

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, May 12, 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

Members Absent: Sophie McLaren (non-voting member)

24-25-102 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Gillison 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.

24-25-103 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: April 14, 2025 – Regular | April 30, 2025 Special

B. Business: General Fund Bills –\$743,470.77

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Myia White – Secondary Physical Education Teacher-2025/26
- Brian Lark – Head Varsity Football Coach
- Michael Hammar – Secondary Math Teacher – 2025/26

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- NONE

E. Leave of Absence:

- Lori Helms – FMLA – April 28, 2025 – June 12, 2025

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

Welcome New Head Varsity Football Coach, Brian Lark.

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

At the high school level, the DIT reviewed the work of the Behavioral Team, which has been meeting regularly and collecting significant data. They've identified the most at-risk students using academic, attendance, and behavioral indicators. Current interventions include parent calls, counselor and seminar check-ins. The group is now looking ahead and seeking additional intervention strategies for the next school year.

At Betsie Valley, the group discussed lesson planning using the district's Lesson Plan Rubric. A common gap was noted—many plans are missing a description of how teachers will support students who either didn't learn the intended lesson or who surpassed it. A conversation followed about how to better involve staff in addressing this area.

At Homestead Hills, the team reviewed the upcoming rollout of the Husky Den behavior support system. A staff video was created to support the launch. iReady growth data for math and reading was also reviewed, broken down by grade level and domain. The group discussed what data should be brought back to building teams to support further analysis and instructional planning.

The Literacy Committee shared that they would like to continue using CKLA, transitioning to edition 3 beginning in Fall 2025. With the passing of Michigan's new Dyslexia legislation, districts are required to have a state-approved curriculum in place by January 2026. The group is gathering more information on cost and available grant funding to support this transition.

Handbook revisions for the elementary, middle school, high school, and academy were discussed, with minor updates proposed. These revisions are scheduled to be presented to the board for approval later this evening.

Lunch recess behavior at Lake Ann was a focus of one tuning protocol. Referral data showed that 43% of student referrals occurred between 11:45 AM and 1:30 PM, with the majority happening on the playground. Physical aggression was the most common infraction. The group is now considering strategies to better support students during these transitions.

Professional development planning for the 2025–26 school year is underway. The DIT is identifying which primary topics need continued focus, deeper implementation, or new

rollout. These include Restorative Practices, RCD, and training needs in iReady, and the Science of Reading for PreK–8.

At the middle school level, a staff review was conducted to identify individual strengths, leadership roles, and opportunities for growth. This information, along with student data, is being used to help align future staff development efforts with both building and district needs.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Sophie McLaren – Sophie was not in attendance. Student Council Advisor, Kirsten Cline shared that both she and Sophie recommend Piper Barnard to be the 2025/26 Student Council Board of Education Representative. Teacher Appreciation Week was successful. Homecoming 2025 will be held on September 26, with the football game on the 27. Elections are currently taking place for the 2025/26 school year.

Administration Report:

- A. NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that Senator Cam Cavitt shared an update on potential education appropriations for next school year. The Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference will be held on Friday, May 16. Current projections on State revenue have gone down since January's Estimating Conference. Economists are not feeling confident in forecasting the budget due to budget unknowns at the Federal level, potential impacts of tariffs, and the potential of diverting gas tax away from school aid to road infrastructure. Current estimates show the ability to back fill gas tax revenue to school aid budget by taking funds from the general fund. The upcoming State budget includes one-time funding and may not be sustainable. With all of this uncertainty, it appears we will not have an official budget for school aid by the end of June. The House unanimously passed the days and hours relief bill to help Northern Mi schools impacted by the ice storms. The Senate has not yet introduced this bill for a vote. The summer NMSLA Conference is being planned. Stayed tuned for more details.**
- B. Northwest Education Services – General Fund Operating Budget. The Board of Education was provided the Northwest Education Services 2025 Budget Overview (General, Special, and Vocational). A Regional Summary was provided that offers information from 2024/25 and illustrates the value of regional programs, collaboration and economics of scale in support of local public-school districts served by the ISD. The Benzie Central Report Summary offers information from 2024 and 2025 and illustrates the value of regional programs, collaboration, and economies of scale in support of Benzie County Central Schools.**
- C. Northwest Education Services – Candidate Ballot Selection - The Board of Education is to recommend the designation of electoral representative to adopt**

the Resolution Designating District's Electoral Representative. The Board of Education recommended Board Representative Gregory Kempton, and alternate, Sue Campana at their regular April 14, 2025 meeting. The board will take official action on the Resolution Designating District's Electoral Representative this evening. There are three open seats and three candidates filed:

- Rachael Birgy – Kalkaska
- Burt Thompson – Mancelona
- Rick Schmitt – Frankfort- Elberta

The official vote will take place at the Biennial Election of the Board of Education of Northwest Services, Traverse City, Michigan - June 2, 2025 5:30 PM.

- D. Early Childhood Update and Handbook Update – Early Childhood Coordinator, Melinda Coger – Melinda shared the handbook update as well as the success of the program. The summer program is currently full at a 100, and full programs in the fall.
- E. Elementary Handbook Update – Lake Ann Principal, Sharyl Corey – Sharyl shared the Elementary Handbook Updates.
- F. Middle School Handbook Update – Principal, Alex Byland – Mr. Byland shared the Middle School Handbook Updates.
- G. High School Handbook Update – Principal, Cheryl Smith – Mrs. Smith shared the High School Handbook Updates.
- H. Chartwells Food Service Update – Director of Food Service, Lisa Purchase – Lisa shared what's going on within her department and [beyond breakfast and lunch.](#)
- I. Chartwells K-12 Food Service Renewal – 1 Year – This is a year 2 renewal. The administrative costs increased from 0.0972 to 0.1002 per meal. These rates are non-negotiable on renewal years.
- J. Roadmaster Driving School, LLC - Superintendent Erfourth shared that this is a contract renewal. Ron is looking to renew his contract to lease space for the Roadmaster Driving school. He will provide \$3/student as reimbursement.
- K. Budget Amendment #2 -Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak - With the continuation of adjustments following the ending of Covid dollars and the lack of per pupil increase at the State, the budget is still a negative budget resulting in a decrease of the fund balance to an estimated 29% at the end of the fiscal year. There are corresponding increases to both revenues and expenditures, as local grant applications were approved and received, resulting in the increased expenses as well as the impact of the delayed settling of union contracts and the associated budgetary implications. In an effort to wisely manage District funds,

there have been significant investments in MILAF accounts for the General Fund (\$5 million,) Sinking Fund (\$3 million), and Debt Funds (\$1.2 million) to generate significantly more interest than provided by standard savings accounts. Adjustments and evaluation of need versus want and cost to benefit will continue to bring the District expenses back within the per pupil allocation allowing for sustainability and responsible management of District Funds.

L. Resignations:

- NONE

M. Retirements:

- NONE

Board of Education/Committee Reports –

A. Buildings and Grounds Committee –

1. **Bond Project Update –** President Childs shared that the Building and Grounds Committee met with Dan Tryles from Kingscott. Two more bid packets went out for the Betsie Valley Canopy and Betsie Valley Bathroom Remodels. Lockers may not happen this summer. The Betsie Valley kitchen remodel will take place summer 2026.
2. **Construction Updates –** No Update.
3. **Building and Grounds Modification Requests –** No Update.

B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth - NONE

C. Finance Committee –Board of Education Treasurer, Matt Smith– Matt shared the following: No Update.

D. Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana -

Amiee Erfourth shared the following updates on the Bond Projects and upcoming sinking fund projects.

- Bus garage door modification is completed.
 - Site work bids for summer work are being approved.
 - BV- bathrooms, sidewalks, front canopy
 - LA- mechanical/temperature controls, sidewalk
 - MS/HS- flooring, temperature controls
 - We are also bidding out locker replacement for BV, LA, MS/HS. This work may take place over winter break and next summer.
- Betsie Valley Kitchen remodel will happen during the Summer of 2026.

Advisory members discussed the merits of proposed Report Cards and Quarter

- [Sample](#)
- Prefer the detailed sample of each the kindergarten and 3rd grade report cards because they explain in more detail so parents can support at home

- The Success Skills section is great and parents would like to know how their child is doing. Maybe move it to the top of the report card.
- Maybe remove SEL and keep Success Skills
- Comments are Parent preference, even one sentence is nice to know what the teacher thinks and hearing something good about their children.
- No spring conferences and the comments are helpful so you know how the child is doing.
- Reading level is important on report cards
- Effort/Participation and overall performance
- Shading out any category not taught that marking period.
- Preference for detailed versions.

Accelerated Learning Pathways (Honors Program)

- Slide show
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LfwUGzpaXB85Ke4ogSzGdGeOuJWK6GJyP8G2f4v_8Pw/edit?slide=id.p#slide=id.p
- Cheryl Smith shared the change from Honors to Accelerated Learning
 We were excited about what we saw and heard.

Calendar for the 2025-2026/Survey Results

- Survey: <https://forms.gle/1Tqz2ysAfcUvZS>
- There were 23 responses from the parent survey
- Discussed PD offerings

Round Table discussion:

- Lake Ann will be hosting a big fundraiser at Lake Ann Brewing April 22nd at 5:00 p.m. silent auction stops around 7:30. read-a-thon goal was \$8,500 but they raised \$13,000. Kindergarten Roundup took place. The last day of school will be June 12th. Amiee shared that our three snow days were forgiven
- Betsie Valley will be dedicating its new playground and fencing on May 9th. All are welcome
- Early Childhood- an early childhood fair was hosted on April 12th with over 200 people in attendance which is up from 100 last year.
- High School- senior walk was held on April 9th and each of the Elementary's. all were very welcomed.

E. Liaison Committee–Board of Education President, Brian Childs– Mr. Childs shared that staff and administration issues were worked through during a joint meeting.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that they have reached a tentative agreement.

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 May 12, 2025. The district currently rests at 1240. 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 1,105. In addition, Catina shared an exit-out v. transfer-in report, which tracks students both withdrawing and enrolling.

Action Topics:

24-25-104 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Model Resolution – Local District Vote -Northwest Education Services – General Fund Operating Budget.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-105 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Model Resolution Northwest Education Services Designating District's Electoral Body Representative and First Ballot Candidate Choice – Candidate Ballot Selection; Rachael Birgy – Kalkaska, Burt Thompson - Mancelona, and Rick Schmitt – Frankfort-Elberta.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-106 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Chartwells K-12 Food Service Renewal – 1 Year.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-107 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the Roadmaster Driving School, LLC Annual Renewal.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-108 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Gillison to approve the Budget Amendment #2.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

24-25-109 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Kempton to approve the Tentative Custodial Agreement.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication:

- **NONE**

Announcements:

- 1. Special Board Meeting – May 21, 2025 – 7:30 AM**
- 2. Seniors Last Day- Senior BBQ – May 22, 2025**
- 3. Seniors Awards Night – May 22, 2025 – 7:00 PM**
- 4. Seniors Awards Ceremony- CTC – May 27, 2025 -6:30 PM**
- 5. Senior Breakfast – Rehearsal – May 30, 2025**
- 6. Commencement – June 1, 2025 – 3:00 PM**
- 7. Regular Meeting – June 9, 2025 – 7:00 PM**
- 8. Board Retreat – June 23, 2025 – 4:00 PM**
- 9. Budget Review – June 23, 2025 – 6:30 PM**
- 10. Budget Hearing – June 23, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

24-25-110` It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 9:47 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that May 12, 2025 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on June 9, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catina M. Crossman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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!