

Superintendent's Office

8542 Byron Center Ave. SW
Byron Center, MI 49315
616.878.6100

Superintendent: Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Asst. Superintendent: Jeff Wierzbicki
Chief Financial Officer: Tamera Powers

2022 Board of Education

President: Marty Phelan
Vice President: Crystel Imperi
Treasurer: Brenda Hondorp
Secretary: Bruce Dennett
Trustee: Yvonne Boucher
Trustee: Chuck Fedewa
Trustee: Jason Pierson

**2022
Board of Education Meetings**
*These regular meetings begin at
6:30 pm unless noted otherwise.*

**October 10
November 7
December 5**

Check www.bcpsk12.net board page
for meeting specifics and locations.

*Work Sessions will be scheduled
as needed.*

*Upon request at least ten (10) days
prior to a meeting, the District shall
make reasonable accommodations
for a person with disabilities to
be able to attend and participate.
Contact the Facilities Director at
616.878.6100.*

*There is a time for public
participation during a meeting as
indicated in the agenda.*

*Official minutes are available and
stored at the administration office.*

Stay informed! Check out
Byron Center Public Schools
on Facebook, Instagram,
and Twitter for information
on school closings, upcoming
events, and more!

Continued Success for BC



Dear Byron Center Community,

We have had a tremendous start to the 2022-2023 school year. Byron Center continues to grow at a steady rate and achieve high levels in the areas of academics, athletics, and fine arts. Through the dedication of our teachers, support staff, and administrators, we have been able to build on the strong foundation set forth by the community and continue in a positive direction for the entire district.

We are thankful for your support in the last bond, allowing the district to plan appropriately for the increasing student population. The new Nickels Intermediate building that will be home to our fifth and sixth graders is scheduled to open in the fall of 2023. The construction continues with progress occurring daily. With the completion of the new Nickels, the renovation will then begin on the current intermediate building to transform into a fourth elementary. This will ease the capacity issues we are experiencing at our current elementary buildings.

The Byron Center Board of Education elections will be held on November 8 at your local precinct. In this special issue, you will find biographies of the candidates who have graciously offered to serve our schools and community. This is such an important part of the success of Byron Center Public Schools. It is truly a servant position to help all students, staff, and parents thrive in our community.

We asked them to share in their own words a little about themselves and why they are running for the Board of Education. We thank each of them for their commitment to Byron Center. Please remember to vote on **Tuesday, November 8, 2022!**

Thank you for your partnership and continued belief in Byron Center Public Schools. The achievement we experience as a district is because of our shared commitment to strive for success in all areas for our students. Working in collaboration with you has allowed for fantastic opportunities for the entire community and made Byron Center a destination for all.

Sincerely,



Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Superintendent
of Byron Center Public
Schools



MEET YOUR 2022 Board of Education Candidates



Bruce Dennett

As a 45 year resident of Byron Center and BCPS School Board member since 2009, I'm running for re-election to continue serving the community and to ensure each student in Byron Center has access to a safe and meaningful educational experience.

I am a GVSU graduate with a degree in Education, and I have been a small business owner for 40+ years. My wife, Deb, and I have four children who are BCPS graduates and eight grandchildren, five of which attend BCPS.

When I reflect on my time in Byron Center, three "L's" come to mind: loyalty, leadership and legacy.

First, loyalty. Teachers, school board members, and community members volunteer for the benefit of the students and to help best position them for their next step in life.

Second, leadership. I'm proud to say that we have effective leadership in Byron Center! Our student achievements in academics, the arts, and athletics are a reflection of our leadership and why we are a leading district in Michigan.

Third, legacy. Family values and a strong work ethic are the cornerstone of our community's past, present and future.

I hope to continue loyally serving the community as a school board member and look forward to the opportunity to continue guiding district policy for the benefit of our students. Thank you for your support.



Chuck Fedewa

Helping build success stories since 2015.

This community has trusted this board, and me, to help guide the schools through exponential growth while raising our standards across the "three-legged stool" – academics, arts and athletics. As stewards of the resources this community provides, we also have one of the strongest balance sheets in the state.

Our success in these areas is based largely on our collaboration with teachers, staff, kids, and the entire BC community. We seek to understand before being understood. We may not always agree with one another, but in the end, everyone has made

BCPS a destination district because the focus has always been where it should be - the kids.

My name is Chuck Fedewa and I'm seeking re-election on the Board of Education. I have been a member of this incredible team since you elected me 8 years ago. My wife Lori is a para-pro at West. Our son Nick is a former Bulldog, currently enrolled at MSU majoring in electrical & computer engineering. Our daughter Alissa is a senior at BCHS, a member of the volleyball team and plans to major in elementary education upon graduation this spring. I am an attorney with 20 years of experience. We have been a part of the Byron Center community since 2005.

Follow me: <https://www.facebook.com/BCPSK12SchoolBoard>



Shannon Schans

My name is Shannon Schans and it would be a privilege to represent all students and all families on the Byron Center Public School Board of Education. My husband, Matt, and I feel incredibly fortunate to live in this community and for our four children to be educated here as well!

My personal and professional experience in education has spanned nearly 25 years and has led me to earn a Bachelor's

degree in Business and Economics, a Master's Degree in Higher Education, and I am currently earning my Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Currently, I work at Hope College in the area of experiential learning. I am also a small business owner as a

consultant for K-12 schools. Not only do I have the experience for this work, but I have the heart for it as well.

As a BCPS board member, I would pay special attention to issues I feel the district needs to ensure excellent education for all students. Those include:

- 1) Social and emotional wellbeing of our students, teachers, and staff.
- 2) An increase in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- 3) The safety and security of our schools and our community.

Follow 'Shannon Schans for Byron Center School Board' on Facebook for more information and thank you for your consideration!



Dan Sherwood

I'm a financial advisor and have worked extensively with members of the community for 13 years. My family and I attend Cornerstone Church, and we are active in many ministries. I believe my unique skillset I've acquired through these experiences will be an asset for the board.

We are proud of the experiences our girls have had with BCPS and we are grateful for their amazing teachers. More recently,

the interactions of the school board with the families in our community have raised concern. Our district is one of the best

in the state, partially due to the educators who work tirelessly to give our students the best education available, but also because our parents are devoted to ensuring their children make the most of their education. I believe parents are our greatest resource and they belong in a place of prominence in education. As a BCPS Board member I'll ensure that parents are welcomed into a partnership with educators, focusing on students' education and well-being. A return to our traditional West Michigan values and including parents in education decisions will deliver a world class education for the families of Byron Center.

[facebook.com/DansherwoodBCBOE](https://www.facebook.com/DansherwoodBCBOE)



Amber Swift

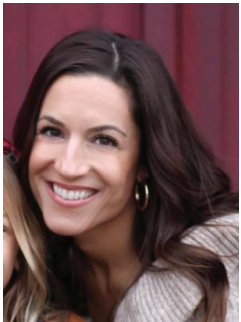
I am Amber Swift, a resident of Byron Center since 2014. My husband Jeff and I have two sons, Ty (8th) and Drew (6th). I am blessed to reside in our safe, traditional community that maintains that "small town" feel. I am passionate about supporting our local businesses, schools and community, such as being a part of Hand 2 Hand and a previous board member of the Van Singel Fine

Arts Center. I will be an advocate for parental rights and make sure your voice is heard when it comes to the education of your children, as this is the most critical issue of our time.

I was the Ambassador for our church when we launched a successful Capital Campaign. Previously, I co-owned a local manufacturing business. I hope to bring a new perspective to the board that will enhance their vision.

1. I will put faith back in our schools by bringing back common sense and traditional values.
2. I will ensure our youth have all the tools needed to be good students and socially responsible; best preparing each student for life after high school, whether it be college or our ever-suffering industrial trades shortage.
3. I will work to have transparency for parents, ensure all of their voices are heard, and that teachers are supported within their classrooms.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084748483293>



Thalia Tilma

I am Thalia Tilma. I am a proud Byron Center resident, conservative Christian, and mother of three children. I have lived in Byron Center for 15 years with my husband, Brad Tilma, who was born and raised here and whose family has long enjoyed a strong presence in this wonderful community. I am running for a position on the Byron Center Public School Board. A few of my motivations to run are as follows:

1. Support our educators: I want our educators to have the resources and support to do what they are passionate about – educate our students, build relationships, and find meaning in their work.

2. Create a safe haven for our students: I want our students to learn in a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe environment where they can rejoice in the challenge and be consistently reminded of their importance in this world.
3. Restore the faith of the parents: I want our parents to trust that their children will be taught the board-approved curriculum, that decisions will be made transparently, and that advocacy for the children's education will be paramount.

As we begin this academic year, know that I am praying for your families and our community. Our schools are beacons of hope, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve."



Brad Wiechertjes

Hello neighbors!

My name is Brad Wiechertjes (weaker-chess) and our family has lived in BC for 19 years. My wife, Tera, and I have 4 children; Noah (college), Emma (10th), Ellie (8th), and Jonah (6th). Our kids have been blessed by BCPS and they are being well prepared for life.

I serve as the Director of Advancement for an international, Christian ministry serving Deaf communities. My work involves budgets, grant writing, reporting, evaluation, and written communication. Tera is a special education teacher. We worship at Corinth where I serve as a member of the Transition team.

I feel a responsibility to lead and serve in a climate where we need to lower the temperature of our public discourse. My primary concerns are future curriculum choices and age appropriate library content. The role of our schools is to teach, not to indoctrinate. Parents are responsible to teach their children religion, values, and sexuality.

My priorities are school safety, developmentally appropriate learning, managing growth, high achievement, filling learning gaps from the pandemic, and supporting our teachers. I'm principled, approachable, and respectful. I have the temperament and confidence to represent you well. Let's work together to do the right thing for our children.

Find me on Facebook at [Brad Wiechertjes for Byron Center School Board](https://www.facebook.com/BradWiechertjesforByronCenterSchoolBoard) or email me at bradforbyronboard@gmail.com.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084752589703>



BYRON CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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 Byron Center, Michigan 49315
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WMS Staff is ready for the year!



First week of school excitement!



Students are eager to listen and learn



Bump, set, spike!

Focus and Determination



Smiles all around for Mr. Joseph and high school students



2022-2023 BC Jazz Orchestra



Go Bulldogs!