

BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS BOARD-O-GRAM

A QUICK UPDATE ON THE JANUARY 11, 2010
BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Organizational Meeting The Board of Education conducted its 2010 Organizational Meeting. Doug Taylor was formally welcomed to his elected four-year term of office. The 2010 Board of Education officers were elected as follows: President-Kathy Ross; Vice-President-Mike Worden; Secretary-Pam Schneider; Treasurer-Lorraine Nordbeck. The board set the 2010 regular meeting schedule and will meet on the second Monday of each month. Please note that the February 8 meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., preceding the winter band concert at 7 p.m. All other meetings will begin at 7 p.m. The April meeting will be held at Platte River, October at Betsie Valley, November at Crystal Lake and December at Lake Ann. (See the Benzie website for the 2010 Board Meeting Schedule.) The board will continue to use its established agenda format, utilize both the Central State Bank and Honor State Bank as our named depositories and authorized signatories on funds less than \$5,000.

Student Council Report Student Council representative Taylor Nye presented an update on current student activities. The students were very appreciative to staff for their support of the Christmas luncheon. The Student Council will be focusing on preparing to open the student store, upcoming Snowcoming Dance and working on a future student exchange day with Kingsley. Congratulations to Kelsey Noah and Gus Tanner on being named the "January Students of the Month".

NHS Clothes Closet Project National Honor Society Advisor Chris Clute introduced NHS representative Rose Richman who shared the current Clothes Closet project undertaken by the NHS. This unique project is located in the office area previously utilized by Liaison Officer Kyle Rosa and is an excellent opportunity and example of students helping students.

Webber Family The Webber Family was formally recognized by the board for their recent donation of jackets, snow pants, mittens, hats and boots to each student at Betsie Valley Elementary. Patti Yauck introduced Cindy Helisek and Mrs. Webber who hope to expand this project in future years. Thanks go to Mrs. Yauck, Mrs. Sauer and Betsie Valley staff who worked closely with the Webber Family to coordinate this wonderful project.

MASB Board Member Recognition The Benzie Central Board of Education was recognized through the Michigan Association of School Boards Recognition program. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to our board on behalf of MASB for their commitment to our school district.

1st Half 09-10 The board conducted a second review and final reading of the proposed policy revisions and updates.

NEOLA Policies Upon review and approval, the following policies were adopted:

Policy Number	Policy Name	Description
#5136V1	Wireless Communication Devices	Rewritten policy outlining student possession and use of wireless communication devices including restrictions.
#5722	School-Sponsored Publications & Productions	Expanded the language regarding student expression of ideas and what is reasonable and appropriate.
#6320	Purchasing	Allows districts to give preference to Michigan based business in competitive bidding for school construction, supplies, materials & equipment
#6321	New School Construction, Renovation	The exemption threshold for new construction has been updated per the state statutory limit of \$20,959 and preference to use Michigan-based businesses.
#7440	Facility Security	Added extensive guidance regarding the installation and use of video surveillance & electronic monitoring systems.
#7440.01	Video Surveillance & Electronic Monitoring	New policy detailing authorization for the use of video surveillance & electronic monitoring equipment for the protection of board property and assets. Also includes maintaining the recordings for 30 days.
#7540.03	Student Network & Internet Acceptable Use & Safety	Specifically addresses technology protection measures and training requirements as a result of recent revisions to the Children's Internet Protection Act.
#7540.04	Staff Network & Internet Acceptable Use & Safety	Specific technology protection measures and training requirements. Same as above except refers to staff.
#7542	Network Access from Personally-Owned Computers and/or Other Web-Enabled Devices	New policy regarding student access to the district's network while at school.
#7543	Remote Access to the District's Network	New policy highlighting technology use and need for access to the district's network.
#7545	Electronic Communications	New policy regarding use of networking sites, instant messaging, text messaging, etc.
#8315	Information Management	Changes in the federal rules of Civil Procedures addressing electronically stored information and district obligations to preserve documents before litigation is even commenced.

2nd Quarter Budget The Board of Education continues to assess impacts of the state aid reductions. The board formally approved 2nd quarter amendments to our General Fund Budget that includes the reduction of \$-165

Amendments per student, equating to an approximate revenue loss of \$300,000 in this 09-10 school year. The board approved decreasing revenues from \$16,946,315 to \$16,766,523 for a reduction of \$179,792 and expenditures from \$16,912,715 to \$16,764,950, a reduction of \$147,765. This will necessitate the board now utilizing \$136,162 of fund balance this year, which will leave our 6/30/10 projected ending fund balance at \$1,616,688 (10.3%). As staff is well aware, the majority of the \$147,000 expenditure reductions have already occurred with line item freezes that took place in early December in preparation for the state aid loss. We appreciate all staff members understanding this most frustrating situation. Preliminary work has begun on planning for the 10-11 school year. Details from the Revenue Conference in Lansing yesterday indicate that districts should expect another \$-268 per student cut in the 10-11 year. In essence, this initial information indicates that all school districts will be impacted by the \$-165 and \$-268 that equates to approximately \$775,070 in state aid loss to Benzie Central, compounded by the loss of \$225,000 one-time stimulus dollars the district received this year. Again, this is all a result of the January 11th Revenue Conference projected 10/11 revenues. This information is needed as Governor Granholm presents the 2010-11 Budget due to be released by February 12.

Race To The Top Initiative The board formally reviewed the federal/state Race to the Top initiative and current legislation signed into law by Governor Granholm on January 4, 2010. Portions of legislation that are specifically part of the Race to the Top initiative include the following:

- HB 4787 – Failing Schools Reform that included increasing the drop-out age and the take over of lowest achieving 5% of all public schools
- HB 4788 – Public Employee Relations Act Reform including the requirement for school boards to work with bargaining units before privatizing non-instructional services, a school board must provide the existing bargaining unit the opportunity to bid and treat that bid equally to others
- HB 5596 – Alternative Teacher Certification
- SB 981 – Multi-Sectional Bill includes charter expansion, cyber schools, data driven teacher performance evaluations, merit pay, Algebra II modifications, Charter School revisions, mandatory administrator certification and tenure reform
- SB 926 – CEPI teacher ID system and “Basic Instructional Supplies” claims

Details of this legislation have been posted on staff bulletin boards. The Benzie Central Board of Education has signed the required Memorandum of Understanding and submitted it to MDE to participate in the federal Race to the Top grant initiative.

Appointments The board formally approved the appointment of Wendy Dobson to the 3 hour/day high school assistant cook position. This position includes the daily delivery of alternative ed. meals. The board also approved the appointment of Torryn Hefflefinger to the position of middle school wrestling. We welcome Wendy and Torryn to Benzie Central.

Congratulations are extended to middle school social studies teacher Lynne Keber for her successful grant award from DonorsChoose.org for her classroom project called “Where is Spell Check?”

REMINDERS:

- 1/22/10 – End of 1st Semester (1/2 Student Day – No Lunch Served)
Dismissal Times: 6th Gr.-10:20 a.m. / MS-HS-10:40 a.m. / K-5 – 11:55 a.m.
- 2/8/10 - February Board Meeting Begins at 5:30 p.m.
Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- 2/15/10 - PD Day (No Students).

◆ Our next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 8, 2010 at the Middle School.