

REGULAR MEETING

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

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Noffsinger, Sophie McLaren (non-voting member)

24-25-001 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison 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.

24-25-002 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: June 10, 2024 Regular | June 24, 2024 Board Retreat and Regular Budget Review/Hearing

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 771,187.40

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Carla Gipson Van Farowe – Director of Educational Technology – Digital Literacy Teacher 2024/25
- Jay Jarnot – Secondary Biology Teacher – 2024/25

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Butch Adkins – Junior Varsity Football Coach to Middle School Football Coach
- Carla Gipson Van Farowe – Director of Curriculum and Professional Development – Effective July 31, 2024 – Position Dissolved

E. Leave of Absence:

- NONE

F. Recommendation for Tenure:

- NONE

G. Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period

- NONE

H. Recommendation for Termination:

- NONE

I. Contract Updates:

- **NONE**

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

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

No update.

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

Administration Report:

A. Marzano Board of Education Training – Rick Vandermolen, Ed.D. shared with the Board of Education Public Act 224 (SB 395); Rater Reliability Training Under the bill, by September 1, 2024, and every three years after that, each individual who conducts an evaluation for a teacher or administrator must complete rater reliability training provided by the school district, ISD, PSA, or the entity that employs the individual. The Rater Reliability Training must include at least all of the following:

1. A clear and consistent set of evaluation criteria that all evaluators may use when assessing teacher (superintendent) performance.

- **[Marzano District leader Evaluation Model 2018](#)**

2. Clear expectations for what evaluators should look for when assessing superintendent performance, including identifying key behaviors and practices that are associated with effective teaching/leadership.

- **Marzano Superintendent district leader evaluation (2018):**

- **Domain 1: Data driven focus to support student achievement.**
- **Domain 2: Continuous support for the improvement of instruction.**
- **Domain 3: Continuous support for a guaranteed and viable curriculum.**
- **Domain 4: Community care and collaboration.**
- **Domain 5: District core values.**
- **Domain 6: Resource allocation management**

3. Training on the evaluation process itself, including how to conduct superintendent evaluation, collect data, and analyze results.

- **Benzie Superintendent Evaluation Process:**

- **August: Superintendent Goal selection, calibration and update with BC BOE**
- **November: Superintendent Goal update and calibration with BC BOE**
- **January: Superintendent Goal update and calibration with BC BOE**
- **March: Superintendent final evaluation conducted by the BC BOE.**

B. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: On Monday, we were able to meet for a budget update. Highlights from the budget, that now is waiting for the Governor's signature: 0% increase to per pupil foundation allowance (\$9,608), one time \$57 million or 3.9% increase to charter schools per pupil foundation, \$176.4 million increase to K-12 MPSERS costs (5.7% reduction of the UAAL 20.96% to 15.22% BUT THIS IS A ONE TIME DEAL as they did not codify this into law) that includes \$200,000 reduction in the general fund. Other highlights include maintaining the transportation fund, \$25 million to school safety and mental health but is a \$301 million decrease overall from last year's one-time funds, GSRP household income threshold increases to 400% of poverty (allowing for more families to qualify), 6.1% increase to at risk funding.

C. Early Childhood Summer Camp Update – Early Childhood Director, Melinda Coger- Melinda shared that enrollment is half of what it normally is, with 61 children in attendance from the 120 that turned in interest for slots. She shared the various field trips and activities, as well as the additions of new playground equipment, sandboxes and fencing.

D. Early Childhood Staff Handbook – Early Childhood Director, Melinda Coger – Melinda shared the Early Childhood Staff Handbook which serves as the contract for Early Childhood staff.

- Family meal style
- Curriculum
- Ten (10) Essentials of Early Literacy
- MiRegistry
- CPR, First Aid, SafeSchools
- CDA Credentials – Two (2) years
- Lead Teachers – 3 years
- To Serve as legal contract for Early Childhood Staff

E. 2024/25 Elementary Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.

F. 2024/25 Middle School Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.

Welding

Required Grade: 7-8

Full Year

Students will learn the most common welding processes used today. Content includes the basic safe operation of welding, cutting and brazing systems along with training in basic

electric arc welding processes. This includes safety and equipment setup, selection and operation. Blueprint reading, welding symbols and basic welder's trade math are included.

AND/OR

Welding

Grades: 6

9 weeks

Students will learn the most common welding processes used today. Content includes the basic safe operation of welding, cutting and brazing systems along with training in basic electric arc welding processes. This includes safety and equipment setup, selection and operation. Blueprint reading, welding symbols and basic welder's trade math are included.

G.2024/25 High School Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval. New course additions for the 2024/25 school year have been added:

Natural Resources

Recommended for Grades: 11-12

Full Year / CTE

1 Credit

This course introduces students to the exciting careers in natural resource conservation and wildlife biology. This laboratory/field-based course involves hands-on learning ecological science, animal and plant studies, job shadowing, and field trips. This course will have special emphasis on skills and technology used in the profession. Examine the components, historical development, global implications and future trends of the animal systems industry. Propagate culture and harvest plants. Develop a production plan that applies the fundamentals of plant management. Students will have career opportunities that appeal to personal career goals. Use technology to enhance productivity. Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence. Students will have direct contact with natural resource conservationists and wildlife biologists in this field of study. They will attain the skills necessary to obtain employment in various careers in natural resource conservation and wildlife biology.

Welding

Recommended for Grades: 11-12

Full Year / CTE

1 Credit

This program provides students with an opportunity to explore a wide variety of welding processes, as well as the knowledge, skills, safety, and professional behaviors necessary for competent performance as a welder or welding technician. Students in this program will learn the basic science about metal and the many different ways to weld, cut, solder, or braze metals together, including: shielded metal arc, gas metal arc, gas tungsten arc welding, thermal cutting, and weld inspection. Safety and welding code and procedures for a variety of industrial applications will be emphasized.

CDA (Child Development Associate)**Recommended for Grades: 11-12****Full Year / CTE****1 Credit**

This course introduces the unique characteristics of the child, develops respect for children, and guidance skills that help them grow and develop. The student will gain knowledge that enables him/her to decide whether working in the field of education is a suitable, personal career goal; develop and show responsibility in work performance; learn how to study the growth and development of children; recognize the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual abilities and needs of children; understand how children learn, and the importance of play in their development; learn how parents and teachers influence the growth and development of the child. The student will gain this knowledge through classroom work, field trips, guest speakers and field placement experiences in elementary settings throughout the year.

Personal Finance**Open to High School Students****Recommended for Grades: 11-12****Full Year****1 Credit**

Personal Finance is a course designed to help students understand the impact of individual choices on occupational goals and future earnings potential. Topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design personal and household budgets, simulate use of checking and savings accounts, demonstrate knowledge of finance, debt, and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions. Topics covered: Savings, Investing, Credit, Debt, Financial Responsibility, Money Management, Insurance, Risk Management, Income, and Careers.

- H. 2024/25 Benzie Academy Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.**
- I. 2024/25 Edgenuity Course Catalog - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.**
- J. 2024/25 Michigan Virtual Course Catalog- Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality as students are only allowed to take courses that have been board-approved. These course catalogs are up for annual approval.**

K. 1.0 Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) Resolution - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman shared that this is a pupil accounting formality. She would like the Board of Education to approve a resolution defining what a 1.0 FTE looks like at Benzie Central. The Board of Education was provided a copy of the Resolution. Students are considered a 1.0 FTE based on the full-time bell schedule as board approved in each of the building handbooks unless students are enrolled as Dual Enrolled, Early Middle College, Career Tech Center, Work-Study, or on a personal curriculum. Students must be scheduled for a minimum of 180 days and 1098 hours per year, unless otherwise indicated in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Whereas;

- Approval for BCCS students to enroll in dual enrollment courses subject to district approval, course availability, and requirements being met by interested students**
- Approval for BCCS students to enroll in the Benzie Early Middle College program in partnership with Baker College of Cadillac**
- Approval for BCCS students to enroll in virtual coursework through both state and district providers (Michigan Virtual, Edgenuity and Apex)**
- Approval of BCHS, BCMS, Benzie Academy, and Elementary Course Catalogs**
- Approval of BCHS / MS Handbook**
- Approval of Benzie Central Elementary Handbook**
- Approval of Benzie Academy Handbook**
- Approval of resolution to define a full day for students**

L. Glen Lake Cooperative Ski-Program Partnership – On June 10, 2024 Athletic Director, Eli 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. One June 21, 2024 Athletic Director, Eli Harris shared the following update with Mrs. Crossman for the July 8, 2024 agenda: “Glen Lake voted yes to dissolve their current coop and invite Benzie Central and Frankfort to join with them as well as, Leland, LLSM, and Suttons Bay. Based on last year’s numbers that would allow for a full boys’ team and full girls team. The cost per student to GL would be 250. I am recommending that we dissolve our ski coop with Frankfort and join Glen Lake.

This would eliminate two schedule B coaches for Benzie Central. The cost savings would amount to approximately 9,000 based on 23/24 costs.”

M. Resignations:

- Mike Jones – Middle School Football Coach

N. Retirements:

- None

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Update –** We are slightly behind with the transportation building due to rain days. Underground inspections have passed. We were able to switch from the jib crane to a gantry crane/hoist. This increased the cost by a few thousand dollars. The cabinets for the HS were delayed and will be here July 11. Demo of the old cabinets has already taken place. The well at Homestead Hills Elementary is going to be repaired on July 22. Concrete repairs for Homestead Hills Elementary began last week.
2. **Construction Update –** Band room floor repairs will begin next week. Carpet install at Betsie Valley Elementary and Lake Ann Elementary will begin later this month. The High School gymnasium is buckling again due to subfloor movement. Floor Care Concepts will cut around the perimeter to ensure the floor has room to move.
3. **Building and Grounds Modifications Request – NONE**

B. Policy Committee –Superintendent Erfourth shared the Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy- Thrun has an AI policy that will be included with the next round of policy updates. This should be coming very soon. We can review the AI policy that the policy committee reviewed or we can choose to wait for Thrun's update. [The following policy was provided.](#)

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith – Mr. Gray shared that there is no update. He would like a report a week before each meeting, rather than the afternoon of.

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 is no update.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – 2024-2026 Transportation Contact. Superintendent shared that the contract was nearing finalization and at the tentative-agreement stage.

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 will share the next report in October 2024.**
- B. River Bend Recovery – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Colin Towersy requested a letter from the School District supporting the recovery house. The Board of Education felt it was not necessary for them to be involved and asked that a letter be drafted to share that said they would remain neutral in the matter.**

Action Topics:

24-25-003 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Early Childhood Staff Handbook.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-004 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024/25 Course Catalog.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-005 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Middle School Course Catalog.

Ayes:6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-006 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the High School Course Catalog.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-007 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the Benzie Academy Course Catalog.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-008 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the Edgenuity Course Catalog.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-009 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the Michigan Virtual Course Catalog.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-010 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024/25 1.0 FTE Resolution.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-011 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Ms. Cota Hill to approve the 2024/25 Athletic Coach Handbook.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-012 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024/25 Benzie Academy Handbook with the addition of the Artificial Intelligence Policy as laid out by the Washington County School District.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-013 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the 2024/25 Middle School Handbook with the addition of the Artificial Intelligence Policy as laid out by the Washington County School District.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-014 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the 2024/25 High School Handbook with the addition of the Artificial Intelligence Policy as laid out by the Washington County School District.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-015 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Gray to approve the 2024/25 High School Handbook with the addition of the Artificial Intelligence Policy as laid out by the Washington County School District.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-016 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Dissolving of the Benzie-Frankfort Ski Co-op.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-017 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Cota Hill to approve the Glen Lake Co-op Ski Program Partnership to include Benzie Central.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-018 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mrs. Cota Hill to approve the 2024-2026 Transportation *TENTATIVE AGREEMENT*.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

- **August 12 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

24-25-019 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 8:50 pm.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that July 8, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on August 12, 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!