance requirements, Computer Science to Digital Literacy. The course catalog will now be linked and the Vocational program will be highlighted. Exam language and Saturday school clarifications. There were also minor changes with club and organizations, discipline language, emancipation clarification, and Title IX updates.**
- F. i-Ready Assessment Platform – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we are requesting that the Board move to approve transitioning K-8 students from NWEA to i-Ready. 9-12 will continue to use NWEA. This program was piloted this year and teachers have found value in the ease of use, student friendly assessment, individualized pathways to support student learning, and ease of report access for teachers. Total cost \$50,025. The state reimburses us about \$12/student for this assessment.**
- G. Responsibility-Centered Discipline Professional Development – Larry Thompson - Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we would like to continue our partnership with Larry Thompson next year. He would come to meet with leaders and those needing the day 2 training on June 25/26 and do an all staff review and practice on Aug 26. He will also continue with providing coaching conversations and 2 onsite visits. We will also have access to the learning platform for RCD. Total Year 2 cost: \$ 36,990**

- H. Savvas Curriculum Purchase 6-12 – Director of Curriculum, Carla Gipson – Carla shared that the secondary literacy committee has been reviewing curriculums and piloting SAVVAS. They would like to recommend the board adopt this program for 6-12. Total cost \$156,984.00. Carla shared that she comes to the Board of Education as their district Curriculum Director and have been working alongside our District Literacy Committee, the Secondary ELA Curriculum Selection Committee, and the 6-12 Language Arts teacher to review an English Language Curriculum. She shared that our highly educated and experienced staff and committees used rubrics, researched credible EdReports, contacted neighboring schools, and implemented units and lessons in their own classrooms. In following Benzie’s rigorous curriculum review process, we have met many times throughout the year, consulted with Brent McCall, NorthwestEd’s Secondary Literacy Instructional Team Member, attended Savvas PD, and collaborated as a group on a final review of the program. Our review committee reports the findings as listed here. [SAVVAS](#)**
- I. Dual Enrollment Policy and Language Updates – 9-12 Counselor, Jeanett Pritchett – Ms. Pritchett is requesting that Dual Enrollment language be both clarified and updated with the addition of Baker College, Ferris State University and Northwestern Michigan College. Ms. Pritchett shared that most schools weight dual enrollment courses like Advanced Placement courses. She is also recommending that dual enrollment grades be added to transcripts.**
- J. MHSAA 2024/25 Membership Resolution – *for Year August 1, 2024 through July 21, 2025.* Athletic Director, Eli Harris shared that this our annual membership renewal.**
- K. Track Quotes – Athletic Director, Eli Harris – Mr. Harris shared that we received three quotes to apply structural spray (repaint) the track and gray out the exchange zones. 2 of the 3 bidders are from Michigan. The low bidder, AG Sports, \$132,000. The other bids: Current Surfaces \$165,700, Protrack \$161,600. Mr. Harris is recommending AG Sports with gray exchange zones. Mr. Harris hopes to have this work scheduled early August 2024.**
- L. 2024/25 Athletic Coach Handbook Update – Athletic Director, Eli Harris – Mr. Harris shared minor changes to the handbook; mandated reporters, weekly methods of communication and shared that a new athletic site will release summer of 2024.**
- M. Benzie-Frankfort Ski Co-op Update – Athletic Director, Eli Harris – Mr. Harris shared that Glen Lake, Frankfort and Benzie have communicated about the possibility of forming a ski co-op under the Glen Lakes moniker. This would involve all three schools dissolving their respective current ski co-ops. Benzie and Frankfort would dissolve. At that time, Benzie, Frankfort, Leland, Suttons Bay and Lake Leelanau St. Mary would all request to join Glen Lake. Once**

approved by all parties involved, it gets placed on August 15th MHSAA Agenda. If approved we would join Glen Lake and no longer ski under the Benzie Flag. Cost projections would be \$250 per student versus the current cost of approximately \$950 per skier. The next step is to wait and see if Glen Lake accepts the possibility of Benzie Central joining.

N. Budget Amendment #2 – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Danielle shared the following with the Board of Education:

As you can see from the presented amendments to the budget, there have been some changes in sources of revenues, as the increases to incoming taxes were balanced by the state aid revenues. The decrease in revenues from Federal sources and transfers from other districts, primarily the ISD, can likely be attributed to the exhaustion of emergency one-time moneys, like ESSER funds.

Expenses from the general fund also came in close to what was predicted, as some staffing changes decreased the predicted payroll costs offsetting increases to employee insurance benefits. Healthcare costs increased for all groups at the beginning of 2024, with MESSA insurance increasing by 7% and Priority Health increasing by a blended 4.5%. The Public Employer Contribution also increased by 4.1%.

Added to these expenses is the replacement of Chromebooks that are coming to the end of their usable life, as well as the overdue repair and replacement of musical equipment, and the purchase of additional athletic equipment.

Food Service revenues were more than anticipated, with catering revenues increased. The reimbursements were also increased, with the CEP program offsetting the loss of revenues in cafeteria food sales. Expenses are over what was budgeted, as the District has moved the expense of outfitting the new kitchen at Homestead Hills to the Food Service Fund as part of the Excess Fund Balance spend down plan. Also included in the spend down plan are ice makers for all buildings, a new worktable at the HS kitchen, and a new milk cooler at BVE.

Changes in the other funds are also shown, with the Early Childhood Tuition/Infant & Toddler program showing a severe deficit. After speaking with the Director of the program, a significant amount of this deficit can be attributed to loss of revenue due to missed billing opportunities by means of DHHS deadline issues and calculation errors when billing aftercare programs. This has been evaluated and a plan has been made to eliminate this issue in the future. She is optimistic this deficit will be less severe in the future.

The Student Activity fund shows an increase, as many groups held very successful fundraisers as well as proceeds of ticket sales, while the expenses shown are from events, supplies, and equipment that directly benefit students.

The 2021 Bond fund showed \$290,666 in earnings on investments on our MILAF account, with total expenditures for all projects currently at \$10,308,503. This amount is

still somewhat in flux as payments must be made through the end of the year as cost control manuals are produced and projects require payment to contractors. We are still working to ensure any expenses paid through the bond that should be reassigned to the district are handled appropriately as they are discovered.

BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS				
		Original FY 24 Adopted	Adjustments	Total 2023-24 Amended
Cafeteria Food Sales		\$103,958	-\$96,907	\$7,051
Catering/Other Food Sales		\$34,160	\$30,633	\$64,793
Interest Earnings			\$628	\$628
Total Reimbursements		\$570,459	\$146,732	\$717,191
Miscellaneous		-\$100	\$100	
Total Revenue		\$708,477	\$81,186	\$789,663
Purchased Services		\$279,618	\$80,201	\$359,819
Supplies		\$335,606	-\$15,169	\$320,437
Fees		\$69,665	-\$61,800	\$7,865
Maintenance/Repair		\$7,350	\$17,708	\$25,058
Other (Includes Equipment)		\$16,100	\$184,493	\$200,593
Total Expenditures		\$708,339	\$205,433	\$913,772
Fund Balance 6/60/2023				\$866,256
Change in Fund Balance				-\$124,109
Ending Fund Balance				\$742,147

O. Resignations:

- **Katie Johnston – Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (1755 Services Provider, effective June 11,2024**
- **Sarah Dodge – Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary**
- **Gregory Kempton – Social Studies Teacher – Middle School**
- **Cynthia Herron – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Homestead Hills Elementary, effective June 11, 2024**

P. Retirements:

- **Bruce Stoltz – Elementary Physical Education Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary and Lake Ann Elementary.**

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

- 1. Bond Project Update – President Childs shared summer projects. Bus garage is on track. Steel construction ongoing, sewer lines, electrical, and gas line work starting. Still need to pick out garage door colors and decide on jib crane or gantry crane.**
- 2. Construction Update – President Childs shared that summer projects set to begin when school gets out. Lake Ann Elementary kitchen and cafeteria and carpet. Betsie Valley Elementary carpet and cabinets. MS/HS cabinets, windows in conference room (new AD office), auditorium lights, possible gym painting. Homestead Hills Elementary roof top units getting screens, snow guards for roof, well repair**
- 3. Building and Grounds Modifications Request – NONE**

B. Policy Committee –Superintendent Erfourth – No update.

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith – Budget Amendment #2 was presented this evening

D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota –Ms. Cota Hill shared that there is no update.

E. Liaison/Curriculum –Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill – Ms. Cota Hill shared that there has been district calendar discussion as well as teacher negotiation discussion.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – Transportation has met three times and we are getting close on settling. There has been one meeting with the teachers and they are scheduled again for June 17. Secretaries have requested to bargain. A date will be set.

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Racquel Huddleston, 85 Eastman Rd. Beulah, took the podium on spoke on agenda item I. Dual Enrollment. She shared that she is currently our Advanced Placement Biology teacher and was blessed to have had Mr. Gehring as a teacher. She shared that when was originally asked to teach Advanced Placement she did not want to given an ill child and time constraints. She finally told herself, “Suck it up,” these kids deserve an Advanced Placement teacher. She encouraged the Board of Education to do their homework, and shared that it may be too late to do the homework. Although she agrees with most everything under item I., as students do need variety, she feels it is an insult to compare Dual Enrollment Courses the same as Advanced Placement. Racquel stressed to protect the Arts, Electives, teachers, present teachers, and provide supports.

Discussion Topics:

- A. Current District Enrollment Summary Review – Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Mrs. Crossman shared there was little to no movement.**
- B. Henry Rd. Request – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Rich Brauer is requesting support for closing Henry Rd between Pinecroft Golf Course and Homestead Hills due to speeding cars and joy riding. This concern has resurfaced after the recent car accident involving a student. Board discussion focused on remaining neutral and not taking a position.**
- C. Bus Garage Zoning – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the buyer of the bus garage property has sent us a request asking if we will allow them to seek a rezoning of the bus garage lot and the lot next door to be zoned as CM-1. After speaking with Brian, he felt that is not something we should be involved in requesting. I have sent an email to the attorney representing the buyer requesting that we move up the date of the sale so that the School District does not need to be the party requesting the zoning change. I have not received any emails back yet.**

Action Topics:

23-24-130 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the 2024/25 and 2025/26 District Calendars with 3rd marking periods adjustments.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-131 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024/ 25 Elementary Handbook.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 2 Noffsinger, Gray

Motion Carried

23-24-132 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the i-Ready Assessment Platform, K-8.

Ayes:7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-133 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Responsibility-Centered Discipline Professional Development.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 2 Noffsinger, Gray

Motion Carried

23-24-134 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to table the Dual Enrollment Policy and Language Update.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-135 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the MHSAA Membership Resolution for Year August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-136 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Track Quote - AG Sports with gray exchange zones.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

23-24-137 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the Budget Amendment #2 as it was presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics):

Jalen Williams, 7043 Burr Street, Benzonia took the podium. Jalen shared that he has been a secondary science teacher here for six years, coach for a Science Olympiad team that has went to state every year except one, representative for the union, and the Outstanding Educator of the Year recipient. Jalen shared that he was in the Teach Michigan Program. He asked the Board of Education what is right at Benzie, and how do they know? Does the community know? Who communicates these things? He believes there is a breakdown in communication from parent to classroom, classroom to parents, classroom to students, classroom to the Board of Education, classroom to community, and even classroom to classroom. He feels we shouldn't necessarily find these things out when a colleague shares on their facebook and then Catina has to share them on the district facebook page. He explained how when he was honored and received his Outstanding Educator Award, nobody from the district was there except Carla and it was embarrassing for him to learn that an Administrator shared that they were sick and were then in attendance at a baseball game. He further explained how a former student of his from his first-year teaching here, handed him his award and came all the way from Capitol Hill. He does not feel supported. He urges the board to talk to teachers and students to truly know what is going on, and that teachers going directly to the Board of Education should not be their only voice. He asked that the Board of Education go straight to the source to make more informed decisions. Ask more questions.

Eric Perez, 20723 Red Oak Drive, Lake Ann took the podium. He thanked the Board of Education for listening and doing the right thing. Since the administration change has been shared, morale for both Lake Ann parents and staff has improved. Everyone is now excited for the 2024/25 school year, and he asked the Board of Education to come out and witness the changes at Lake Ann Elementary next year.

**Board Communication:
NONE**

Announcements:

- June 11 – Last Day of School
- June 24 – Board Retreat 4:00 PM
- June 24 – Regular Board Meeting —Budget Review - Budget Hearing -6:30 PM

23-24-138 It was moved by Mr. Noffsinger and supported by Mr. Gray to adjourn the regular meeting 9:46 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that June 10, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on July 8, 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!