

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, November 11 2024, in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Mr. Childs, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Barnard, Sophie McLaren (non-voting member)

Members Absent: Mr. Noffsinger, Ms. Cota Hill

24-25-045 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.

24-25-046 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: October 14, 2024

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 1,271,849.34

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- **Christel Berndt- Early Childhood Assistant Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary – Willsub**
- **Sheila Ferrel -6.5 One on One Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary**
- **Sam Robotham – Early Childhood Assistant Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary – Willsub**
- **Isabella Barton – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Middle/High School**
- **Andy Rosa – Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach**
- **Chaz Grundy – Boys Junior Varsity Basketball Coach**
- **Daniel Deets – Boys Freshmen Basketball Coach**

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- **NONE**

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: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

- **District Impact Team Update:** Board of Education Trustee, Matt Smith reported the following:
 - The District Impact Team conducted various Tuning Protocols across most buildings. *The BV Tuning Protocol* discussed reading data from the new iReady platform and explored ways to increase student engagement through goal-setting and data literacy. Administrators are also considering potential adjustments to individualized instruction.
 - In the *LA Tuning Protocol*, efforts focused on the Reading Intervention Blocks (RIBs). They're gathering staff feedback, establishing a daily RIB schedule, and implementing weekly monitoring for students scoring below the 50th percentile in reading. They've also developed a response plan for students showing limited progress and training for intervention staff.
 - The *HS Tuning Protocol* reviewed NWEA data on Math and ELA, aiming to build a positive testing culture and explore ways to incentivize growth without compromising achievement. The *MS Tuning Protocol* examined the best methods for tracking the impact of Restorative Practices, RCD, and behavioral lessons, particularly for students who received a referral in the previous week.
 - The *Benzie Academy* is assessing the attendance system for logistical efficiency and supportiveness. *ISSN* updates included expanded staff training in CPI, Restorative Practices, and RCD, along with updates to the Elementary Handbook and a review of the discipline referral form for middle and high school.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Sophie McLaren – Sophie shared that there has not been a student council meeting since our October Board of Education meeting. Sophie reported that Homecoming attendance was up from last year. Student Council will either be planning Snowcoming or MORP (PROM backwards) for Winter 2025.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following:** Special Guest John Sellek, PR and Political Expert from Harbor Strategies, provided an election update. He shared that this was a change election and realignment with people switching parties based on core issues of

inflation, border security, and the economy. The House is now Republican-controlled majority with 58-52 seats. Michigan's Lame Duck session is scheduled to begin this week. The House is scheduling the whole week with 12 session days and the Senate has less floor activity planned with only 9 or 10 days of them both being in session. Some topics that may be addressed are more regulations and transparency for charter schools, merit curriculum flexibility, and economic development. Other areas to watch are the hard cap for insurance and a potential supplemental budget package.

- B. Superintendent Goal Review – Updated Calibration – Rick Vandermolen – Rick Vandermolen facilitated the Board of Education in the calibration of Superintendent Erfourth’s Goal Review. Mr. Vandermolen asked that the Board of Education to review the scale/rubric for each goal area and consider providing feedback on where she is on her six goal areas including data, evaluations of staff, managing tech resources, perception data on safety, perception data on collaboration, and implementation of the curriculum. Superintendent Erfourth will provide another update to the Board in January on her goals and allow the Board to calibrate around their use of the scale.**
- C. Benzie Academy Update – Principal, Rachel Anderson – Ms. Anderson shared that there are currently 88 students attending Benzie Academy. Twenty-six of thirty-two seniors graduated in 2023/24, 81%. Currently, there are thirty-two enrolled seniors. Of the thirty-two, ten are eligible to graduate in January, with twenty-two on track for June Commencement. In addition, Principal Anderson discussed the Benzie Academy fall goals:**
- **NEW Benzie Academy Newsletter**
 - **Academic Weekly Progress Report Conversations**
 - **Social-Emotional Learning**
 - **Benzie Academy Attendance System**
 - **Refinement of Special Education Systems**
- D. Chicago Choir Trip – March 2025- Choral Director, Kirsten Cline – Mrs. Cline shared the Benzie Central High School Choir Trip Educational Tours, Inc. itinerary. This is an optional trip for 9-12 graders. There is currently interest from 50 students. The cost per student is contingent on total number of students attending. Mrs. Cline is working toward donations and fundraising opportunities.**
- E. Chartwells K12 Food Service Update – Director of Food Service, Lisa Purchase – Mrs. Purchase shared the following:**
- **Adopt a Classroom – Chartwells K12 adopted classrooms and purchased \$100.00 worth of supplies based on their Amazon Wish List.**
 - **Apple Crunch Day – October 2024 – Celebrating local farmers and their partnership with local schools.**
 - **MOOD BOOST lunch items to FEED YOUR MOOD**

- Student Choice – New Menu Options – Taste and Decide to LOVE IT or LOSE IT.
- Pet Food Fundraiser – December 2024
- Working on spend down
- Milk coolers for Betsie Valley Elementary and High School
- Picnic tables for Homestead Hills Elementary
- Christmas Dinner plans in progress
- Scholarship fundraiser begins
- Betsie Valley hot/cold line
- ServSafe Certification Training
- Beach Day in March 2025

Comparing SY 23/24 to SY 24/25:

- Breakfast counts district wide are up 10%
- Lunch counts district wide are up 16%
- After School Snack program participation increased by 57%
- After School Dinner program participation increased by 40%

F. Snow Plow Bids 2024/25 – 3-Year Contract – Superintendent Erfourth shared that we received one sealed bid from AJ's Excavating. He bid on all of the properties except for Betsie Valley Elementary. All prices are per season for 3 years. Homestead Hills Elementary \$6,250, Lake Ann Elementary \$6,250, MS/HS \$11,450, Bus Garage \$5,250.

G. Finance Update – Audit Status – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Mrs. Banasiak shared the following: The audit is progressing, we are still planning to complete it this month and file by the end of November to prevent any more delays in the receipt of State Aid payments. Once the Audit is complete and filed with the state, we will be able to complete and file the FID report, and proceed with the budget amendment and new year processes.

H. Benzie County Central Schools Accounts Updates – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak – Mrs. Banasiak shared the State Savings Banks staff name removals and staff name additions for three accounts. Board of Education approval is needed to proceed.

I. Resignations:

- Robin Talsma – Bus Driver – Transportation Department
- Christa Gillison – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Homestead Hills Elementary
- Gregory Kempton – Middle School Wrestling Coach
- Chris Batchelder – 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
- Irv Meachum – Middle School Basketball Coach
- Julie Kaempfer – 5.5 Paraprofessional – Homestead Hills Elementary
- Cody VanDonkelaar – Assistant High School Wrestling Coach
- Andy Rosa – Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

J. Retirements:

- **NONE**

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

1. **Bond Project Update – Dan Tryles, Kingscott and Jim Venton, Wolgast gave the following reports. The holdup has been windows and doors. The windows arrived 2 weeks ago but were the incorrect size for the opening. The windows were ordered to the drawing specifications but were not field verified. Store front windows were installed Saturday so we can get an occupancy permit. The correct sized windows are being reordered with an estimated 8-week turnaround time. The windows will be installed once they arrive. The doors are onsite and Northern Michigan Glass and Spence Brothers began install today.**
2. **Construction Update – NONE**
3. **Building and Grounds Modifications Request – NONE**

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 – NONE**

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Bill Kennis, 962 Michigan Ave., Frankfort – Mr. Kennis asked to extend the closing date for the Crystal Lake property to January 31, 2025 due to time constraints and holidays.

Discussion Topics:

- A. **Current District Enrollment Summary Review – Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman – Mrs. Crossman shared that given we just ended our fall count general collection window, there was little to no enrollment movement. Catina shared that she certified 1,218 pupils for the Fall 2024 General Collection, with field and desk audits scheduled to begin right before Thanksgiving.**
- B. **Proposal to extend date of closing (Crystal Lake Elementary Property – Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center is requesting that the closing date be on or before Jan**

31. They plan to approve the deal at their December meeting but are concerned that they will not be able to close before the end of December due to the holidays.

Action Topics:

24-25-047 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2024/2025 Snow Plow Bids – 3-Year Contract – A.J.’s Excavating.

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

24-25-048 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the March 2025 Chicago Choir Trip.

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

24-25-049 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mrs. Smith to approve the Benzie County Central Schools Accounts Updates – Staff Name Removals and Additions.

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

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication:

- **Janene Gee – Grant Recipient - Manistee County Community Foundation Common Grant – Playground Improvement and Safety Project – Betsie Valley Elementary**

Announcements:

- **December 9, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

24-25-050 It was moved by Mr. Gray and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 8:56 pm.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that November 11, 2024 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on December 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!