# BConnection

A Publication of Byron Center Public Schools



**Helping Students Build Success Stories** 

Special Issue 2024

www.bcpsk12.net

#### **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

#### 2024 Board of Education

President: Jason Pierson
Vice President: Nathan Jeruzal
Secretary: Chuck Fedewa
Treasurer: Brenda Hondorp
Trustees: Amber Swift, Thalia Tilma
and Brad Wiechertjes

#### 2024

#### **Board of Education Meetings**

Sept 23, 5:15pm (Special Meeting) Oct 7, 6:30pm (Regular Meeting) Oct 21, 5:15pm (Special Meeting) Nov 4, 6:30 pm (Regular Meeting) Nov 18, 5:15 pm (Special Meeting) Dec 2, 6:30 pm (Regular Meeting) Dec 16, 5:15pm (Special Meeting)

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.

# **Board of Education Election**



Dear Byron Center Community,

What a great start to the 2024-25 school year! I am so glad to have students and staff back in school buildings. Byron Center Public Schools is excited to have opened a fourth K-4 school this year, Heritage Elementary. We are grateful to all the community members who came out to support this chapter in BC history in mid-August at Heritage's ribbon cutting. Principal Nathan Clophus, Heritage staff, BC administration and I were thrilled to welcome families

through the door on the first day of school. Byron Center continues to grow at a steady rate and the fourth elementary school will alleviate overcrowding in our buildings to provide the best learning environment possible to support student success and allow for future growth in the district.

We are thankful to our partners Owen-Ames-Kimball and TowerPinkster who made this project possible with all of their hard work behind the scenes. I would also like to give a sincere thank you to the Byron Center community for your support with our last bond, throughout the redistricting process and every day here at BCPS. Your continued support is appreciated.

Another integral part of BCPS is our Board of Education. Being a BOE member is truly a servant position to help all students, staff and parents thrive in our community. We have four BOE seats up for election this November. This is a special edition of BConnection that features a questionnaire from the eight community members running for Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education in the November 5 election.

Please take a moment to read over the question and answer portion for each candidate. We hope this will provide some insight into each candidate about their experiences in Byron Center and their goals for the future of our school district. The Byron Center Board of Education elections will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at your local precinct, please go out and vote!

Sincerely,

Kevin Macina, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools













# MEET THE CANDIDATES for BCPS Board of Education

Byron Center Public Schools asked the candidates running for the BCPS Board of Education to answer questions about their experience in the district and goals for BCPS if elected. This will allow for BC voters to get to know each candidate, ahead of the Tuesday, November 5 election.

Each candidate was limited to 150 words or less per question. These responses are being published verbatim from what each candidate submitted. Candidate profiles will appear in alphabetical order by last name.



Brenda Hondorp

1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

I am a 25-year resident of Byron Township and a graduate of Davenport University with a bachelor's degree in business and marketing. I have been married to Joel Hondorp for 25 years and we have two children - a daughter who graduated BCPS in May 2024, and a son who is now a sophomore at BCHS. I have worked in the not-for-profit industry for nearly my entire professional life. Additionally, I have served on the Byron Center Board of Education for 12 years and would be honored to serve again.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

Almost 12 years into my service on the Board of Education, I can proudly say it has been one of the most fulfilling things I have ever been a part of. I learned quickly that as a member of the BOE, I have a responsibility to serve EVERY student, family/caregiver, teacher, administrator and community stakeholder. What motivates me is seeing kids thrive no matter where they are on their educational and interest journey. I take pride in BCPS and its array of offerings, which allows every child to find something that they enjoy

and want to be part of while walking their distinct path to success! I have a heart for kids who need a little extra encouragement to explore an educational path that may be considered non-traditional.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

Byron Center is a growing school district with almost 4,500 students and an annual budget of over \$60 million dollars. It is essential for a successful school district to have board members with a vision for the future and the ability to have pragmatic discussions regarding realistic goals and budgets, all in the spirit of collaboration. Being a good listener with the ability to communicate and follow-up is also essential, while also desiring the best educational outcome for all students.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

While serving on the Board of Education for the last 12 years, I have witnessed exponential growth in our district, and no expected slowdown. During that time, I have been part of two successful millage campaigns that have helped continue Byron Center's award-winning, destination-school legacy. Managing expected growth must be a top priority for our board.

Additional priorities should include (but are not limited to): a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure the success of all students, creating district policies that are lawful and sensible, making certain that district safety/security standards are in line with the latest technology and that the school budget is set in a prudent manner, and accountable to district stakeholders.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I am currently in year 12 of serving on the Board of Education, I also enjoy volunteering for Byron Center's marching band (my son is in percussion/pit) and supporting and attending as many Byron Center events as I can, whether it be the arts or athletics - GO BULLDOGS!

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

As an award-winning, blue-ribbon district, we have a magnificent foundation to build upon. While test scores are an important metric, and Byron Center is constantly working to improve curriculum and outcomes, it is important to educate and impact the whole child.

Byron Center prides itself on the balance of the "three-legged stool" of academics, arts and athletics. Having something for every child is key to a student's success.

Finally, as a school board member who deeply desires to serve all our students in the best way possible, I commit to always listening and always seeking ways to improve. The Byron Center school district, students, families and stakeholders deserve nothing less than the best.



**Rob Hughes** 

## 1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

Byron Center is a community we're all proud of, and you want the best for our children's future. With our community expanding rapidly, the decisions facing our school board are more complex than ever.

Rob Hughes, a husband, father of two BC students, and local business owner, has been dedicated to Byron Center long before his campaign. With experience on the Governance Committee of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, leading CEO Roundtables, and serving on advisory boards for both the Wesleyan Church and Kentwood Community Church, Rob knows how to navigate complex challenges and collaborate across diverse perspectives.

Rob's business mindset offers a practical, results-oriented approach that will support our teachers, enhance our district, and ensure every decision is in the best interest of our kids. Let's keep Byron Center a place where we all love to live, work, and learn, both today and for future generations.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

I love Byron Center and hope to see it thrive for years to come. Like many of you, we chose this community to raise our family. As BC grows, I recognize the challenges our school board faces—complex decisions and competing priorities.

How do we preserve what makes Byron Center special while accommodating growth?

It can feel overwhelming, but I believe in a balanced, practical approach to these important conversations. As a husband, father of two BC students, and a local business owner, I'm deeply rooted in this community. My goal is clear: to ensure Byron Center remains a place where our children can learn and grow, where families feel connected, and where we continue building a bright future together. I'm committed to doing the hard work, listening to our community, and making decisions that honor the values that make Byron Center the place we all love.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

As a school board member, I believe these attributes and behaviors are essential:

- Commitment to Community: Ensuring our schools embody what makes Byron Center special.
- Strategic Thinking: Planning for the future with a clear, long-term vision that benefits everyone.
- Balanced Decision-Making: Carefully considering all perspectives to make thoughtful choices.
- Active Listening and Engagement: Understanding the needs and concerns of parents, students, and educators.
- Collaborative Leadership: Building partnerships and uniting the community to strengthen our schools. Innovation and Improvement: Embracing new ideas and solutions to enhance our district.
- Discernment and Wisdom: Making informed decisions that are best for the entire community.
- Inspiring and Motivating Others: Encouraging collective efforts toward a shared vision for our schools.

These qualities help me serve effectively and support a thriving future for Byron Center.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

If elected to the Byron Center School Board, my priorities will be:

- Listening and Understanding: My first priority is to listen, observe, and seek to understand the context of current decisions. I'm not coming in with an agenda and do not represent any special interest group.
- Ensuring High-Quality Education: Supporting our students and teachers by investing in resources that promote academic excellence and student growth.
- Managing Growth Responsibly: Making thoughtful decisions that balance our community's rapid growth and expansion with
  preserving what makes Byron Center the place we all love in the first place.

These priorities will help maintain Byron Center as a thriving place to live, work, and learn.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I am actively involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community in several ways: As a parent of two children in the district since kindergarten, we chose Byron Center Public Schools for their Blue Ribbon excellence and welcoming community. I own and operate a local business that employs seven full-time team members, some of whom also have children in BC schools, further connecting us to the community. I actively participate in my children's education by volunteering in their classrooms, facilitating class parties, and chaperoning field trips. If you ask our sons' teachers, I believe they would speak to our decade-long reputation of support and encouragement in the classroom and beyond.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

My vision for education in the district includes:

- High-Quality Education: Ensuring all students have access to a well-rounded education that includes academics, sports, and the arts. Each area is essential for developing confident, productive citizens.
- Safe Learning Environment: Every student deserves a safe space, free from bullying. I believe in addressing bullying at its root by utilizing our skilled guidance counselors and mental health support staff.
- Parent-Teacher Partnerships: Parents know their children best and should be actively involved in their education. Strong collaboration between parents and teachers will help create the best path for each student's success.

By focusing on these priorities, we can better serve our students and families, creating a thriving school community where every child can learn, grow, and succeed.



Nathan Jeruzal

### 1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

My wife Lesley, and our three boys moved to the district in 2015, with the kids then attending BCPS after that. We quickly became very active volunteers with all three legs of the famous three legged stool (Academics, Arts, and Athletics) over the years. We started helping out with Academics by volunteering weekly in each of the kids' classrooms when they were young. We then transitioned to other district programs, helping out with many of the Arts and Athletics programs. This vast experience gives me a strong background knowledge of many aspects of the district's programs and the operation of the district.

I have held many leadership positions in some of the district programs I have volunteered with, and other groups in my church and community. This has given me a great deal of experience working together successfully with others of varying opinions.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

Ultimately, my servant heart has led me to want to serve an excellent district and community with a great deal of student success. Volunteering with various groups in the district has shown me so many ways our students succeed as a result of the dedication of all of the volunteers and staff.

I was also brought up with parents that were very involved in the programs my siblings and I were involved with as students. By seeing this as a kid, it demonstrated servant leadership to me. I believe that I can also pass that on to my kids, by being a great role model. I believe deep down that my kids enjoy having me around their various activities helping their groups out, and cheering them on.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

An important attribute is being neutral and impartial. There will be many different topics and items brought up to a School Board over the matter of time. Each of these situations will be unique, and will have multiple aspects to the situation. A member needs to make sure all sides are considered for making decisions for the best of the students.

An important behavior is the ability to listen well. A member needs to have their finger on the pulse of the district and community, to be able to represent everyone well. Members also need to listen well when discussing topics with the rest of the Board to be able to have good discussion.

Finally, Board members need to be able to work with others well. There are going to be disagreements. If there is trust and respect, the differing opinions actually will likely lead to a better solution overall.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

The highest priority will be to continue to give every student the best chance to succeed through everything the Board is presented with. These could be class and extra curricular opportunities, support staff, and so much more.

Growth continues to be another high priority for our growing community. Studies show that BC will continue to grow until peaking in the 2050's. The Board has done a great job of addressing growth in one of the fastest growing communities. That continues to be high on my priority list.

We need to make sure that the district offers classes and programs that will be increasingly relevant in the future. One of these things is Artificial Intelligence (AI). We need to make sure we are preparing the students for it as they enter the adult world, and how they can leverage it in a positive and responsible way.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I volunteer with many different programs that keep me well informed and educated about the district. These things help me with the background knowledge of a wide range of programs in the district.

I am currently the Vice-President of the Board of Education, having been appointed in March of 2024.

Another volunteer position I hold is being on the Executive Board of the BC Sports Boosters. This is the third year I have served. I also help out with needs for the teams that my sons participate with.

I am leading the BCHS Class of 2025 Senior All-Nighter(SAN) Committee as President, after being an officer for the Class of 2023 SAN.

I volunteer regularly for events at the VanSingel Theater and various parts of BC Fine Arts Boosters. This includes ushering at events, helping with fundraisers for the Fine Arts groups, and helping with logistics for events.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

We need to make sure we are offering classes and programs to meet the needs of the ever changing world, and to help each student find their niche. New kinds of jobs in the world will need people with new types of skills. We can make sure to expose students to these new jobs and talents, and teach them about the new types of information and skills needed.

My vision is for classes and programs to evolve with or even leap ahead of increasingly relevant subjects for the future. One of these things is Artificial Intelligence (AI). We need to make sure we are preparing the students for it as they enter the adult world, and how they can leverage it in a positive and responsible way.



#### 1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

My name is Tom McCoy. My wife Lisa and I have been married for 26 years. We have lived in Byron Center for the past 19 years. Our three sons have all attended BCPS. Our youngest is currently a junior at the high school.

I've been employed by Consumers Energy for 32 years, and currently hold the position as Electric Journeyman Lineman, Over the course of my career, I have been privileged to serve on numerous committees. I understand the importance of collaboration and finding solutions within a group setting.

I have participated in the Big Brother program through United Way. I have served in several churches we have attended. I was involved in the music ministry, volunteered in children's church, and led a small group ministry. I have also served as a coach for baseball and soccer teams, as my sons grew up playing in Byron Center.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

I am motivated to become a BCPS Board of Education member because I believe in continuing the great heritage of this community. What we impart to our children now, will be the inheritance of future generations. I believe that the partnership and commitment of our community to academics, athletics, and the arts is key to our students' success.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

It is important for an individual to seek to understand the different perspectives on a topic. I am of the opinion that bringing diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to the table allows us to problem solve at a higher level. Critical thinking abilities is imperative for all board members as the decisions they make have a significant impact on students, parents, staff, and the community.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

If elected, my priorities would be the following:

- 1. Education should be the focus in the classroom, not politics.
- 2. Additional resources are needed to protect our schools.
- 3. Develop policies that strengthen parental involvement and decision-making.
- 4. Increase awareness of the career opportunities available in the trades.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I have and continue to volunteer for the sports boosters concession stands for football and wrestling.

Over the past year, I have attended the majority of Board of Education meetings. My objective was to gain knowledge on how meetings are conducted and to gain an understanding of business affairs and other matters pertaining to the school district.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

My vision for this district is to continue the excellence in education that continually places BCPS as a top performing district. I believe that it is essential to raise awareness and increase our students and parents' knowledge of the trades for those who are not college bound. I will continue to support our BC students, teachers, staff and administration to continue the great heritage of Byron Center Public Schools. Accountability and integrity will be at the forefront of my decision-making process.



Tim Oberst

of Education.

1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

My wife (Tracy) and I have been married for 26 years and have 2 beautiful daughters. We have lived in Byron Center since 2008 and love the community here! Personally, I've served in student ministry for 20+ years with 11yrs of that as the Full-Time Student Ministry Pastor at Heritage Baptist Church. Prior to that, spent several years in the business world managing for Seven's Paint & Wallpaper, volunteering in the youth ministry at Heritage, and now serve as a Territory Rep for Benjamin Moore & Co. since 2021. During the years of youth pastoring, I also had the opportunity to serve on a worldwide curriculum writing team for 3 years. I do believe that my background in business, ministry and volunteerism make me a great fit to serve on the BCPS Board of Education.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

I genuinely care about student development and care for our community. I've appreciated the years that we've seen teachers, administrators, and coaches pour into our children within the BC family and want to continue to help other families enjoy that same thing for years to come by serving on the BCPS Board

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

I believe an effective school board member should be humble, a team player, and self-aware. We as board members need to be consistent with attending meetings, help raise funds as needed, handle confidential information with all diligence, and also not be one who pursues a personal agenda.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

To ensure our Blue Ribbon school system continues to flourish and provide excellence and integrity on every level for many years to come. I will also strive to ensure parental rights are protected, push for academic excellence, increase school safety and pray for our students, faculty, and administrators.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I am an active member of the community by attending community events and sporting events along with supporting our teachers and coaches in any way possible. I've regularly attended the See You at the Pole student led day of prayer in September and plan to this year as well. This is a morning when students have gathered around the flag pole to pray for their peers, teachers, schools and community. Personally, I also train for triathlons by making use of our amazing community pool and facilities.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

I would want to continue to strive for academic excellence in all we do, further pursue how we can create strong character development in our students, while at the same time doing our best to be fiscally responsible with the those tasks at hand. I'd also like to see how we can be even stronger in the area of school safety as we see the world around us becoming more and more challenging in the pursuit of protecting our schools and students.



## Brian Robinson

1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

As a parent of three children currently enrolled at Marshall Elementary, I have a vested interest in ensuring that our schools continue to provide the best possible learning environment and education for all students. In recent years, I have accepted various invitations to participate in the classroom, as well as at school programs and events such as Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) and field day. These experiences have given me an appreciation for how much our faculty and staff care for our kids.

My experience as an entrepreneur for the past 20 years has honed my strategic planning, financial management, and problem-solving skills, which I believe are valuable assets for the Board of Education. I also enjoy working collaboratively, a skill that I believe is essential for effective board governance.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

My love for Jesus Christ inspires me to love my neighbor, and serving on the school board is a meaningful way to live out my faith in our community. I'm all-in and committed to ensuring that our kids receive a high-quality education in the best possible learning environment that prepares them to do great things with their lives.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

To be effective, a school board member has to genuinely care about Byron Center students and families and be committed to putting their best interests first. If elected, I will listen to everyone's concerns and treat all voices fairly. I am also prepared to ask tough questions and make difficult decisions when needed.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

If elected, my priorities will focus on several key areas to ensure the best opportunities for our students:

- 1. Traditional education that emphasizes core subjects and prepares students for future success.
- 2. Ensuring parents have a voice in their children's education.
- 3. Addressing school safety concerns with a focus on both physical security and the responsible use of media, including harmful books.
- 4. Promoting academic excellence by maintaining high standards and providing the resources BCPS students need to succeed.
- 5. Fostering character development to educate young men and women who are both knowledgeable and ethical.
- 6. Prioritizing fiscal responsibility to ensure that our financial resources are used effectively.
- 7. Supporting our teachers by advocating for the policies, resources and training they need to excel in the classroom.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

With three children enrolled in BCPS schools, I have made an effort to participate in classroom activities and events like Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). Additionally, as a volunteer coach for Byron Center AYSO soccer, I've had the opportunity to coach kids from all of our schools, further connecting me with the community and allowing me to earn the trust of BC families.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

Please consider joining me at one of the upcoming town hall meetings I'm hosting at the Byron Township Community Center. I'm hosting these events to provide an opportunity to meet and talk in person. Monday, October 7 from 6-7pm and Monday, October 21 from 6-7pm at the Byron Township Community Center, 21 20 76th St SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.



Philip Smith

1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

Married for 33+ years to Bernadette Smith, father of 8 wonderful children, and pastor of Eternal Word Church for the past 24 years. I love our community and want to see our children receive a classical education, strong character and a high moral compass.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

Mostly from a sense of duty, and the love for our community and for the protection of our most valuable assets, our children.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

Honor and respect for our Creator and our fellow man, character and integrity, also the willingness to protect our children from all enemies that would dare to harm them in any way.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

To make sure our students graduate with the life skills necessary to be successful in life whether they work in skilled trades, or by furthering their education in academia. I would like for us to have top notch teachers, a safe learning environment, parental rights and full disclosure to parents about what is going on at school.

#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I am a very good friend of a retired Byron Center teacher. I meet regularly with some of the current school board members. I love this community and want to see the best for the administration, every student and teacher in the BCPS.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

My vision is to have a classical education from the great philosophers of history. We want our students to think independently. This gives each student the ability to know the difference between moral and immoral behavior which we find in the many examples of history. I would also like to see our students have a strong civics, biology, math, tech, ai/robotics and science instruction, a spirit of patriotism, and love for our Country. My vision is to protect the innocence of our children, and not advance the sexualizing of our children. If we implement these things we can create a more perfect union that is built to last.



**Brad Wiechertjes** 

#### Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.

Hello neighbors! My name is Brad Wiechertjes (weaker-chess) and my family has lived in Byron Center for over 20 years. I've been married to my wife, Tera, for 25 years and we have 4 children; Noah (college senior), Emma (12th), Ellie (10th), and Jonah (8th). Our kids have attended BCPS for all of their schooling.

I work as the Chief Advancement Officer (fundraising and communications) for an international, Christian ministry serving Deaf communities around the world. My work involves budgets, grant writing, reporting, evaluation, formal written communication, and accountability to our partners.

Tera is in her 15th year as a special education teacher.

We worship at Corinth Reformed Church and have been attending for 18 years. Most recently, I served our church as a member of both our Transition Team and Pastoral Search Team.

#### 2. What motivates you to want to become a Byron Center Public Schools Board of Education member?

I'm motivated to continue leading as a BCBOE member as an act of service to our community. In particular, I feel a responsibility to lead in our current cultural climate and I believe I have the discernment and temperament to lead effectively. I'm proud of our district and the opportunities it has provided my children. My desire is for our school district to continue offering exceptional opportunities for our children and remain a destination school district.

#### 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?

School board members should be servant leaders that reflect the values of their community. I believe they should be quick to listen, eager to learn, and thorough in their evaluation and work. School board members should also be humble, passionate, approachable, respectful, caring, and accountable to the whole community. Entrusted leaders need to collaborate well and bring people together, even on issues that may divide us.

#### 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?

We have a wonderful community and a terrific school district. I'm immensely grateful for our leadership, past and present, and my highest priority is to continue our strong academic performance and our success in the arts and athletics. Retaining our leadership and our highly qualified and effective teachers allows us to succeed in these areas. Additionally, I will continue to prioritize the role of our school board to provide fiscal oversight of the school district. My other priorities include a vigilant focus on school safety, managing growth, and offering additional vocational exploration and/or training.

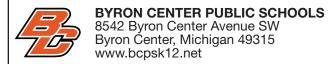
#### 5. How are you currently involved in the Byron Center Public Schools community?

I'm currently involved with BCPS as a trustee of the board of education. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our community. Most importantly, I'm like many of you; a parent of several children attending our school district and participating in extracurricular activities. This experience gives me a front row seat to the operation of our schools, a pulse on the perspective of our parents, and an eye on the success of our students.

#### 6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our students and families?

My vision for education is that all students have numerous opportunities to create their own success stories. Every student is valued and has unique gifts and talents that contribute to the school community. It's important that we continue to provide environments where students can excel inside and outside the classroom. Providing excellent facilities and resources is important, but our highly qualified staff is core to our achievement. Hiring and retaining these district employees will build student success stories.

We're doing a wonderful job serving our students and families. I believe offering even more exposure to career opportunities for our students and working to keep improving our communication with parents and stakeholders is critical for the continued success of our district.



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# 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR IMPORTANT DATES

- NOV 15: K-12 HALF DAY
- NOV 27-29: THANKSGIVING BREAK
- DEC 23-JAN 3: WINTER BREAK
- JAN 15-17: K-12 HALF DAY (EXAMS)
- JAN 20: NO SCHOOL
- FEB 14: K-12 HALF DAY
- FEB 17: MID-WINTER BREAK
- APRIL 4-11: SPRING BREAK
- MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY
- MAY 28-30: K-12 HALF DAY (EXAMS)
- MAY 30: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL









