

REGULAR MEETING

A Regular meeting of the Benzie County Central Board of Education was held Monday, August 11, 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, Mrs. Campana, Mr. Egeler, Mr. Childs, Mr. Smith (Tardy) 7:46 pm.

Members Absent: Mr. Kempton, Piper Barnard (non-voting member)

25-26-012 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the agenda

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.

25-26-013 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve Consent Grouping items as presented.

A. Minutes: July 14, 2025 Regular

B. Business: General Fund Bills – No Report

C. Support Staff Appointments:

- Paige Sauer – Long Term Substitute Teacher – Homestead Hills Elementary

D. Staff Assignment Changes:

- Natasha Schropp – Assistant GSRP Teacher – From Willsub to Benzie Employee
- John Marshall – 5.5 Paraprofessional to 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary

E. Leave of Absence:

- NONE

F. Recommendation for Tenure:

- Cassondra Bentley – Secondary Special Education Teacher

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 shared the following:

No Report

Student Council Report: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Piper Barnard – No Update.

Administration Report:

- A. **NMSLA – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following:** Thank you to Sue and Greg for attending the NMSLA Dinner last Thursday. We had updates on the state of Lansing and political landscape updates with the upcoming Governor Election.

- B. **Strategic Plan Update-** Brian and Lori Pearson, Alpine Education, have been meeting with me to review our plan, timeline, and rollout. We held our first meeting with members from the Parent Advisory Council. They provided input on the survey questions. I will be presenting to the Benzie Sunrise Rotary on Tuesday, August 12, Lake Ann Community Group on Wed, August 13, and the County Commissioners on Thursday, August 14. The administration team will be meeting on Friday, August 22 for their session and to review the plan for opening day survey collection. We plan to include the survey in all of the packets that we send home at the beginning of the year. We will have paper copies and a QR code for electronic surveys. We hope to close the survey collection on Monday, September 15 to allow time for Brian and Lori to compile the data.

- C. **Buildings, Grounds, and Operations Update – Director of Operations, Mike Zielinski – Mr. Zielinski shared the following update:**
[Bond and Sinking Fund Projects](#)
 The PowerPoint contains the bond/sinking fund work that has been completed, upcoming projects, and future needs/sinking fund projects should we seek a sinking fund renewal.

- D. **Sex Education Advisory Council – Danielle Gray – Danielle shared that the council met in June and will meet twice over the course of the 2025/26 school year. Our application process is open now and there are currently (14) candidates on that have applied. Puberty Lessons will be taught twice a year in 5th grade with an initial abbreviated lesson in the fall and full lesson in the spring.**

E. Resignations:

- Lisa Cook – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary
- Cody Hanson – Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach
- Justin Grahn – Middle School Wrestling Coach
- Lauren Allen – Bus Driver – Transportation Department
- Theresa Edgar – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Betsie Valley Elementary
- Jenny Harris – Junior Varsity Softball Coach

F. Retirements:

- NONE

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

1. Sinking Fund/Construction Update – Electric to the track barn.
2. Bond Update – Bids: We are planning to put the following projects out for Bid following this timeline: 1. Complete bid documents on 8/28/25 2. Issue for Bid 9/1/25 3. Bid opening 9/23/25 4. Award recommendation letter 10/1/25 6. BOARD meeting is 10/13/25 (to Award Contracts) 7. Construction Summer 2026
 - Betsie Valley Elementary; Kitchen, canopy and bathrooms
 - BV, LA, MS, HS Corridor Lockers
 - Joist by Art Room Canopy
 - MS/HS Windows
3. Building and Grounds Modification Requests – No Update

B. Policy Committee – Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following policy updates:

- 4221 Employee Speech *4221- Employee Speech-* A revision was added to reference the opt-out procedure in Policy 5407.
- Policy 4221 does not contain any fields of customization, and can therefore replace the previous version of that policy with no editing required other than adding a new date to the “Date Revised” section at the bottom of the policy.
- 5407 Instructional Program and Curriculum Development *5407- Instructional Materials-* Clarified opt-out procedure in light of U.S. Supreme Court case *Mahmoud v Taylor*. This policy has options to choose from. Previously the Board elected to have a section on complaints (B), they wanted a third level (appeal) review by the Superintendent. They also selected the option about library materials including a superintendent review. Essentially, this means that we have already selected our options and the updates to the policy are legal changes due to the case listed above.
 - 5407-F Instructional Materials Opt-Out Form *5407-F Instructional Materials Opt-Out Form-* New template opt-out form.

- 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 – No Update.
- E. Liaison – Childs – No Update
- F. Negotiations – Superintendent Erfourth shared the 2025-2028 Paraprofessional Contract - We are looking for approval of the contract this evening.

Audience Participation (Agenda Items Only) – Danielle Gray – 4281 Hulbert Rd., Interlochen – Danielle inquired about SWP Funding and the risk of it being cut from the Health Department. She asked the Board of Education if it was feasible to budget for the nurse's role.

Discussion Topics:

- A. Current District Enrollment Summary Review – Exit Out v. Transfer In – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman – Catina shared that fall enrollment for the 2025/26 school years begins on August 18. Thus far, we have had several Suttons Bay Virtual School of Choice Applications.**
- B. Foxbright Website Update – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Catina Crossman – Catina shared an update and soft opening of the new website platform. It is early in the planning stages, but coming together nicely. Catina is hoping to have the website launched by September or October of 2026.**

Action Topics:

25-26-014 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Betsie Valley Elementary; Kitchen, canopy and bathrooms.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

25-26-015 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Egeler to approve the BV, LA, MS, HS Corridor Lockers.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

25-26-016 It was moved by Mr. Egeler and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the Joist by Art Room Canopy.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

25-26-017 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mrs. Gillison to approve the MS/HS Windows.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

25-26-018 It was moved by Mr. Smith and supported by Mrs. Campana to approve the following policy updates:

- ***4221 Employee Speech***
- ***5407 Instructional Program and Curriculum Development***
- ***5407-F Instructional Materials Opt-Out Form***

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

25-26-019 It was moved by Mrs. Campana and supported by Mr. Smith to approve the Paraprofessional Contract 2025-2028.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Audience Participation (Open Topics): NONE

Board Communication:

- **NONE**

Announcements:

- **Teacher/Staff Professional Development – August 26, 27, 28, 2025**
- **Open Houses – August 27, 2025**
- **Labor Day – No School -September 1, 2025**
- **First Day of School – September 2, 2025**
- **Regular Board Meeting – September 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

25-26-020 It was moved by Mr. Barnard and supported by Mrs. Campana to adjourn the regular meeting 9:23 pm.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Secretary, Board of Education

Please note that August 11, 2025 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on September 8, 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!