

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, September 9, 2024, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Barnard, Ms. Cota Hill, Mr. Noffsinger (Tardy 7:16 pm)

Members Absent: Sophie McLaren (non-voting member)

24-25-033 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith 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.

24-25-034 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: August 12, 2024

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 2,306,818.89

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Eli Harris – Dean of Students – Middle School & High School
- Julie Kaempfer – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Homestead Hills Elementary
- Alexandria Robotham – Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary
- Madelyn Reppucci – Secondary Social Studies Teacher – Middle School
- Autumn Skiver – Early Childhood Assistant Teacher – Willsub to Benzie
- Alice Dixon – Early Childhood Assistant Teacher – Willsub to Benzie
- Janae Case – Early Childhood Assistant Teacher – Willsub to Benzie
- Lindsay Griffin – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Willsub to Benzie
- Bo Stewart – Secondary Spanish/Social Studies Teacher – High School
- Shiela Ferrel – 6.5 One-on-One Long-Term Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary – Willsub

- D. **Staff Assignment Changes:**
 - Kyle Locke – High School Spanish to Middle School Social Studies
 - E. **Leave of Absence:**
 - NONE
 - F. **Recommendation for Tenure:**
 - Marc Alderman – Secondary Science Teacher
 - G. **Recommendation for Termination following Probationary Period**
 - NONE
 - H. **Recommendation for Termination:**
 - NONE
 - I. **Contract Updates:**
 - Updated Non-Union ORS Salary Schedule
- Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried**

District Impact Team Update: Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith reported the following: No update at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Sophie McLaren – No update.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following:** Not much legislative action has happened since our last NMSLA meeting. A new legislative bill for the MPERS Rate Cap of 3% was introduced. This is not the 5.7% rate cap that was originally discussed. Michigan School Business Officials and MASA have not yet provided feedback on if this bill will meet our needs. Once clarity is provided, they will let us know so we can encourage our representatives to support this bill. Information shared at the meeting included a potential date of September 25, the last day of the legislative session before the election, as the time with bill 911 and the new bill could be passed and signed by the Governor. A new dyslexia bill was also introduced. A fall supplemental budget option was discussed that would provide funds for mental health and school safety that were not included in the approved state aid budget, however, it does not appear that this will come to fruition. Much of this will depend on the outcome of the November election.

- B. **Homestead Hills Elementary Update – Principal, Steve Graetz – Mr. Graetz, along with teachers, Amy Jass and Katherine Jock presented the *Celebration of Student Learning Project. Teach! Michigan powered by Teach for America.* The goal is to build an extraordinary learning environment together; diversifying students learning opportunities, involving families and community stakeholders,**

and engaging students and staff. The Celebration of Student Learning (CLS) Community Festival will take place in June 2025 to showcase each student's Project-Based Learning projects.

C. Middle School Update – Principal, Alex Byland – Mr. Byland shared that with the separation of middle school and high school, comes building an identity for the Middle School; grades 6-8.

- Separate middle school office and phone line
- Community involvement:
 - Starting PTA
 - Strong turnout at Open House with 85% overall attendance and 90% overall attendance for 6th grade.
 - Weekly parent email through Smore, similar to that of Mrs. Crossman
- Student involvement:
 - MS SEEDS club: 30+ students signed up
 - New MS Bowling Club
 - New MS Play: *The Enchanted Bookshop*
 - Robotics, Volleyball, Cross Country, Football, Soccer
- Student engagement:
 - Literacy classes with iReady to close gaps
 - Focus on formative assessments to drive instruction

D. High School Update – Principal, Cheryl Smith – Ms. Smith shared the SEL Curriculum: *Be Good People*.

- Aligned to CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) standards.
- Scaffolded by grade level
- Tiered:
 - Tier 1 – All students
 - Tier 2&3 – Students needing extra support
 - Rooted in Executive Functioning

Principal Smith noted that although Middle School and High School are separate entities, both she and Principal Byland will work closely together for consistency. The bridge from Middle School to High School is a big transition for students, and consistency will help to lighten their load.

E. CTC Senior Math – High School Counselor, Jeanett Pritchett – Ms. Pritchett is proposing an option for our CTC students to be able to earn a 4th year math credit if they attend CTC for 2 years in the same program. This would be an applied math credit. Our diploma requirements are 4 years of math with the following classes required: Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II. The 4th year of math could be pre calc, business math, personal finance, etc. The CTC applied math credit would now be an approved option for the 4th year math credit.

[Northwest Education Services Career Tech Michigan Merit Curriculum Offerings, Articulation, Certifications 2024/25](#)

- All students are required to complete the standards outlined in the Common Core. Those standards are all typically covered in traditional Alg. 1, Geometry and Alg. 2 courses.
- The 4th credit in math can be continuation of math instruction beyond Alg. 2 (Pre-Calc, Stats, Business Math, etc.), but there is flexibility to use non-mathematics courses to fulfill that credit. The language in the MMC is that students, at minimum, are required to complete a "math experience" in which previously learned standards are being used ([see page 8, section 4](#)).
- All of our Career Tech programs have math embedded in the CIP Code standards and we recommend 4th math credit to all districts.

F. Resignations:

- Emily Burrus – Secondary Social Studies teacher – Middle School
- Kaelan Camp – Secondary Social Studies teacher – Middle School
- Claudia Banega – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary

G. Retirements:

- Racquel Huddleston – Secondary Biology teacher – Effective September 27, 2024

Thank you for your years of service!

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. Bond Project Update – Concrete form construction is complete for the parking lot island on the west side of the building along with the construction of the west sidewalk.

The interior wall wood blocking and liner panel installation, for the wash bay, is in progress. The installation of the interior gypsum board walls is complete. The painting of the office walls and doors is in progress. The painting of the bollards around the septic system is in progress. The bus lift hydraulic pump installation is in progress. The removal of the concrete forms in the bus lift pit is in progress. Mechanical and plumbing installations are in progress. Fedak has completed the gutter and downspout installations. The gas utility company has completed the installation of the service to the building. The electric utility has completed the installation of the service to the building transformer. DTE hit the electrical conduit into the building. We are working to have them take responsibility for it. Topline has quoted us at \$5300 to repair this.

2. Construction Update – The contractor is stating that the radiant tube heaters, in the wash bay and bus maintenance area, will not maintain recommended manufacture clearance due to interference with other MEP, garage doors, ductwork. Investigating using unit heaters in place of radiant tube heaters. Theresa confirmed the change is acceptable if the same overall MBH ratings are maintained. D&W is investigating the return of the tube heaters and will provide cut sheets on the unit heaters. D&W wants direction on heater sizing and placement. Update on radiant tube heaters. Theresa will visit the site on

September 6 to see if there is a way to install the units. Roland has reached out to Fedak to discuss the modification of the steel that would allow the radiant heater installation. Fedak has provided a verbal approval to cut through the beam. Theresa and D&W have provided a solution and work around to continue using our current tube heating.

3. Building and Grounds Modifications Request – NONE

- B. Policy Committee –The [Thrun July 2024 Marked Changes](#). were once again shared with the Board of Education.**
- 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. Next meeting is September 17 at 4:30 PM.**
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: The BCCEA teacher contract is a fully updated contract with the new wage scale. The union has ratified and approved.**

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 September 6, 2024. The district currently rests at 1172. This number includes our Early Childhood Population. Catina shared that this is a rough number as numbers will fluctuate the first two weeks of school with ongoing enrollments and withdrawals. Catina will have a more concrete number to report in October.**

Action Topics:

24-25-035 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the July 2024 Thrun Policy Updates.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-036 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the 4th year CTC Math to count toward 4th year Math Credit for CTC students – Updated approval will reflect in the 2024/25 High School Course Catalog.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-037 It was moved by Ms. Cota Hill and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to approve the 2024-2027 BCCEA Teacher Contract.

Ayes: 6 Abstain: Smith

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication: NONE

Announcements:

- **October 14, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

24-25-037 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Noffsinger to adjourn the regular meeting 8:25 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that September 9, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on October 14, 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!