



Operating Referendum Election Recap: Where Do We Go From Here?

By Superintendent Scott Thielman

I want to thank all of the parents and residents for their support of the operating referendum; unfortunately, it was not a successful referendum election for our district. The goals presented to the community will remain a priority for the district.

Reducing class sizes has been one of the school board's top priorities since the budget reductions of 2007 and 2008.

School safety is always a top priority and the ability to help students in need of mental health support will continue to be addressed. The district submitted \$1.3 million worth of safety improvement requests for the state's safety grant allocation and received \$50 thousand for one of our school buildings.

The district will continue to work on providing **middle school** students **opportunities** to receive intervention and remediation during the school day that does not remove them from core (mathematics, English, science and social studies) subjects.

The district's **special education deficit** grew by \$1.1 million during the last state calculation. The responsibility of the state and federal legislators to provide funding to cover the cost of special education has risen to a crisis level for all school districts. These factors, along with inadequate funding on an annual basis, continues to impact the ability of school districts throughout the state to meet the expectations of their parents and communities.

The annual budget process begins in October and a first glance is presented to the school board in November for the upcoming school year. The process uses enrollment projections since funding for school districts is based on the number of students enrolled in the district. In December, the annual levy is certified and the Truth in Taxation hearing is held. Annually, in January, the board adopts the budget assumptions for the following year, which includes a three-year budget forecast based on those assumptions. In April, budget adjustments are made and approved for the current year and in June the annual budget is adopted for the following year.

The BHM School District is dramatically below state averages (the independent annual audit indicates we are \$1,671 per pupil below the state average) for general education funding. The district has reduced its net tax capacity tax rate for three consecutive years and with the certification of the annual levy in December, it will be the fourth consecutive year. The district will review the possibilities of looking for one-time reductions in expenditures as well as a review of programs and personnel to find the resources to continue to offer our current programs without adequate funding from the state.

Currently, the state's November budget forecast, which will be released in early December and is broadly speculated to have good budget news, could be good for education based on the newly elected

Governor's vision for public education. Governor-elect Walz has indicated a desire to provide an education funding increase tied to inflation, funding for the special education cross subsidy (deficit), school safety funding for mental health and infrastructure, and levy assistance for low property wealth school districts. It is with this in mind that the district will have to balance the need to make reductions and ability to hold out hope for future funding.

The dilemma school districts face is the timing of the final budget decisions made by the state. School districts are required to adopt a budget by June 30 of every year but the state legislative session is not required to end until the first Monday after the third Saturday in May. The pattern of behavior at the legislature is to wait until the May deadline before finalizing the state's budget, which is too late for school districts' budget deadline.

This year, as we have done every year, the district will meet with local and state

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2018 Operating Referendum Results			
	Yes	No	Total
Buffalo	2,610	3,814	6,424
Hanover	535	805	1,340
Montrose	375	865	1,240
Other	1,491	3,994	5,485
Total	5,011	9,478	14,489

Find full results online at www.bhmschools.org.



Proud Of....

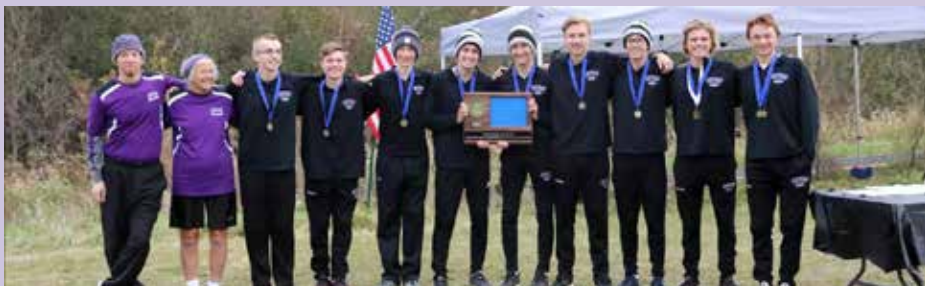
Those listed below were submitted by district staff and recognized by the BHM School Board for their special contributions and accomplishments.



Outstanding Support Staff Honorees: Todd Owens—Tatanka Elementary STEM School Educational Support Professional, Dorothy Valentine—Montrose Elementary School of Innovation Custodian, Melissa Steward—Hanover Elementary Principal's Secretary and Brett Mackereth—Technology Technician who were honored at the Resource Training and Solutions Annual Banquet. Also pictured, BHM Superintendent Scott Thielman.



Front to back, left to right: Linda Robeck, Parkside Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, Nicole Meints—Hanover Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher, Michelle Koren—Buffalo Community Middle School (BCMS) Science Teacher and Scott Rabehl—Buffalo High School (BHS) Band Teacher who were selected as Leaders in Educational Excellence and honored at the Resource Training and Solutions Program. Those pictured in back: BHM Superintendent Scott Thielman, Parkside Elementary Principal Michelle Robinson, Hanover Elementary Principal Brad Koltes, BCMS Principal Matt Lubben and BHS Principal Mark Mischke.



Buffalo High School Fall Activities Conference Champions - Boys Cross Country and Girls Swim/Dive. Top photo by Rob LaPlante, Wright County Journal-Press. Bottom photo by Todd Polzin.



Buffalo High School (BHS) seniors Emma Kuitunen and Mya Otto who are Semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Also, BHS seniors who were named Commended Students: Carter Barton, Shannon Bowers, Gabriella Hernandez, Anthony Woods and Noah Zimmerman.



Todd Bouman, BHS Varsity Football Coach who was named the Gatorade Coach of the Week for Week 1 of the Minnesota High School Football Season. A \$1000 check is given to the BHS Football Program.



John Hayden, Buffalo Community Middle School Assistant Principal who was named the Central Division Assistant Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.

Debi Warpula, who was selected as the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association's Girls Golf Coach of the Year.



Laura Lindquist - BHM Communications Coordinator for the following awards provided by the National School Public Relations Association: Award of Merit for Electronic Marketing Materials - BHM Schools: The Place to Dream, Believe and Achieve; Award of Merit for Birth to Kindergarten in BHM Schools Video; and Honorable Mention for the 2017-18 School District Calendar.

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Brilliant Bison—Alumni Shining in the World

Alumni: Christine (Larson) Husom Buffalo High School Graduate 1971

Lives In: Buffalo, MN

Family: Husband Dan ('67) and four children: Elizabeth ('93), Luke ('95), Morynn ('97) and Adrienne ('99)

Employed: Author and County Commissioner

Education: Concordia University—St. Paul, Organizational Management and Communications 1996

No Mystery About Christine Husom's Future

Christine Husom's Path

The life path for Christine Husom has been a long and winding road full of twists and turns along the way—much like a good book. After graduating high school in 1971, she began dating Buffalo High School (BHS) 1967 grad Dan Husom. Just one year later they were married. Husom began her undergraduate journey at the University of Minnesota before transferring to North Hennepin to pursue a degree in nursing. She realized that wasn't the career for her and changed to an emphasis in writing while figuring out her career path. Husom would eventually put her education on hold while she worked to raise four children.

Husom worked a variety of jobs while the children were little—waitressing at supper clubs and serving as an ambassador for the Buff-Hello welcoming service. In 1989, after the fourth child was in school, Husom began working as a corrections officer in the Wright County Jail. She began taking classes again to earn her college degree and in 1996 officially graduated from Concordia University in St. Paul with a degree in Organizational Management and Communications.

A passion for law and psychology prompted her to work in the St. Paul Police Department in 2002. She went through their five-month police academy and worked as a cadet before becoming injured. While working for the department, Husom earned her Law Enforcement Certificate in 2003 and is still a certified Peace Officer in the state of Minnesota.

After leaving the St. Paul Police Department, Husom went on to work as a mental health practitioner for a non-profit that worked with mentally ill, chemically dependent, chronically homeless adults in St. Paul. At the same time she was commuting back and forth to St. Paul, her husband, who worked in the shoe repair business, decided to open his own store in 2002 called Buffalo Orthotics



Author Christine Husom pictured with her Murder in Winnebago and Snow Globe Shop mystery series.

and later in 2011, Sole and Body. Husom helped with the business when she could. Later in 2007 she served as a Wright County Deputy for just under a year before finally giving into her true passion as a writer.

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BHM Special Education Staff who were recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education for student records management.



BHS Hoofprint and its online site, Hoofprint.net each were awarded All-State Gold by the MN High School Press Association. The Hoofprint won 2nd Place in Best of Show. Ella

Shuherk and Jack Oistad were Editors in Chief and Brad Palmer is the Advisor.



BHS 2018 Yearbook was named the Best Yearbook in Minnesota by the MN High School Press Association. The Yearbook won All-State Gold, 1st Place Best of Show and 1st Place in General Excellence. Thirteen yearbook students earned MN Gold Medallion Awards: Noah Raisanen, Eric Braun, Grace Moran, Carly Strom, Bailey Braccini, Alyssa Romportl, Lilly Ragab, Ella Hanson, Jayna Sigurdson, Carter Barton, Erica O'Borsky and Hanna Van Den Einde along with Laura Broadwater who received 3 awards. Lindsey Kauffman and Hannah Park were the Editors in Chief and Ryan McCallum is the Advisor.



BHM
SCHOOLS

The place to
dream, believe
and **achieve.**

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"I've always been a writer," shares Husom. "I've been creating stories since before I could even write."

Husom recalls walking into her 1st grade classroom and getting excited to see the letters lined up above the chalkboard. She was excited to learn to read because she knew that would lead to learning how to write.

Husom shared that she had written two romance novels when her kids were growing up, but they were never published. She began writing her first published book, *Murder in Winnebago County*, in 1998 and finished it in 2003. After extensive searching she met a publisher online and the book was published in 2008. The publisher would go on to publish five more books in the Winnebago County Mystery Thriller series. Husom independently published her seventh book in the series and is currently working on her eighth book.

Within 10 years, Husom has written 10 published books (three books alone came out in 2015). She became a national best-selling author with her *Snow Globe Shop Mysteries* published by the major publishing company, Penguin

Random House. "It's a magical process," states Husom. "A lot of elements go into writing a book and I've really worked to get to know and develop my characters."

As if writing books wasn't enough for this wife, mother and grandmother of seven, she ran for Wright County Commissioner in 2012 and won. So far she has served five years and was just elected in 2018 to serve four more.

"I thought about it for many years (an area of service) and serving at the local level really appealed to me," says Husom. "My parents influenced me and taught me by example to give back. I think that is why I was so interested in psychology and the criminal justice system, because that became a great way for me to serve my community as well."

Husom serves on 20 different committees which involves a lot of reading, researching and talking to people about the issues and trying to find solutions.

How did BHM Schools prepare you for where you are today?

As she is in life, Husom was very active and involved in high school. She was

in many activities such as Drama Club, German Club, Yearbook, Cheerleading (for wrestling) and danced for the Bisonettes (dance team). There were no sports for girls to participate in at the time. The closest was the Girls Athletic Association (which she was a part of) which was basically an extension of physical education class.

Husom remembers, "BHS gave me a solid base with real top-notch educators. They gave me a good sense of community and prepared me for the future. The clubs and activities taught me how to work together and be a part of a team. These are also some of the many reasons why we wanted to move back here and raise our children in Buffalo and the BHM School District."

Husom shows off her moves as a wrestling cheerleader during her sophomore year at Buffalo High School.



Sounds of the Season—Friday & Saturday, December 14-15

The Buffalo High School (BHS) Sounds of the Season Choir Concert will be two nights in the BHS Performing Arts Center:

Friday, December 14 - 7:30 p.m.
Freshman Choir | Concert Choir | Ensembles

Saturday, December 15 - 7:30 p.m.
Varsity Choir | Concert Choir | Ensembles

NOTE: This is a change from the district calendar dates.

Tickets are \$3/adult and \$2/student or senior adult. Activities passes will be honored. Tickets are general admission and will be available at Gartner's Hallmark in Buffalo, the BHS Activities Office and at the door.



World's Best Work Force Annual Report

The "Striving for the World's Best Workforce" bill was passed in 2013 to ensure every school district in the state is making strides to increase student performance. The World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Plan is intended to serve as a foundational document aligning educational initiatives serving students from pre-kindergarten through high school.

The WBWF legislation is based on five goals:

1. All students ready for kindergarten.
2. All third-grade students can read at grade-level.
3. All students attain career and college readiness before graduating from high school.
4. Close the achievement gap.
5. All students graduate from high school.

The BHM World's Best Workforce Plan, coupled with the district's strategic plan, provide a solid foundation to accelerate student achievement. The full WBWF document will be published after December 15, 2018, on the district's website: bhmschools.org. If you do not have access to a computer and would like a copy of the report, you may call the BHM Teaching and Learning Department at 763.682.8778 to request one.

Welcome BHM Kindergarteners!

Let's get ready for kindergarten! If your child will be 5 by September 1, 2019 you can enroll your child for the 2019-20 school year in BHM Schools. All incoming kindergarten students need to complete ECCE screening for more information. Don't miss the following registration nights for your neighborhood school...



bhmschools.org

February 19 | 6:30 p.m. Montrose Elementary
School of Innovation
February 21 | 6 p.m. Northwinds Elementary
February 25 | 6:30 p.m. Tatanka Elementary
STEM School
(Accepting open enrollment.)
March 4 | 6 p.m. Hanover Elementary
March 5 | 6:30 p.m. Parkside Elementary
March 12 | 6:30 p.m. *Discovery Elementary
(*Entrance is based on a lottery—Application deadline is Feb. 1, 2019)

If you miss registration night, please contact your child's neighborhood school to register.

Get Ready for the Discovery Kindergarten Lottery

Discovery Elementary is a small school of choice based on the philosophy of multi-age, looping education. The mission at Discovery is to provide community connections and a focus on social, emotional and intellectual development that gives students authentic learning opportunities.

Discovery Elementary does not have an attendance area and therefore uses a lottery process for student enrollment. On Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 6:30

p.m., Discovery Principal Dr. Mathew Nelson will host an informational night in Commons B at Discovery. The presentation will include information about Discovery's curriculum, philosophy, instructional techniques, an overview of the school and an opportunity to ask questions.

Letters and application forms for Discovery enrollment will be mailed in January to all families who are registered with the district as having a child eligible for kin-

dergarten next fall. If you do not receive this information, want more information about Discovery or would like a tour, you may contact the Discovery Elementary office at 763-682-8400.

All applications are due by 2 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2019. The lottery drawing will take place Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. in Commons B at Discovery. Parents are welcome to attend, but it is not required. All applicants will receive the results in the mail.

Winter Weather Alerts



Decisions to close, delay or dismiss school early are never an easy task. Anytime weather threatens the school day, district administration make informed decisions by monitoring weather reports, talking with the bus company and surrounding districts, driving the roads and referring to local and county officials for road conditions.

Because the district has students who walk to school, whenever the wind chill reaches a level when a person can get frostbite within 10 minutes or less, school may be delayed or cancelled. Often times weather forecasts will change over night, especially when tem-

peratures are concerned, therefore, the district will often wait until the morning to determine the risk factors.

The parent/staff notification system is used to alert parents (and district staff) when school is cancelled, delayed or dismissed early due to poor weather conditions. School and activity delays or cancellations can also be found on local TV stations, KRWC Radio, the district website at www.bhmschools.org and on Facebook.

Generally, school will remain in session if buses can drive their routes safely. As a rule, if there is no school, there are no

evening school district and Community Education activities/classes.

Especially in winter, weather conditions may be severe in one area and not in another (since the district spans over 150 square miles). Remember, as a parent, you ultimately have the final decision about whether or not it's safe at any time for your child to go to school.



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elected legislators to stress the lack of sustainable funding school districts face every year. If parents and residents are interested in supporting BHM Schools in its effort to influence our legislators for adequate, equitable and sustainable funding for school districts, please

contact me by email at sthielman@bhm-schools.org or call me at 763-682-8707.

The Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District is providing outstanding experiences for our students and will continue to do so in the future. We remain

committed to our mission of *making a difference by preparing all students for a successful future in a changing world.* BHM Schools is and will continue to be the place for students to *dream, believe and achieve.*



**Buffalo
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Magnet Enrollment Open

Full STEAM Ahead in Montrose Early Enrollment Now Open for STEM, STEAM and Arts Magnet Schools

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, Montrose Elementary School of Innovation (MESI) will be a STEAM magnet school as designated by the Northwest Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD). NWSISD was awarded a federal magnet school assistance grant that will benefit MESI, for the next five years (through 2023), and will be used to support professional development, curriculum additions, technology and other Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) related programming.



MESI STEAM Magnet joins the two other NWSISD magnet schools in the district: **Tatanka Elementary STEM School** (TESS)—offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as a part of their curriculum, with the primary focus on engineering, and **Buffalo High School (BHS) Arts Magnet**—a school within the school focusing on visual, performing, literary, media and applied arts.

Students who live in the BHM School District, but not the attendance boundary of the two elementary schools, must open enroll through NWSISD. All students who would like to attend the Arts Magnet program must also open enroll through NWSISD.

All three schools are now accepting open enrollment from within the BHM School District (along with the six other member districts in NWSISD: Anoka-Hennepin, Brooklyn Center, Elk River, Fridley, Osseo and Rockford). Enrollment also includes FREE transportation to and from school.

Early application into all NWSISD magnet schools for the 2019-20 school year is open through December 31 and can be submitted at www.nws.k12.mn.us. The application is available on the home page of the BHM website at www.bhmschools.org.

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Winter weather is fast approaching. Be sure you are ready for it. Read *Winter Weather Alerts* on p. 5.

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Apply To Quest

The Quest program provides specialized classroom instruction for highly gifted students (top two to three percent in their class). The program combines enrichment and acceleration of district curriculum and serves students in grades 2-9. Students can expect to learn at a faster pace, apply what is being learned to the world and make connections to the community.

The Quest program for students in grades 2-5 is located in Parkside Elementary in Buffalo. Transportation to Parkside Elementary is available for in-district students. Middle school and high school students attend their regular building.

Siblings of Quest students may also choose to make Parkside Elementary their family school by open enrolling to Parkside.



Information about the Quest program, including Request to Assess forms and bright student vs. gifted child comparisons, can be found at bhmschools.org. You may also contact Rob Nosbush, High Potential Services Coordinator, at rnosbush@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8766 with additional questions.

Families of students currently in grades 1-8 who feel their child may benefit from this type of environment are invited to apply for next school year. All materials are due by Thursday, January 24, 2019.