

BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS BOARD-O-GRAM

*A QUICK UPDATE ON THE MARCH 8, 2010
BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING*

- Musical Presentation** Members from the cast of the "Sound of Music" presented highlights of the upcoming musical scheduled for March 18-19-20. Please contact the high school office to purchase advanced tickets for this year's musical production.
- Student Council Report** Congratulations to our "March Students of the Month", Andrew Worden and Molly Gillespie. We also congratulate our Class of 2010 Top Ten Seniors: Thomas Smeltzer, Valedictorian, Julian Hills, Salutatorian, Marcus Deloney, Jacquelyn Leatherman, Haley Sir, Augustus Tanner, Gail Newberg, Kelsey Noah, Jacqueline Hejl and Andrew Worden.
- Chicago Field Trip Donation** Benzie County Sheriff Rory Heckman presented a \$1,000 check to Scott Kubit for a junior class field trip to Chicago on May 2-3. The \$1,000 proceeds from the Benzie Kids Fund will assist in offsetting the per student costs for this event.
- Crystal Lake Preschool Request** Jon Zickert, President of the Crystal Lake Co-op Preschool, presented an overview of this early childhood program. The preschool partners with the Board of Education and is authorized the use of a room at Crystal Lake Elementary to conduct this program led by lead teacher Bianca McLaren. The Crystal Lake Co-op Preschool is assessed fees for maintenance and utilities. This program has been successful in the transition of preschool students into our kindergarten program.
- SEEDS Program** Josh Stoltz and Sarah Cook presented an update on the SEEDS program and opportunities provided to our students throughout the district in this after-school program.
- Administrator Contract Extensions** Administrator contracts were reviewed by the Board of Education. The principal contracts will be honored through June 30, 2011. Upon expiration of the contracts, section 7 is expected to be modified to incorporate appropriate and applicable layoff language.
- 10/11 Budget Shortfalls/ Impact** A PowerPoint presentation was made regarding options for consideration to resolve what is projected to be a very severe economic shortfall in the 10-11 school year. An overview of the issues indicate that Benzie Central is projecting an estimated \$1,185,000 budget shortfall and will be compounded by another \$478,000 if the Governor's budget is not reacted to, which will equate to an estimated problem of \$1,600,000. The Governor's proposal calls for a change in the sales tax from 6% to 5.5% and assessing sales tax on all items including services such as haircuts, golf, skiing, etc.
- The board reviewed potential calendar options, an early retirement incentive and compensation considerations for 10-11. The board reviewed a unique statute in the law that only allows school districts to adjust their school calendar this year requiring districts to offer the same amount of days beginning in 10-11 as offered in 09-10. Benzie County Central Schools has offered 177 student days and 183 teacher workdays. Scenarios were shared that included adding 16 minutes to each school day commencing April 6 through Friday, June 11, for a reduction of three student days and a discussion on elementary teachers covering 15 minutes of recess that would allow for an additional reduction of two days. (A unique portion of the law, be it right or wrong, allows the 15 minute recess to be counted as instructional time if a certified teacher is supervising on the playground.) The potential calendar change then allows for a reduction of five days, from 177 to 172 days. The per day cost savings equates to \$7,723 generated from support staff and diesel fuel savings.
- The board also discussed offering an early retirement incentive to members of the BCCEA. The parameters include a minimum of five participants for a \$35,000 payment and if seven participate, a \$45,000 payment. The program would be capped at 10 participants and to be eligible must be on Step 10 or greater.
- The board also reviewed the cost savings that would be generated if all members of the BCCEA received the same compensation in 10-11 as in 09-10. This projected savings would equate to \$386,659. This discussion focused on all three components of the triangle to be in place in order to proceed. The specific problem equates to \$1,086,000 and the savings generated by all three components equates to a projected savings of \$444,300 from the ERI, \$38,619 from the calendar adjustments and \$386,659 from the compensation calculation for a total of \$869,578. Again, this opportunity would allow for significant savings towards our projected shortfall, however, it must be emphasized that no matter what plans are put in place there can be no guarantee regarding employee layoffs or reductions in programs. Our enrollment review will determine 10-11 staffing levels. The Board of Education has authorized this conversation to be formally shared with the BCCEA. Again, the BCCEA contract expires 8/31/11 and there is no obligation to respond to the cost saving scenarios presented Monday evening.
- Lake Ann Recycling** The Board of Education formally approved the Lake Ann cardboard recycling program. This partnership with Benzie County will enable us to establish a recycling site similar to Betsie Valley and the high school campus.
- Long-Term Sub Request** The Board formally denied the request of Crystal Milne to serve in a long term substitute capacity while still remaining on a leave of absence from her Crystal Lake teaching position.

Appointments The board formally approved the following spring coaching assignments as follows: Baseball-John Judge (Head), Joe Johnson (JV); Softball-Mark Wassa (Head), Amy Johannson(JV); Girls Soccer-Scott Kubit; Golf-Daryl Bluhm; MS Track-Raquel Huddleston (Head), Dale Jeske & Corey Bechler (Assistants), and pending approval of a Letter Agreement with the BCCEA regarding Schedule B compensation, also appoint track coaches including Asa Kelly (Head), Eli Harris, Mark Blazejewski and Traci Kelly (Assistants).

REMINDERS:

- **3/14** **Daylight Savings Begins** (Remember to set your clocks back one hour this Saturday night.)
 - **3/18-19-20** **HS Musical, "The Sound of Music", 7 p.m.**
 - **3/22-25** **Kindergarten Round-ups:**
 - March 22-Lake Ann**
 - March 23-Platte River**
 - March 24-Betsie Valley;**
 - March 25-Crystal Lake**
 - **3/27-4/5** **Spring Recess**
 - **4/6** **School Resumes**
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◆ Our next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2010 at Platte River Elementary