

## **If there is hope in the future...**

### **There is Power in the Present**

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

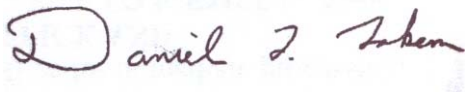
- ❖ As always, it is hard to believe that this is the end of the school year and how, surprisingly, it doesn't slow down at all.
- ❖ While schools throughout the State of Michigan faced several challenges this year, Byron Center included, we were able to end the year on a high note with students who continue to excel and accomplish feats that amaze us all.
- ❖ The BCHS Boys Track team brought home a State Championship this spring! WMS students hosted an inspiring 4<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day event honoring veterans, and many of our K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoyed springtime activities and field days while simultaneously raising money for such causes as Haiti Relief, Relay for Life and others.
- ❖ On Thursday, June 3, Byron Center High School hosted graduation ceremonies for 239 members of the Class of 2010. If you've ever attended a BCHS graduation, you know that this is truly the culminating event of the school year. Seeing each of our Seniors walk across the stage as adults, while looking at the big screens around us showing photos of their youth and memories of school days, fills everyone in attendance with such pride. It is just remarkable. This is the result of Moms and Dads, family and friends, teachers and staff, and a surrounding community joining in a forever partnership to support our children through their challenges and successes to become the caring, competent adults that we are so awed by on graduation night.. In addition, the following week we celebrated our first graduates from our newly established BCPS Northstar Academy alternative education program. We love all these young people, we will miss them, and we wish them the very best as they leave our care and begin the adventures that await them in their lives.
- ❖ At the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Education meeting, we will be asking the Board to adopt our 2010-2011 budget. We are required by state law to approve a budget by July 1st of each year. If you'll remember, we began working through these latest budget challenges in January and February. I am pleased to report that the 2010-2011 process is complete and ready for Board approval. We were able to accomplish this, using the best projections available from our various sources, by opening Schools of Choice, implementing a Pay to Participate program, administrative reductions of \$525,895, retirement and staffing cuts of \$357,188, and a \$25,000 reduction in transportation.
- ❖ Speaking of retirements, I would like to provide a staffing update and recognize the following individuals:
  - Doug Idema, Bus Maintenance, has been with our district for 28 years and is now retiring. Much of our children's safety rested in Doug's hands and we appreciate his dedication over the past many years.
  - Carol Dean, bus driver, has been a full time driver since 2005 and a substitute driver prior to this.
  - Deb Funk, bus driver, has been with the district since 2004, first as a substitute driver and more recently as a full time driver.
  - Linda DeVos, Transportation Director, is also retiring. Linda has provided smooth leadership in transportation for nearly 20 years for the students of Byron Center Public Schools. We thank her for her service to our children.

- A big welcome to Marcia VanSolkema! Marcia will be replacing Linda as the new Transportation Supervisor. She has been with the district for many, many years and we are all confident that she will be fantastic and she takes on this new role.
- Mary Stachowiak, Kindergarten teacher, Marshall, has been with the district just shy of 35 years. At her retirement party, Mary was visited by a BCPS teacher who was in Mary's first kindergarten class.
- Ellen Bauer, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Marshall, has also been with the district for nearly 35 years. Once again, at the retirement party there were parents who were in these teachers' classes' years ago, and whose children have also had the pleasure of having these veterans as their teachers.
- Shirley DeBois, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Marshall, had been with Byron Center Public Schools for 22 years. We will miss Shirley and all these teachers.
- Mary Krupiczewicz, Speech Pathologist, Countryside has been with the district for almost 20 years. She has served both BCPS and the Christian schools over her tenure.
- In addition to these retirements, Administrative Assistant Diann Rison is retiring. Diann has been with the district for the past 14 years. She spent most of her tenure at the Central Office and the past two years at BCHS.
- Joyce Bower, District Communications Director/Van Singel Managing Director, will be retiring as well. She has been with the district since the opening of BCHS and the Van Singel Fine Arts Center in 1998. Joyce will return in August to continue in her current role on a part time basis.
- Mike Spahr, West Middle School Principal, will be retiring as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mike has been the principal of WMS since its opening in 2004. Like Joyce, Mike will be returning on a part time basis to assist on district wide school improvement.

❖ I hope our school family and community will join me in thanking these individuals for their commitment to our students and our district. We wish them the very best.

❖ I pray that everyone has a relaxing, refreshing summer.

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



Dan Takens  
Superintendent

DT:jb