

## REGULAR MEETING

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

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

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

**Members Absent:** Mr. Noffsinger, Mr. Barnard, Ms. Cota Hill Sophie McLaren (non-voting member)

**24-25-020** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the agenda as presented, with one amendment: *the addition of Action Item J., Approval of Employee Hire after Closed Session.*

**Ayes:** 4

**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.

**24-25-021** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

**A. Minutes:** July 8, 2024

**B. Business:** General Fund Bills – NONE

**C. Support Staff Appointments:**

- Richard Fischbach – Secondary Geometry teacher
- Rebecca Tanner – Infant/Toddler Lead teacher
- Heather Hopkins – Early Childhood 1755 Services Provider
- Rachel Leatherman – Lead GSRP teacher – Lake Ann Elementary

**D. Staff Assignment Changes:**

- NONE

**E. Leave of Absence:**

- Chelsea Willis – Secretary – Betsie Valley Elementary – Effective 10/10/2024 through the remainder of the 2024/25 school year.

**F. Recommendation for Tenure:**

- Bryce Ropp – Elementary teacher

**G. Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period**

- NONE

**H. Recommendation for Termination:**

- NONE

**I. Contract Updates:**

- NONE

**Ayes: 4**

**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. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following:** An update on the ORS lawsuit was discussed. Preliminary guidance suggests that ORS will accept salary schedules for non-union employees with 3 or less employees in the group. Further discussion with ORS on defining terms will need to take place and the Court's recommendation is for a legislative fix to resolve the concern. A fall supplemental package is expected due to the pushback from school officials around the state since the new fiscal year budget included a \$57 million increase to charter schools per pupil foundation allowance and a \$0 increase to the public school per pupil foundation allowance. Additionally, the significant decrease to spending on mental health and school safety has legislators reconsidering funding these programs. The MPSERS buy down included in this 2025 fiscal budget did not get codified into law, which is a concern since there is no guarantee that this buy down will continue into the future. The House Bill 5803 or Senate Bill 911 are two potential avenues that our legislators can use to ensure this becomes a law. The current proposed bills do not ensure the minimum 5.7% required. This is an area we will need to continue to work with our representatives on to ensure this becomes law.
- B. Building and Grounds Update- Director of Operations, Mike Zielinski – Mr. Zielinski shared a summer 2024 maintenance report:** Mr. Zielinski shared that the new well for drinking water had to be pulled and repaired at Homestead Hills Elementary. The work was completed on July 23 and water samples were taken for bacteria. Results confirmed absent for both Coliform and E. Coli. There was a total of (42) water samples taken throughout the district with more to come before the end of summer. The various test are as follows:
- Bacteria
  - Nitrate
  - VOC
  - SOC
  - Complete metals
  - Arsenic
  - Cyanide

- Lead/Copper
- Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

#### **Lake Ann Elementary**

- New carpet in the library
- New LVT in front offices
- New standing seam metal roof on all three peaks
- New countertops throughout the building, with new sink fixtures, faucets, and bubblers
- New playground fencing and sandbox
- New flooring in both the kitchen and cafeteria
- New irrigation out front and west side of the school
- Front entry finished with poly
- Gym floor was sanded, painted, and sealed

#### **Betsie Valley Elementary**

- New carpet in the library
- New LVT in front offices
- New cabinets and countertops in the classrooms
- New sandbox

#### **Benzie Academy**

- Exterior building repaired and painted
- All interior walls painted

#### **Middle/High School**

- New cabinets and sinks for classrooms
- Exterior doors replaced
- Band flooring repaired as a result of water damage
- Hallways and classrooms painted throughout
- New windows to be installed in new front offices
- Both Middle and High School Gyms refinished
- Roller Shade classroom installations
- Athletic fields – (3) rounds of fertilization, (1) dethatching, and (1) aerating

Some of the above projects mentioned are still underway and should be completed by the start of school.

**C. Superintendent Growth Plan Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: [2024/25 Growth Plan](#)**

**D. Grants Under School Aid Section 27k – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Mrs. Banasiak shared the following: The 27k Grant has been distributed to our district. This grant functions as a reimbursement to staff that work directly with students to offset some of the cost of their student loans (their minimum payment amount or \$200, whichever is more). I requested the package from the**

attorney that will be in the packet to ensure we are paying this grant out correctly. The documentation is to allow us to have some structure in administering the payments and recourse in the event it needs to be recovered from an individual.

- E. Director of Curriculum 2023/24 Recap – Carla Gipson – Director of Curriculum, Carla Gipson shared the following [2023-2024](#) review.
- F. 2024/25 Elementary Handbook – Updated Language – The following updates were made: staffing updates, tech. use agreement, RCD, Building Foundations – REPS.
- G. 2024/25 Middle School Handbook – Updated Language – The following updates were made: staffing updates, tech. use agreement, subject areas, AI Policy language.
- H. 2024/25 High School Handbook – Updated Language – The following updates were made: staffing updates, tech. use agreement, subject areas, course weighting, AI Policy language.
- I. Resignations:
- Chris Batchelder – Boys Varsity Head Soccer Coach
- J. Retirements:
- None

**Board of Education/Committee Reports –**

- A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –
1. Bond Project Update – Transportation building is ongoing. Electrical and framing of walls are occurring now. Underground work and water are almost complete. Beam for the gantry crane has been installed. We did have to make a slight modification to the walls in the dispatch office to accommodate the entry due to the beams impacting the entrance area.
  2. Construction Update – Mike Zielinski – 2024 Summer Maintenance Report.
  3. Building and Grounds Modifications Request – NONE
- B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth shared the [Thrun July 2024 Marked Changes](#).
- C. Finance Committee – Board of Education Treasurer, Scott Gray – Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith – No update.
- D. Educational Foundation – Board of Education Trustee Lori-Cota – No update.
- E. Liaison/Curriculum – Board of Education Trustee Lori Cota Hill – No update.

**F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: The transportation union has ratified their contract. This is ready for board approval. The secretarial group has approved the tentative agreement and has ratified the contract. This is ready for board approval. In addition, we are sharing our counter proposal with the BCCEA union. We are hoping to have a ratification next Monday.**

**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 September 2024.**

**Action Topics:**

**24-25-022 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Grants Under School Aid Section 27k.  
Ayes: 3 Nays: 1 Gray Motion Carried**

**24-25-023 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024/25 Elementary Handbook – Updated Language.  
Ayes: 3 Nays: 1 Gray Motion Carried**

**24-25-024 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Middle School Handbook – Updated Language.  
Ayes: 3 Nays: 1 Gray Motion Carried**

**24-25-025 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the High School Handbook – Updated Language.  
Ayes: 3 Nays: 1 Gray Motion Carried**

**24-25-026 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024-2026 Transportation Contract.  
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried**

**24-25-027 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024-2027 Secretarial Contract.  
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion Carried**

**24-25-028** It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mrs. Gillison to table the approval of the BCCEA Teacher Contract.

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**24-25-029** It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mrs. Gillison to go into *Closed Session* for purposes of *Attorney/Client Privilege Information and Potential Hire* after the second round of Audience Participation (Open Topics)

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE**

**CLOSED SESSION 8:27 PM**

**24-25-030** It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to return to open session. 9:39 PM

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**24-25-031** It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the hire of Daniel Deets – Head Varsity Boys Soccer Coach.

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Board Communication: NONE**

**Announcements:**

- **August 28, 2024 – Elementary Open Houses - 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**
- **August 28, 2024 – Middle School – High School – Benzie Academy Open Houses – 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**
- **September 3, 2024- First Day of School**
- **September 9, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

**24-25-032** It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 9:41 pm.

**Ayes: 4**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion Carried**

---

**Secretary, Board of Education**

*Please note that August 12, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on September 9, 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!***