



Byron Center Public Schools

"Opening the Doors of Tomorrow for Students Today"

November 19, 2009

Dear Staff, Parents and Community Members:

As I am sure you are aware, school districts across the State of Michigan are facing reductions in funding. In early October we were informed of a \$165 per student deduct (total \$545,000) from our 2009-2010 school year budget, and in late October an additional \$127 deduction (total \$420,000).

Byron Center Public Schools accommodated the first reduction through line item reductions, fund revenues, and taking its fund equity from 8.3% to 6.4%. A decision was made not to take the fund equity any lower, as it would require the district to borrow monies to meet its monthly expenses and payroll. Therefore, Byron Center Public Schools must accommodate the second reduction amounting to \$420,000 within its current budget. The district must position itself to implement reductions effective second semester and notify any potential staff of layoffs on or before December 11th. As a result, the Board of Education will need to approve a resolution at its December 7th meeting.

The timeline to make decisions has been restrictive due to the late announcement of the deductions and the need to begin preparations immediately. Union contracts require notifying staff of second semester changes on or before December 11th. Six different staff/parent meetings were held to share the financial challenge and its implications for the near term and for the 2010-2011 school year. It is projected that per student funding reductions for 2010-11 will be even more severe. We are collecting and will review any suggestions by stakeholders for now and 2010-2011.

Currently, in response to the limited timeframe and the depth of the reduction (\$420,000), I have instructed our 5th-12th grade leadership team to reconfigure their building schedules to reflect the following: discontinue "teaming" at 5-8th grades, reduce BCHS schedule from modified 8-block to six-period day. In addition, staff will receive layoff notices to provide the time necessary to evaluate the implications of the schedule changes as it relates to staffing reductions.

- These changes will **NOT** take place, if the State Senate rescinds the \$127 reduction at their scheduled vote, November 21, 2009.
- These changes **WILL** take place effectively immediately:
 - 1) If the State Senate approves the \$127 deduct at their scheduled vote on November 21, 2009,
or
 - 2) if the Senate allows their November 21st deadline to pass, meaning the \$127 deduct will take affect without a vote.

Once the district initiates the scheduling changes, class changes for students, and the layoff process with staff, we will need to remain constant to the plan and will not be able to be reverse the implementation process.

If there is hope in the future,
There is power in the present,

Daniel L. Takens
Superintendent

DT:jb