

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, June 9, 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, Piper Barnard (non-voting member)

Members Absent: NONE

24-25-111 It was moved by Mr. Barnard 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.

24-25-112 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: May 12, 2025 – Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills –\$1,019,821.22

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Jim Thompson – Head Varsity Wrestling Coach
- Corrine Chandler – Elementary Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary
- Rich Mobley – Assistant Varsity Football Coach

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Meghan Carra – Elementary Teacher Homestead Hills Elementary to Title I Teacher Homestead Hills Elementary
- Richard Fischbach - .2 Secondary Math Teacher -.6 Technology Non-Union

E. Leave of Absence:

- Allison Pfeuffer – FMLA-August 26, 2025 through January 5, 2026

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**

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

Math Curriculum Review:

- Continued progress on gathering pricing and implementation details for Semester 2 of Math Expressions and potential iReady Classroom pilot.

Literacy Committee:

- The committee has decided they'd like to move forward with CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) Version 3. They are reviewing both 3-year and 6-year contract options.

BV Tuning Protocol:

- The team reviewed preliminary iReady domain data to identify instructional priorities for summer programming and the start of the 2025–26 school year.
- Noted trend: while many students are showing growth, those who are furthest behind are experiencing the least progress.
- Discussion centered on strategies to identify and support these students more effectively.

HH Tuning Protocol:

- Investigated the relationship between attendance and iReady growth in both math and reading from fall to spring.
- A scatter plot was developed to illustrate the correlation between student absences and academic growth.

- **Action items include:**
 - **Sharing this information with families at fall open houses.**
 - **Increasing communication around the importance of attendance via newsletters.**
 - **Continued outreach to parents to support consistent school attendance.**

PD (Professional Development) Planning:

- **Began drafting the 25–26 PD calendar, including identifying stakeholder groups necessary for training sessions.**

HS Tuning Protocol:

- **Focused on student engagement with surveys and their connection to SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) content taught in seminar.**
- **The team analyzed SEL data across three intervals (fall, winter, spring), specifically examining survey items scoring below 80%.**
- **Discussion centered on how to authentically embed SEL lessons into core classroom instruction to improve outcomes.**

Benzie Academy Handbook:

- **Initial review of proposed updates to the Academy Handbook to reflect changes for the 2025–26 school year.**

General Supervision Model:

- **Reflected on the implementation of the General Supervision Model this past year.**

- Discussed proposed adjustments and areas of focus for 2025–26 to enhance oversight and student support.

SEL Web Data Review:

- A comprehensive review of elementary SEL Web data was conducted.
- The team is using this data to identify patterns across schools and guide future SEL instruction and interventions.

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard – Piper shared there is not much activity given the year end. Meetings will resume in the fall. Most National Honor Society members have completed their service hours, and have been reminded that any service hours served over the summer will count toward Fall 2025.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth** – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: Special guest, Representative Mike Hoadley from the 99th District, attended the NMSLA meeting. House Bill 4345, the bill that waived days/hours for schools impacted by the ice storm, was signed. A budget update was shared including the House proposal to move to \$12,000/pupil but eliminates all categorical funds. There are many unknowns related to the School Aid Budget and NMSLA is predicting we may not have a budget approved at the state level by July 1 and may not even have one approved by the end of summer. An update was also given about the recent Detroit Chamber Review and Mayor Duggan's speech about K-12 accountability. He is planning to run for Governor as an independent. Former Gov. Snyder has also pledge financial support to improve K-12 accountability. A new Senate Bill 315 is being proposed to change sinking fund language to allow for schools to use mileages to help fund staff housing. This type of bill currently exists in other states.

B. Budget Amendment #3 – Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak -

The purpose of a yearend budget amendment is to align projected expenditures with actual costs and comply with State and Board reporting requirements. Major budget adjustments for FY25 were the updated state aid based on pupil count, property tax adjustments due to abated taxes and chargebacks. There have not been significant adjustments to local grants since the last amendment. Total revenues for FY25 are \$18,456,522. Expenditures are anticipated to be close to projections from Amendment 2, with expenditures anticipated to be \$20,008,562.

Expenditures exceed revenues at \$1,574,489, with a negative budget impacting the fund balance.

Expenditures were broken down as follows:

60.5% Instruction
 14.6% Support Services
 12.21% Operations/Maintenance
 6.76% Transportation
 2.45% Athletics
 3.46% Capital Outlay/Other

The ending fund balance is expected to be 26%: \$4,742,128 of which approximately 67% will be held to meet payroll until State Aid payments resume, eliminating the need for a State Aid Note to bridge the gap between State Aid payments.

The remaining will be used to pay operating expenses and held in reserve for future use.

The FY25 Final Budget Amendment is respectfully submitted for Board Approval.

C. 2025/26 Non-Union Contracts – Non-Union Contracts up for renewal.

D. Twisted Trails of Road Park Renewal - This is a renewal to use the School Forest Property in Copemish for the cost of \$10,000.

E. MHSAA Membership Resolution - *for Year August 1, 2025 through July 21, 2026.*
 This is our annual membership renewal.

F. District Website Platform Update – Foxbright- Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Catina share that she has met with Foxbright representatives and would like to now move forward with this platform. She also learned that our rep for the platform lives just down the road from the school. Catina and Sara have agreed to get the training to navigate the new platform. The set-up cost is \$4,999 and the annual hosting cost is \$2,699. Password protected pages cost \$299 for one-time fee and yearly fee of \$299. The plan is to complete the website platform in 8 weeks. In addition, there is ADA Compliance and Reporting training.

G. ELA CKLA 3rd Ed. Curriculum Presentations – Principal, Sharyl Corey, Kim Gramzow and Amy Jass – Transitioning to 3rd Edition of CKLA - We are currently using CKLA version 2. We are requesting to move to CKLA version 3. This is currently the top-rated reading program in Michigan. We plan to apply for the 35m grant which could provide us about \$30,000 to purchase the program and about \$44/pupil on top of the \$30,000. We are suggesting the 3-year agreement at the cost of \$144,698.

H. Benzie Academy Handbook Update – Superintendent Erfourth shared the Benzie Academy Handbook Updates.

I. Resignations:

- **Brian Parent – Band Director – Effective June 13, 2025**

J. Retirements:

- **NONE**

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

- 1. Sinking Fund Update – Mechanical Bids** closed on Friday. This was after an extension was given. We had 5 companies look at the project and 3 said they would turn in bids. D & W and Hurst Mechanical were the only bidders that submitted a bid. Moore Mechanical both said they would be sending a bid. It has not been submitted yet. The bids received include Air N Energy and test and balance. D & W \$313,790.00 (this includes a \$2200 deduct for a change in pump), Hurst \$239,800.00. Doug Radtke, from Nealis Engineering, shared the attached recommendation award go to Hurst Mechanical.
Twin Bay- They have provided us a bid to replace aluminum doors at the MS gym, MS hallway to the playground, HS science hall, HS English hall, and BV gym doors. These doors will take 16 weeks to arrive and they plan to complete the work in October. Current contract bid is \$177,657 (but they need to subtract the cost of the BV door which is in this figure). Dan Tryles is going to send me the final amount once he has confirmed with Twin Bay.
- 2. Construction Updates – No Update**
- 3. Building and Grounds Modification Requests – President Childs** shared there would be later discussion on the baseball pole barn.

- B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth** shared that we would be having a policy committee in June for the July 2025 July Policy Updates.

- 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 –**

Parent representatives discussed the possibility of renewing our sinking fund or changing the sinking fund language to include transportation in future sinking fund proposals. Many suggestions were offered to help communicate the message to the community including thanking them for the bond/millage approvals in the past, sharing photos with cost associated for each project, providing updates about what the state covers for infrastructure, and breaking down costs associated with transportation and managing infrastructure. Updates from each building were also shared.

- a. Betsie Valley- Staff** feel more supported, staff seem more calm, cool, collected.

Communication is better but sometimes sporadic. PD offerings based on feedback from the community. Stories that heal were great. School year is wrapping up in a good way. Carnival was very successful. Staff did a great job getting donations. Lots of people from neighboring communities attended the carnival.

Homestead Hills- Color Run fundraiser tomorrow. Students are running laps throughout the week. The class that runs the most laps and raises the most money earns prizes. Celebration of student learning is June 10th. Each class is doing a presentation.

c. Lake Ann- Big carnival tomorrow. Silent auction and 50/50 was held in April. Each class will auction off their crafts. There will be a dunk tank at the carnival. All staff are helping with the carnival. Suggestions were offered on how to help support student behavior needs like somatic exercises, Norte, or connecting with mentors.

d. Early Childhood- GSRP are holding their conferences as the year wraps up. Very impressed with the curriculum and growth parents are seeing with kids.

e. Academy/MS/HS- 8th grade Honors ELA trips went to Archangel Ancient Tree Project, CBS Solar, Cognition, and microbit. These students became the leaders of the groups when the whole 8th grade went. The Spring Band concert for MS and HS was phenomenal. Continuing to work on culture in the offices. The MS awards ceremony is on June 5th.

E. Liaison – Childs –Mr. Childs shared an update from the Liaison meeting. Continued communications between staff and administrators have helped improve efficiency and relationships. More communication and speaking directly to people staff have concerns with will help avoid scapegoats and resolve conflicts in a more expeditious manner.

F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared that the Paraprofessionals Bargaining Unit has met a few times and are working toward an 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 – No Update.

Action Topics:

24-25-113 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mr. Kempton to approve Budget Amendment #3.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-114 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the 2025/26 Non-Union Contracts.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-115 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Early Childhood Handbook.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-116 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Middle School Handbook.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-117 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Gillison to approve the High School Handbook.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-118 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Benzie Academy Handbook.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-119 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Twisted Trails Off Road Park Renewal.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-120 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the MHSAA 2025/26 Membership Resolution.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-121 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the District Website Platform Update – Foxbright.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-122 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Barnard to approve the Mechanical Bid; Hurst Mechanical - \$239,800.00

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0** **Motion Carried**

24-25-123 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the 2-25-2028 Custodial Contract.

Ayes: 7 **Nays: 0**

24-25-124 It was moved by Mrs. Gillison and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Twin Bay Glass Door Contract, not to exceed \$177,657.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication:

- **NONE**

Announcements:

- 1. June 12, 2025 – Last Day of School -Early Release**
- 2. June 23, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting**
 - **Board Retreat – 4:00 PM**
 - **Budget Review – 6:30 PM**
 - **Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM**
- 3. July 14, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM**

24-25-125 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mr. Smith to adjourn the regular meeting 9:32 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that June 9, 2025 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on July 14, 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!