

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, April 14, 2025 in the Board of Education Conference Room.

President Childs called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

Members Absent: NONE

24-25-090 It was moved by Mr. Kempton and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 7

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.

24-25-091 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: March 17, 2025 – Regular | April 10, 2025 Special

B. Business: General Fund Bills – 2,741,694.92

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Erin Johnson – Early Childhood Lead Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary
- Jarred Streeter – Head Middle School Baseball Coach

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Jen Rosa – Title One Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary to Literacy Coach

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: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Thank you to Chris Noffsinger.

Welcome New Board of Education Member, Dave Egeler.

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

Since our last Board meeting, the District Impact Team (DIT) has met twice. Due to the timing of spring break and a later March meeting, this was a shortened cycle, but the team continued to focus on student data, intervention strategies, and curriculum review.

Early Education Tuning Protocol – Gold Data Review

The team analyzed Early Childhood data across buildings, comparing Fall to Winter growth in the following developmental domains:

- Social-Emotional
- Physical
- Language
- Cognitive
- Literacy
- Math

Overall, the data showed growth across all areas district-wide. At Lake Ann Elementary, math scores were slightly lower compared to other buildings. The team discussed this as an area of focus and explored targeted strategies to support continued improvement.

Lake Ann Tuning Protocol – Tier 2 Intervention: Check-In/Check-Out (CICO)

The team reviewed the Check-In/Check-Out (CICO) program, a Tier 2 behavior intervention. Its effectiveness is reduced when data is inconsistent or not tracked, often due to a lack of shared process among staff. The group discussed ideas to strengthen data collection and improve the consistency of implementation.

Math Committee Update

The Math Committee continues its review of elementary math curricula. To date, five programs have been presented, including *Math Expressions*. The committee remains focused on gathering staff feedback and evaluating each option to determine the most effective solution for our district.

Middle School Tuning Protocol – MTSS & Tiered Behavioral Supports

The team discussed how to best monitor student progress and group students flexibly

within the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). A key focus was on ensuring interventions are effective and measurable.

As part of this protocol, the team reviewed a newly introduced Reflection Form. This tool encourages students to reflect on behavioral infractions and outline a plan for successfully returning to class. It supports student accountability and smoother transitions back to learning.

The team also analyzed data from Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavioral seminars:

- Tier 2: Lovey (Grades 7–8, 25 students) and Burtch (Grade 6, 17 students)
- Tier 3: Izzy (10 students)

The data showed notable improvement from Quarter 2 to Quarter 3 in student grades, as well as decreases in both in-school (ISS) and out-of-school suspensions (OSS).

Elementary Handbook Review

Minor revisions for the 2026 edition of the Elementary Handbook were reviewed and discussed.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Sophie McLaren – Sophie shared that student council hasn't been since before spring break due to Test Fest. The Student Council is networking with local businesses to provide lunch/snacks or gift baskets for teacher appreciation week. Sophie recommended Piper Barnard for our 2025/26 Student Council Board of Education Representative.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth** – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the NMSLA group is working with leaders at the state level to help expedite days of forgiveness by districts hit with severe weather this year. A budget update was also shared showing a downward trend in the state budget and school aid budget, with a big impact coming from the auto industry. We are not receiving consistent information on budget forecasting and potential school aid budgets for next year. The May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference will be held on May 16. School leaders hope more solid information will be available to help plan for the 2025-2026 school year.
- B. **Eagle Scout Project** – Mia Jones-Tabora - Benzie Central Junior, Mia Jones-Tabora spoke on working toward her Eagle Scout Project. Mia wants to create teaching kits with insect specimens and booklets for our

elementary students on the Aquatic Life of Insects and their importance to our Michigan Great Lakes Water Quality.

- C. Two Benzie Electoral Designated Representatives – Northwest Ed., ISD -Biennial Election – June 2, 2025 - Every 2 years we have to select a board of education member and an alternate to be approved by the Board of Education to cast Benzie's vote for the ISD Board. The member and alternate appointed must be available to cast the Benzie vote on June 2 at the ISD office. Next month, the Board of Education will decide on which candidates our Board member will vote on in the ISD election. The slate of candidates will be solidified on May 5th. There are currently 3 open seats.**
- D. Website Platform Update – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman - Catina has contacted FoxBright the potential to update/rebuild our website platform. This is partly due to ADA requirements and to make our page more user-friendly. There is a one-time cost to design and set up the site for \$4999. There is an annual fee of \$2699. Questions considered are time of rebuild, training, and support. This is still in the planning stages. The district currently uses WordPress.**
- E. ESS Midwest, Inc. – Addendum to Extend Agreement – July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 - This is a renewal of our current contract with Willsbub for substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians and coaches.**
- F. MS/HS Athletic Update – Athletic Director, Eli Harris – Mr. Harris shared a 2025 Winter Sports Update.**

Participation:

High School

SPORT	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
BASKETBALL	24	15	39
WRESTLING	13	1	14
BOWLING	12	0	12
SKIING	0	3	3
TOTAL	49	19	68

Currently, there are 275 students enrolled in the high school. Out of the 68 athletes, 1 was an Academy student. This indicates that 25% of our high school student body and 1% of the Academy (91) were involved in athletics for the Winter sports season.

Middle School

SPORT	BOY S	GIRL S	TOTA L
BASKETBALL	23	20	43
WRESTLING	12	3	15
COMPETITIVE CHEER	0	0	0
TOTAL	35	23	58

Currently, there are 235 students enrolled in the middle school. Out of the 58 athletes, 0 are Academy students. This indicates that 25% of our middle school student body and 0% of the Academy (8) were involved in athletics for the fall sports season.

Athletic Director Harris shared the following [Winter Awards Recognition.](#)

G. Resignations:

- Josh Lovendusky – Head Varsity Wrestling Coach

H. Retirements:

- NONE

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

1. **Bond Project Update –** President Childs shared that we received bids back on site work. We had two bids that covered the scope of the projects and 3 others that bid on some of the sites. AJ's Excavating was the low bidder for the scope of work with a bid of One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Six-Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$158,624.00). We recommend that Board approve this bid.
2. **Construction Updates –** President Childs shared that drawings are being sent to the State for approval. The scope of this work includes bathroom flooring at BV, flooring at MS, lockers at BV, LA, MS/HS, doors and windows at LA, and doors at BV and MS/HS. The mechanical drawings for LA /MS and bathroom projects at BV will be going out soon. Bids for the next round of projects are expected to be received by 4/18. A special Board Meeting will be held at 7:30 am on April 30 for approval of the next round of bids. Betsie Valley's kitchen remodel will be postponed until next summer so we have time to complete the drawings, receive state approval, and get bids on the project.
3. **Building and Grounds Modification Requests –** There is one modification request pending paperwork.

B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth - NONE

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Matt Smith– Matt shared the following:

Linq Refund Negotiations

We recently received a revised refund offer from Linq in the amount of \$32,000, up from their original offer of \$13,200. While this is progress, we still feel it falls short as the district paid more than \$80,000. Danielle completed a rough estimate of Linq's expenses based on meeting time and staffing assumptions, and we've requested a refund for a little more than \$66,000. As part of their revised offer, Linq also asked that we withdraw our complaint to the Better Business Bureau—something we're still evaluating as discussions continue.

Budget Amendment

Danielle has begun work on our next budget amendment, expected in May. Revenues are currently trending ahead of budget, but a detailed review of expenses is still pending.

Federal Funding & Health Department Support

There is still a high level of uncertainty regarding future federal funding. So far, we haven't seen any direct impact and continue to spend down remaining funds from last year without issue. That said, the health department recently notified us that they lost funding for the nurse position serving Betsie Valley and Lake Ann. The nurse position covering the Middle School, High School, and Homestead Hills remains unaffected.

We'll continue to monitor all of these developments and keep the board updated.

D. Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana - Sue shared that the next meeting is on Monday, April 21 at 6:00 PM.

E. Liaison Committee–Board of Education President, Brian Childs– Mr. Childs shared that they discussed every building having their building rep. and admin. meet every month to ensure they are communicating issues with the building administrator. A request was made to share the dates of these scheduled meetings and notes of what was discussed. If issues are not addressed at the building level, the Liaison team will bring it to the superintendent. Union members are also sharing admin evaluations with administrators. Teachers want to help with growing student enrollment. A suggestion was made for a communications director. Reps. also acknowledged that teachers appreciate being part of the interview team for new hires.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that they have met twice with the custodial group, hoping to conclude with one more session. So far, they have worked on contract language changes.

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – NONE

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 the district wide enrollment summary broken down by school and grade level as of April 14, 2025. The district currently rests at 1245. This number includes our Early Childhood Population of 98, as well as our 24 Infant-Toddler slots. Overall, enrollment is down. If you subtract early childhood, infant toddlers, standalones, mid-year graduates, and homeschool CTC students, our current enrollment is 1,110. In addition, Catina shared an exit-out v. transfer-in report, which tracks students both withdrawing and enrolling.

Action Topics:

24-25-092 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Two Benzie Electoral Designated Representatives Resolution for the June 2, 2025 Northwest Ed. Biennial Election; Gregory Kempton, Sue Campana, alternate.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-093 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Gillison to table the new website platform.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-094 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith approve the ESS Midwest, Inc. – Addendum to Extend Agreement – July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-095 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve bids for site work - A.J.'s Excavating; include concrete and asphalt.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

24-25-096 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Gillison to approve the Superintendent Evaluation.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication:

- **NONE**

Announcements:

1. **Special Board of Education Meeting – April 30, 2025 – 7:30 AM**
2. **Regular Board of Education Meeting – May 12, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

24-25-097` It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to adjourn the regular meeting 8:32 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that April 14, 2025 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on May 12, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,



Catina M. Crossman

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Board of Education Administrative Assistant

Schools of Choice Coordinator

Pupil Accounting Specialist

Director of Communications

Benzie County Central Schools

Go Huskies!