

BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS BOARD-O-GRAM

*A QUICK UPDATE ON THE MAY 10, 2010
BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*

- Student Council Report** Congratulations are extended to our May Student Council "Students of the Month" Parker Nugent and Ashley Birgey.
- Project Close-Up Program** Close-Up Advisor Donna Balazavic and students Ashley Stanton and Storm Somes updated the board on the recent Close-up trip to Washington, D.C. Benzie Central juniors participated in this program the week of April 18. Donna and our students highlighted the activities they participated in as well as the sights they visited. This was an excellent opportunity to participate in a "government in action" program. Students also had an opportunity to meet with elected representatives at the Capitol.
- Chicago Trip** Students Nathan Williams, Anna Grabowski and Leif Scramlin highlighted their recent junior class trip to Chicago. Benzie Central students had an opportunity to travel to Chicago on May 2-3. This program coordinated by advisor Scott Kubit allowed students to visit the Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago Institute of Art, Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium and the Sears Tower.
- Legislative Update** The Board of Education discussed a legislative update that was shared at the joint Benzie Central/ Frankfort-Elberta board workshop. Rep. Scripps commented on the current status of legislative discussions regarding the retirement bill, school aid budget, health care and Race to the Top initiative requiring local school districts to participate through a Memorandum of Understanding. Rep. Scripps was very candid with the board openly recommending that school boards plan for an additional \$268 per pupil cut and not to be optimistic that the state aid budget would be completed by July 1.
- 10-11 TBAISD General Fund Budget** The Board of Education formally adopted the TBAISD General Fund Operating Budget for 10-11. TBA operates under three budgets including Special Ed., Vocational Ed. and General Ed. School boards within ISD's are required to review and approve the general fund portion of the ISD budget. The proposed 10-11 TBA General Fund revenues include \$6,688,452 and expenditures of \$7,178,542 necessitating a use of \$490,090 in fund balance.
- 3rd Party Drive Ed. Testing** The board formally approved the continuation of 3rd party driver education testing through Roadmaster Driving School, Inc. This 3rd party skills testing is required for students prior to receiving an official driver's license.
- 10-11 Budget Scenarios** The Board of Education continued discussions on the 10-11 budget scenarios with projected staffing and programs outlined. The board's budget planning process includes our next Board Budget Workshop on May 26. At the regular June 14 board meeting formal direction will be taken that will specify the reductions of program and personnel required to meet the 10-11 financial shortfalls. Benzie County Central Schools is currently working through a projected \$1,475,562 "problem". Our budget problem stems from the following:
1. Projected loss of 55 students (\$393,663)
 2. Retirement increase of 2.47 to 19.41% (\$236,715)
 3. Increased health insurance costs of 14.89% (\$218,905)
 4. BCCEA Contract: (Total = \$386,000)
(a) 1.5 Salary Increase (+\$133,000) (b) Step Increase (+\$253,000)
 5. Loss of ARRA one-time Federal Stimulus Funding (\$240,279)
- The board continues to work with the unknown status of per pupil funding. Again, Rep. Scripps indicated to plan for a total of \$583 per student reduction from last year. Our foundation grant would be calculated as follows: \$7,316 – \$165 (09-10 reduction) – \$268 (projected 10-11 reduction) – \$150 (impact of the 19.41% retirement rate) equating to \$6,733. The board will continue to fine-tune 10-11 budget scenarios working through updated information received from the May 21 State of Michigan Revenue Conference. Again, our next Board Budget Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 at 6 p.m. in the MS Computer Lab.
- BCCEA VSP Program** The Board of Education is formally offering a VSP (Voluntary Severance Program) to members of the BCCEA. This \$30,000 incentive is made available requiring a minimum of 5 teachers and maximum of 10. Plan documents have been emailed to each teacher within the BCCEA. Please do not hesitate to contact Dave if you have any questions or concerns regarding this VSP opportunity. Staff members wishing to participate in this program are encouraged to submit their VSP application prior to the June 14 school board meeting enabling both the district and Michigan Public School Retirement System to be notified in a timely manner.
- 10-11 Student Handbooks** The board reviewed and approved the 10-11 student handbooks. Modifications and revisions were made in our elementary, middle school and high school student handbooks. Building principals are coordinating the release of these revisions for printing and distribution to each student next fall.
- Appointment** The board formally accepted the recommendation to appoint Marc Rosseels to fulltime/regular bus driving status. Marc successfully completed his required probationary period. We formally welcome Marc to the Benzie Central transportation department.
-

REMINDERS:

- 5/16 Building Trades Open House, 1-4 p.m.
 - 5/19 Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., Auditorium
 - 5/24 Choral "Pops" Concert, 7 p.m., Auditorium
 - 5/27 Senior Night, 7 p.m., Auditorium
 - 6/3 Baccalaureate, 7 p.m., Auditorium
 - 6/6 Graduation, 2 p.m.
-

**◆ Our next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for
7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 14, 2010
at the Middle School Computer Lab**