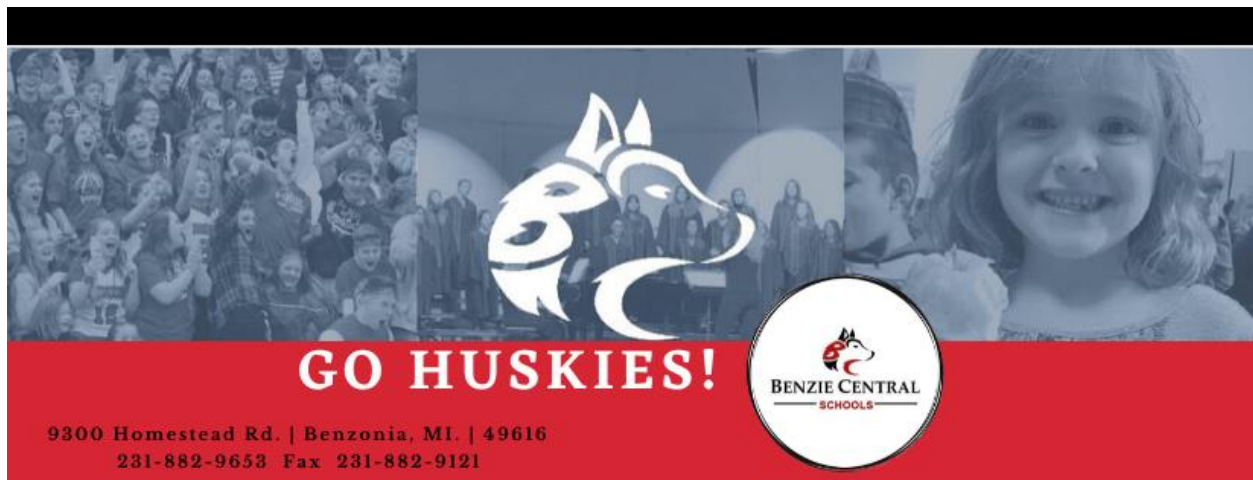




BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD WRAP-UP

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT – Mr. Smith, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Kempton, Mrs. Gillison, Mr. Egeler, Mrs. Campana, Keelin Rineer (non-voting member)

MEMBERS ABSENT – Mr. Childs

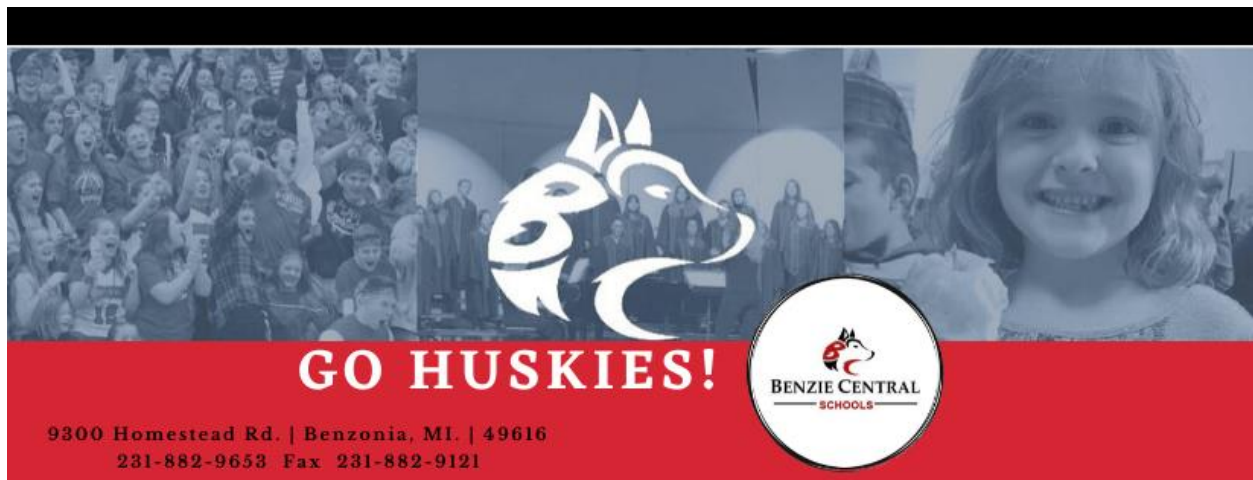
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – with the following amendments: Adding Mike Zielinski to Consent Grouping E. Leave of Absence – October 23, 2026 through January 18, 2027 and Administration Report G. moving to A. with all others to follow as presented on agenda. **Approved 6/0**

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.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



CONSENT GROUPING - as presented (Minutes/GF Bills/Support Staff Appointments, Changes, Leave of Absences, Tenures, Probationary Terminations, Terminations, and Contract Updates) – **Approved 6/0**

Support Staff Appointments:

- Ariana Heath – GSRP Assistant Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary

Staff Assignment Changes:

- Kirsten Cline - Secondary Choral Director to Interim Middle School Principal – Effective November 30, 2026

Leave of Absence:

- Mike Zielinski – Director of Operations – FMLA – October 23, 2026 through January 18, 2027
- Kirsten Cline – FMLA end date adjusted from January 4, 2027 to November 16, 2026

Recommendation for Tenure:

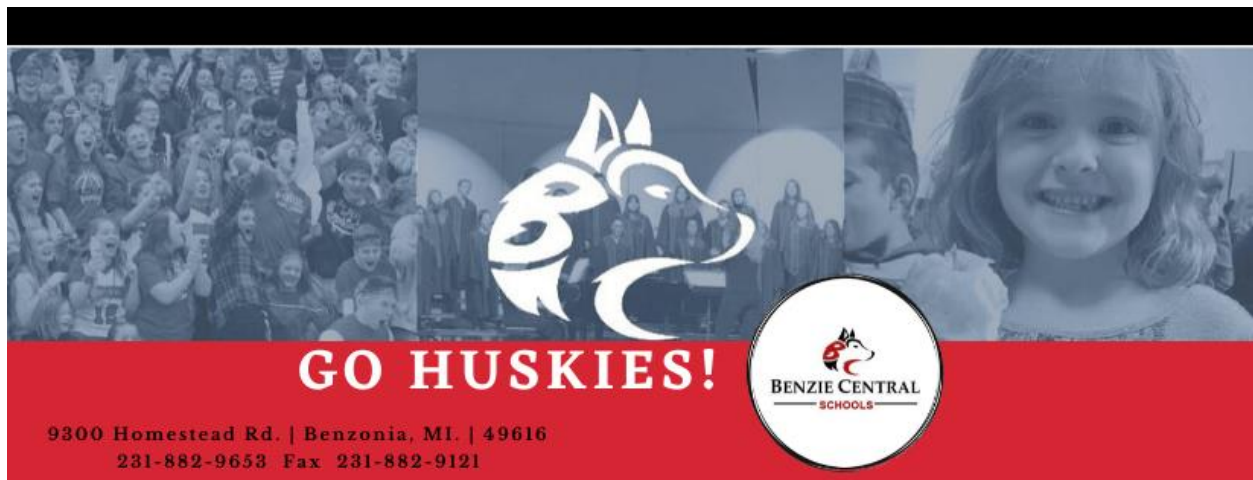
- Tanika Greisiger – Secondary English Teacher

Recommendation for Termination following probationary period:

- NONE

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



Recommendation for Termination:

- Autumn Skiver – Infant/Toddler Assistant Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary -
- Effective September 11, 2026
- Toni Cadena – 6.5 Secondary Paraprofessional – Effective September 18, 2026
- Danielle Northrup – Early Childhood Aide – Lake Ann Elementary – Effective September 24, 2026

Contract Updates:

- NONE

DISTRICT IMPACT TEAM UPDATE: Board of Education Trustee, Greg Kempton – Greg shared the following:

Over the past month we have had four meetings. First meeting was setting up the calendar, agenda, and going over the format of the meetings. Second meeting, the Benzie central coaches presented discussed job duties and how it was being split. Piloting a platform called steplab that provides structure and organization. TCR's are going to be more teacher led.

MSTEP high level overview, went over proficiency of each grade level from 2025 to 2026. I ready proficiency data is different than MSTEP proficiency by a decent percentage across the board.

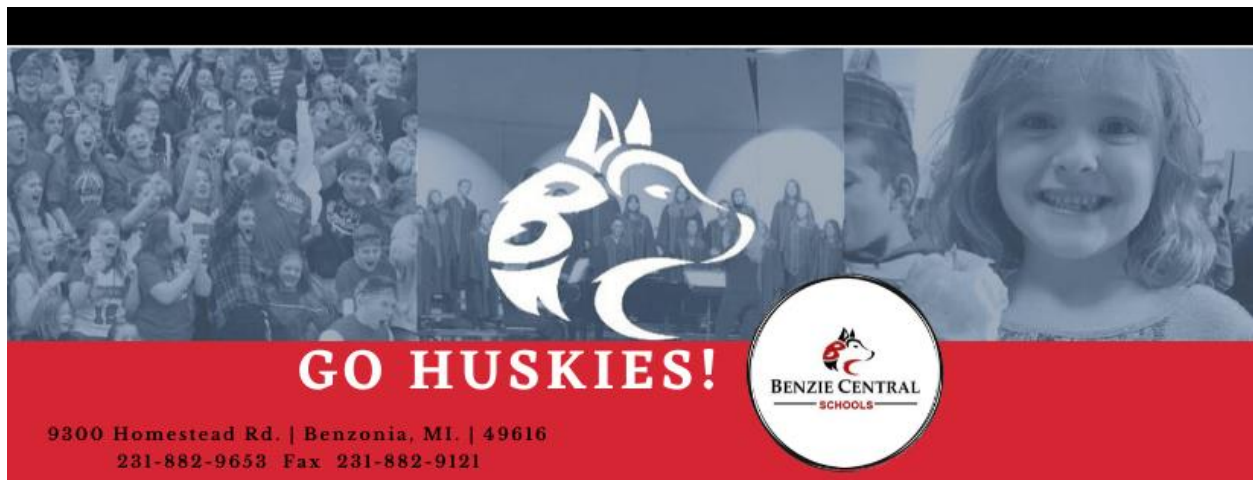
WIN groups and math labs are using data at the elementary level to meet the needs of the kids.

Data on proficiency does not show the growth that is going on.

Shared about teacher clarity with teachers having time to collaborate.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



Teachers are going through a series of modules every building seems to be at different stages in the process. Walking foci is one of the steps in the process and this is where teachers do peer observations with a focus.

MSTEP data and iReady data was shared for multiple years and across grade levels. We see growth with iReady with students making gains. The MSTEP data for spring of 2026 shows the 3rd grade average proficiency in math is near 38 percent, English is 38 percent, math is below 18 percent and reading is below 30 percent. 5th grade reading has a large difference among the school. One show reading 49 percent and the other two show 16 and 22 percent. For math it is similar with 41 percent and then 15 percent and 7 percent. Comparing with state data across all grade levels, we are near the state's averages.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT: Student Council Board of Education Representative, Keelin Rineer – Keelin shared the following: Student council has officially started up. Mrs. Carmen Briggs and Ms. Joey Johnston are both advisors this year. Their first meeting was well attended, and they plan to vote on 2026/27 positions soon. Homecoming was well attended. She wishes they could have started planning a little earlier, but it all worked out.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

A. Chartwells K12 Food Service Update – Director of Food Service, Lisa Purchase –

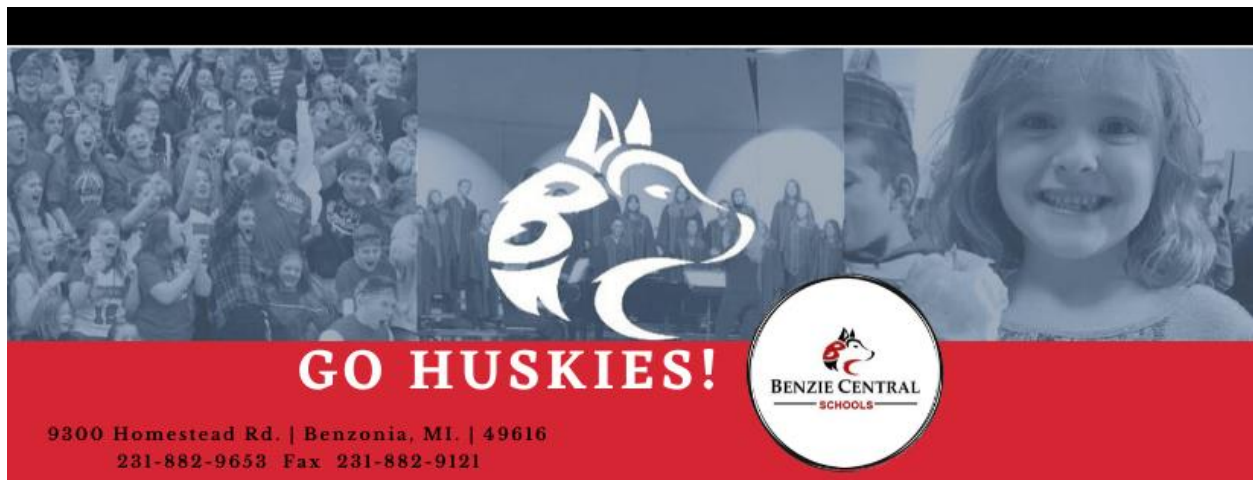
Lisa shared the following update:

Summer Food Program was very successful. We ran a 6-week program at LA with sit down service, Monday thru Thursday. We ran a 5-day meal pick up service at Betsie Valley for 9 weeks. Served over 8,400 meals collectively between the 2 sites. Betsie Valley had strong participation. We reached the high 190's during some weeks. Lake Ann had 40 -60 participants, daily. Generated 74K from the summer program alone.

Mi Farm Co-op - A new, local vendor that we will be getting fresh, local fruits and vegetables from. We will be starting purchases with them beginning next week. Deliveries will be

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



made to BV, LA and the High School. This was something that we could not do with Cherry Cap. They would not deliver to all the locations and that in turn made it hard for us to distribute to all the schools in a timely manner. MI Farm is extremely excited to have us partner up with them for our local products.

Prairie Farms - We are currently working on switching milk vendors. We are looking to move to Country Fresh. Country Fresh is more local to this area and can provide us with the additional stocking days that Prairie Farms cannot.

Apple Crunch Day - Benzie schools will celebrate Apple Crunch on October 30th. I wanted to wait until we were receiving fresh, local apples from our new vendor.

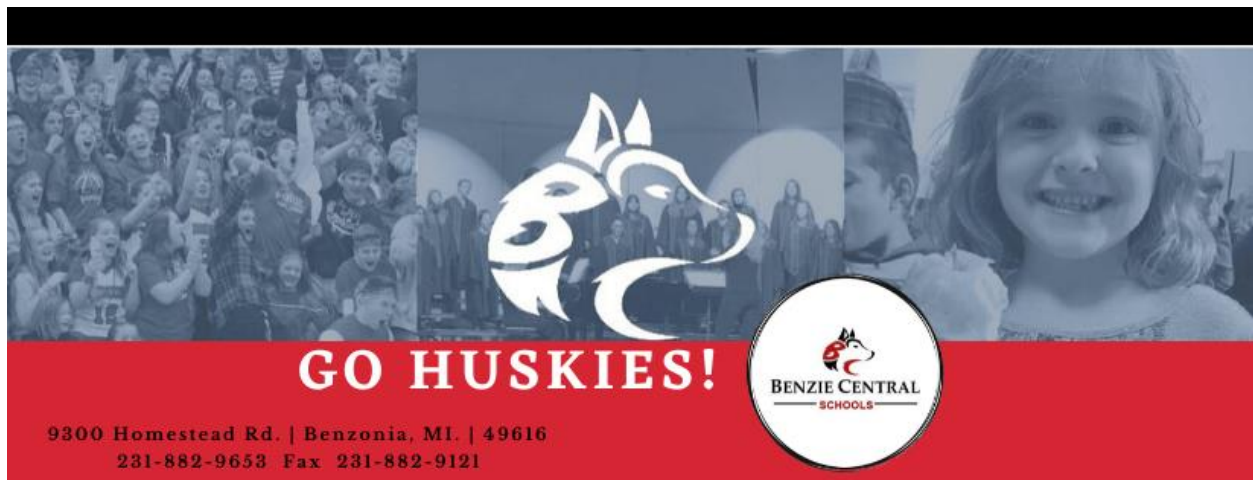
New equipment - New warmer/proofer for the HS kitchen. Also new milk coolers. When we switch out milk vendors, there are coolers that belong to Prairie Farms. By purchasing our own, we don't have to worry about that. Our new coolers are much more functional than the ones that we currently have from Prairie Farms.

Random Notes - Currently fully staffed. Serv Safe training is coming up in December. I am working on getting all my staff certified in this. Also, FareCheck... is an allergen certification and my entire team has to pass the class in order for us to be certified. All my staff have passed and next month we will receive our certification.

- B. **NMSLA Update – Superintendent Erfourth** - Mrs. Erfourth shared that discussion revolved around predictions on the upcoming elections with a prediction of a democrat trifecta for the house, senate, and Governor's seat. Lane Duck was also discussed with a potential for action to occur on the Health Care bill and Michigan Education Guarantee which would change graduation requirements. NMSLA is watching two bills: Senate bill that would ban emergency seclusion and restraint and HB 6096 that would provide 10 years for non-certified CTE teachers to receive certification. The senate only has one more session this week and the house is no longer in session until after the November election.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



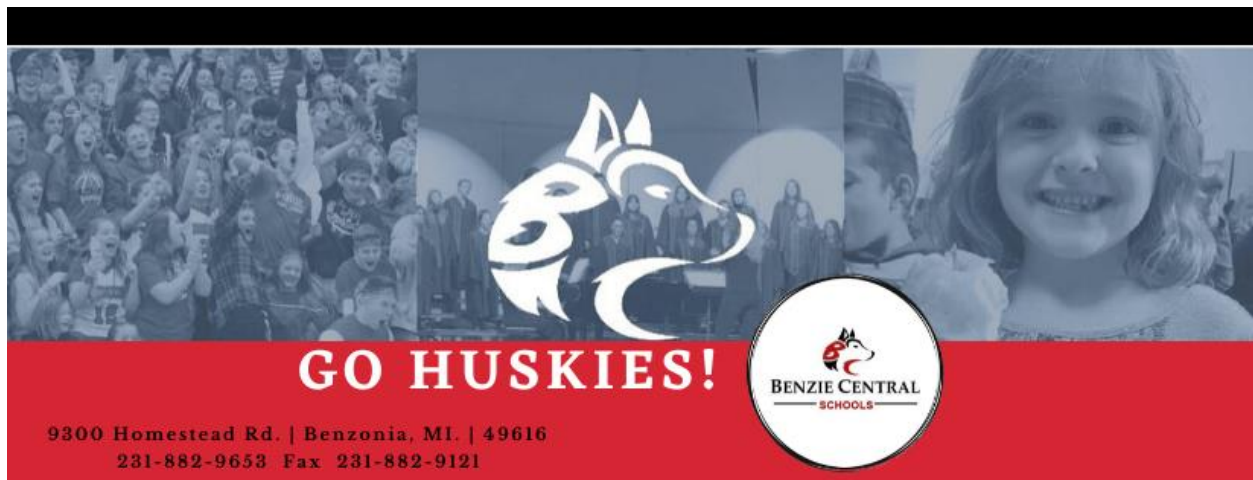
C. Michigan College Access Coordinator (MCAN) Advisor Update – Evelyn Putney -

High School Counselor, Jeanett Pritchett formally introduced Evelyn. Evelyn is a 2022 graduate of Benzie Central High School, and went on to dual major at the University of Michigan. Evelyn has been able to provide supports for Jeanett and high school students in a multitude of ways with their post-secondary planning and goals. Her sole responsibility is assisting seniors with post-secondary planning, which includes FAFSA completion. She is available on a walk-in basis for students to meet with her and ask all the questions that come with life after high school and supports in the following areas:

1. Seniors - English 12
 - a. Educational Development Plan (EDP) with XELLO
 - b. College Applications - MI College Match & Common App.
 - c. FAFSA - FAFSA Challenge School - grant \$
 - i. Senior Parent Financial Aid Night 11/9/26 @ 6:30 pm w/ Nick Messing (MiSSG)
 - ii. TIP and MAS conversations with eligible students
 - d. Scholarships Support - Benzie County Central Schools - BCCS Common Application
 - e. DE and CTC Seminar
 - f. TRIP: Career Expo at Crystal Mountain
2. Juniors - English 11
 - a. "Your Future Matters"
 - b. Job Fair
 - c. Xello
 - d. TRIP: Ferris State University
 - e. Ferris: CARE 102 in Spring for Honors English 11
3. Sophomores - TRIP: CTC and NMC
4. Freshman - TRIP: MiCareer Quest
5. Advisor for NHS - Blood Drive - fundraiser and connect with community
 - a. 11/24/26
 - b. 1/19/27
 - c. 5/25/27

VISION

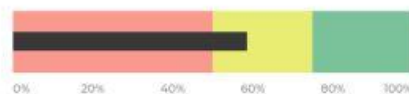
Benzie Inspires Greatness
 Connects Community
 Cultivates Learning
 Shapes Tomorrow



- D. **FAFSA Challenge and Your Future Matters – High School Counselor, Jeanett Pritchett** - Jeanett shared the FAFSA Completion Rates for 2026/27 compared to last year 2025/26. The completion rate is up 29% from last year, and she contributes that largely to having a MCAN Advisor who can assist her in all the other roles she covers.

Benzie Central High School

Email:



Completion Rate:	58.67%
FAFSA Completions Sep 28, 2026:	44
12 th Gr Enrollment 2025-2026:	75

To update 12th Grade Enrollment, submit the Senior Count Form.



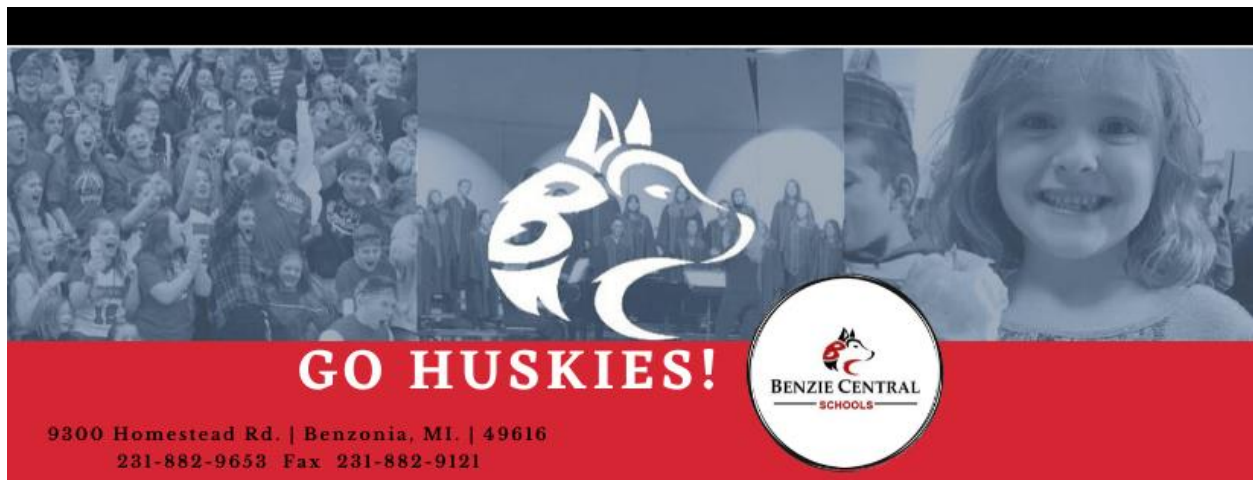
↑ 29%

Total FAFSA completions compared to the same time last year.

- E. **Lake Ann Elementary Update – Principal, Sharyl Corey** - Sharyl shared the [Lake Ann Elementary Strategic Plan Update](#).
- F. **Middle School Update – Principal, Alex Byland** - Alex shared the [Middle School Strategic Plan Update](#).

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



G. **Data Review – iReady – MSTEP – Principal, Alex Byland** - Alex shared data from [Spring 2025 to Spring 2026](#).

H. **Resignations:**

- Amber Hughes – JV Girls Basketball Coach
- John Hughes – JV Girls Basketball Coach
- Katelyn Scott – Early Childhood Assistant Teacher – Lake Ann Elementary – Effective October 8, 2026
- Caryn Hall – 6.5 Paraprofessional – Lake Ann Elementary – Effective October 30, 2026
- Brian Lark – Head Varsity Football Coach – Effective October 5, 2026

I. **Retirements:**

- NONE

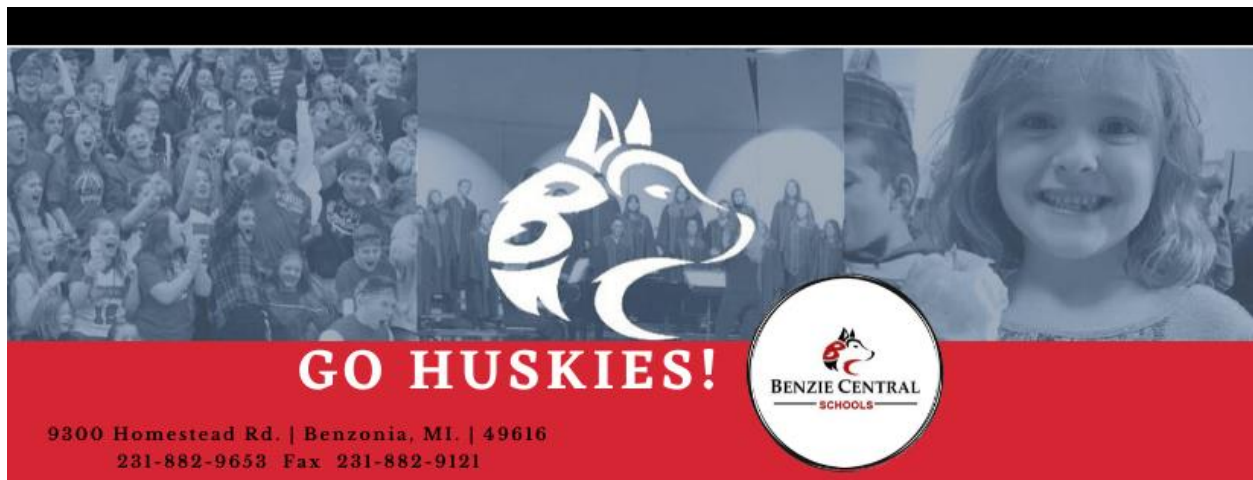
BOARD OF EDUCATION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. **Buildings and Grounds Committee – Matt Smith & Greg Kempton**

1. **Sinking Fund Projects** – Superintendent Erfourth shared the following: Most projects have been substantially completed. Still a few punch list items and work will be completed over breaks (including BV kitchen floor and possibly the urinals in the boy's bathroom at BV). The lockers will be completed on Nov 2. We are having some issues with the gym floor and bleachers. Floor Care Concepts have been out to look at them. They have made some additional cuts on the floor. The floor continues to move to the west. We are monitoring this and working with them.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



2. Building and Grounds Modifications Requests – NONE

B. Policy Committee – Egeler/Campana/Kempton – No Update

C. Finance Committee – Board of Education Treasurer, Shannon Gillison–

Shannon shared that the district secured a 61v grant is a CTE expansion grant.

We have received a 3-year grant for \$236,177 to grow our welding program.

This can pay for salaries, equipment, PPE, consumables, professional development, and curriculum for the welding program. It cannot pay for infrastructure.

It is a step-down grant, meaning there is the expectation that there will be less and less support from the grant and more on the side of the District as each year progresses. It's a great opportunity to update our equipment and transition this to a fully certified CTE course.

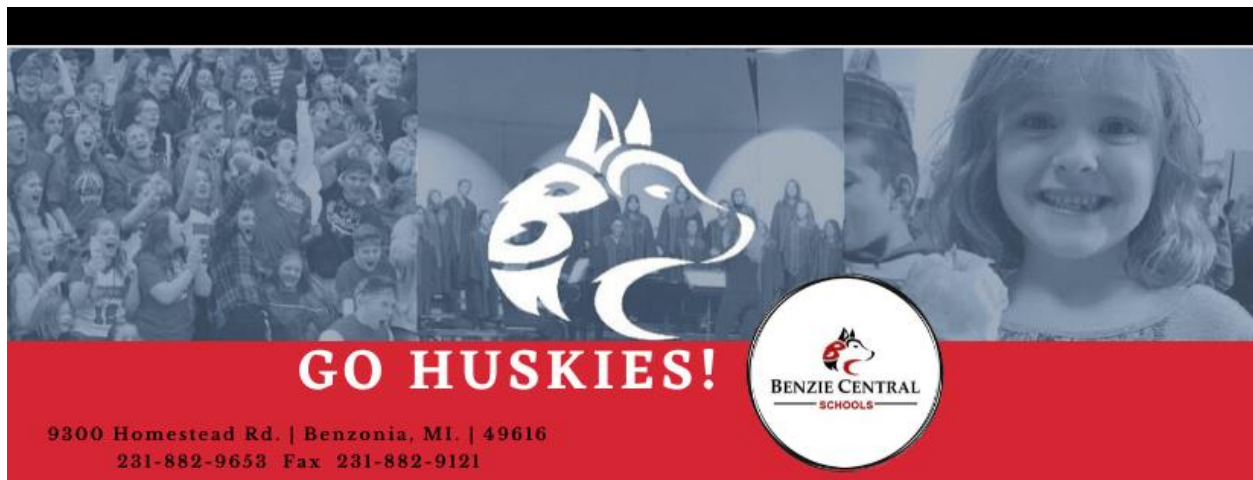
D. Parent Advisory Council – Board of Education Trustee, Sue Campana – The next meeting is October 21. The Butterfly Foundation will be in attendance. PTC parent survey results will be discussed.

E. Liaison– Board of Education, Trustee, Dave Egeler– Dave shared the following update:

- We talked about Board Policy 4201. There are some concerns that it might be restrictive. Specifically, paragraph (c) 15 states that an employee must get parents' and administration We talked about Board Policy 4201. There are some concerns that it might be restrictive. Specifically, paragraph (c) 15 states that an

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



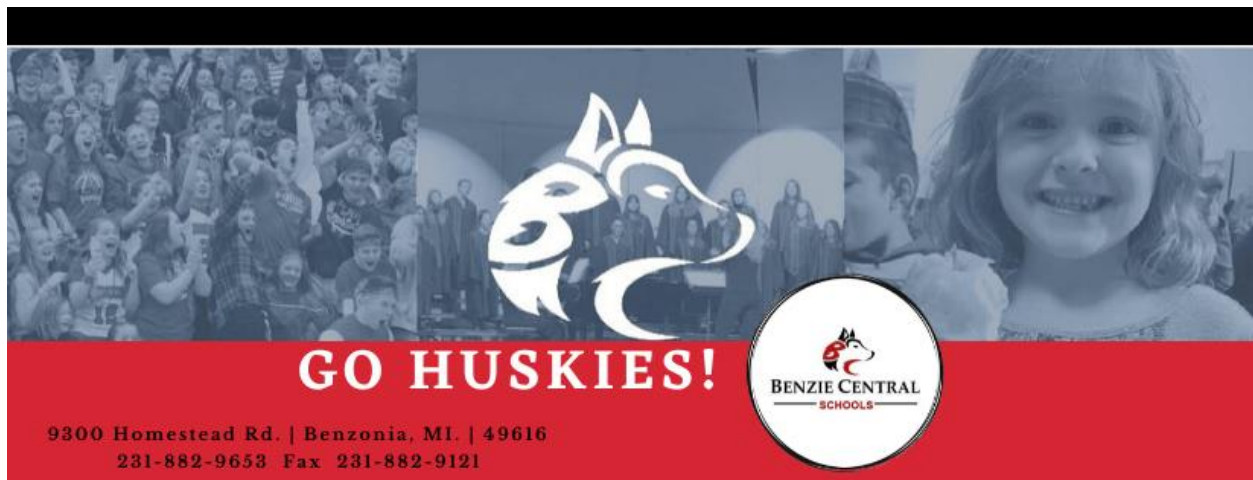
employee must get parents' and administration permission to take a student on an activity outside of school. Also, generally, we discussed as to how broad the language is as well.

- A lot of discussion regarding the Butterfly Foundation platform that uses AI. We will be seeking some clarity as to how it safeguards student data and making sure it complies with FERPA laws and, of course, any other federal and local laws. The Butterfly Foundation has provided clarification and answers to these questions.
- We talked about Spring teacher conference schedules and future PDs and the potential for a PD Committee.
- We discussed how we want to evaluate i-Ready data. We talked about moving the bar from its current place of 50% of kids need to perform better for a teacher's performance piece to show effectiveness to a possible 75% of kids need to show improvement from their baseline to get an effectiveness score.

F. **Ad Hoc – Sue Campana/Dave Egeler** – Dave shared that there is a continued push to get information out about the sinking fund and operational millage proposals. Superintendent Erfourth participated in a moderated forum with Jon Willow, Chamber President, held at WUWU radio last week. She has also created a video explaining both proposals. Danielle Banasiak has also assisted with creating videos and monitoring questions online. Principals are sharing the graphic in newsletters. We are considering a postcard mailer or other type of mailer to send to the wider community. Amiee will be attending the Lake Ann Community meeting on Wednesday this week. Danielle has also been attending township board meetings.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



G. Negotiations –Superintendent Erfourth – Superintendent Erfourth shared that there is no update.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Agenda Items Only) – Benzie Central Junior, Nora Rose shared that she felt being at this meeting was very beneficial and she enjoyed listening to the discussions. She shared that she was there for her service hours in Mrs. Schafer’s class, and that she was hoping more students would join.

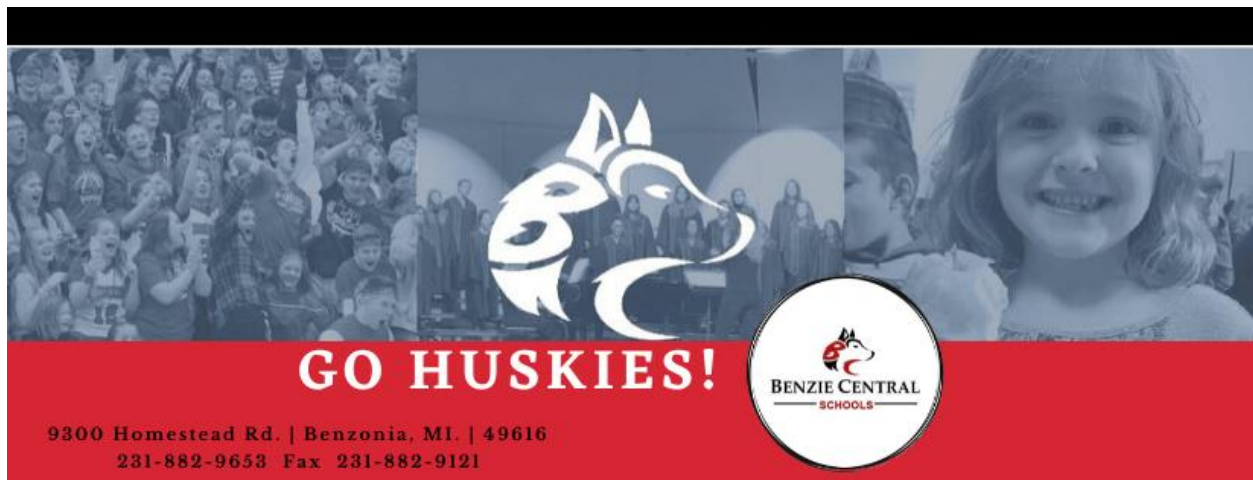
DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- A. Current District Enrollment Summary Review - Exit Out v. Transfer In - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Pupil Accounting Specialist, Catina Crossman** – Catina shared the enrollment summary and entry/exit report as of today, October 12. Currently, there are 1,197 in our student information system. She explained the subtracting of related services, Infant/Toddler, PK3, and PK4. That adjustment lands at 1,069 K-12 pupils, with the FTE equivalent of 1,062. Two students since dropped since this report was ran today. Mrs. Crossman pointed out that enrollment and withdrawals have been different than in past years, with many of them happening well into October. We currently have 61 high school seniors, 7 of which are homeschooled and only attend CTC, and 3 within that number being foreign exchange students. There are 18 seniors at Benzie Academy. Enrollment continues to decline.

Superintendent Erfourth added that Director of Finance, Danielle Banasiak, received a preliminary statement from our State Aid payment that is projecting that Benzie County Central Schools is now out of formula, meaning the districts local property tax revenue generates more money per student than the state’s guaranteed per-pupil funding allocation. Final determinations will not be completed until our fall count day has been certified.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



9300 Homestead Rd. | Benzonia, MI. | 49616
231-882-9653 Fax 231-882-9121

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approval of the 2026-2028 Transportation Contract. - **Approved 6/0**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Open Topics): Benzie Central Junior, Nora Rose asked what was meant by out of formula?

BOARD COMMUNICATION: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

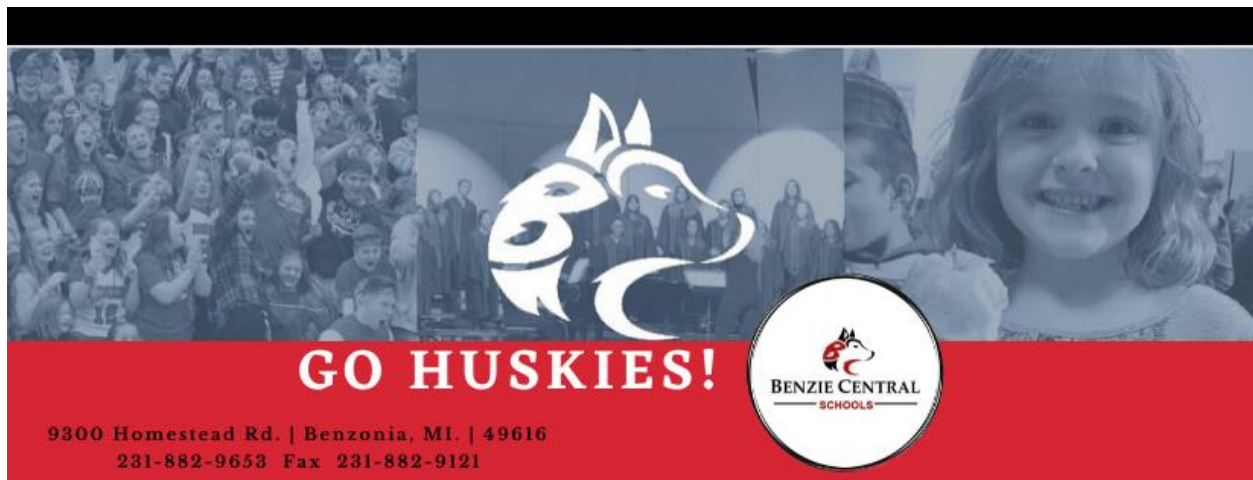
- End of First Marking Period – October 30
- Homestead Hills Elementary Fall Fest – October 30 – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- RSDD – Professional Development – No School – November 2
- Regular Board Meeting – November 9
- High School Fall Play – November 13 & 14
- Thanksgiving Break – November 25-27

ADJOURNMENT –8:46 PM

Please note that October 12, 2026 Regular Board Minutes are subject for approval on November 9, 2026.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow



Respectfully Submitted,

Catina M. Crossman

*Catina M. Crossman
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Board of Education Administrative Assistant
Talent Management Administrative Assistant
Schools of Choice Coordinator
Pupil Accounting Specialist
Director of Communications
Benzie County Central Schools*



VISION

**Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow**