



Your Vote Matters

In less than two weeks, the Matters family and BHM School District residents have an important decision to make. It has been 17 years since the last voter-approved operating levy for the school district. Last fall, residents voted down an operating levy proposal and as a result, the district cut just over \$1.3 million from the budget for the 2019-20 school year.

The district's need for operating funds has not gone away. Funding has not kept pace with the rate of inflation and the state and federal governments are not fully funding the special education mandates that are in place for public schools.

If the operating levy IS approved it will generate \$750 per student for the next five years (this is NOT the tax impact for each tax payer), and the district will continue to operate as normal. The district will not have to make any additional cuts. Cuts for the 2019-20 school year will NOT be restored.

If the operating levy is NOT approved the district will need to make \$2.9 million in budget reductions for next school year, 2020-21. Some of the reductions will include:

- Cut 22 teachers, 1 administration and 11 other staff members
- Close Phoenix Learning Center
- Close Discovery Elementary
- Cut Quest (gifted program)
- Cut wRight Choice (alternative for out-of-school suspension)

- Cut 6 activities at Buffalo High School
- Cut ALL middle school activities
- Cut 3 regular bus routes (longer ride times and longer walking distances)
- Increase Buffalo High School activity and parking fees
- Increase Buffalo High School activity passes, tickets and gate prices
- Reduce College in the Schools offerings
- Reduce supply budgets district-wide by 11%

When to Vote

Voting will take place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2019, from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Where to Vote

Buffalo High School
877 Bison Blvd, Buffalo, MN

Hanover City Hall
11250 5th St NE, Hanover, MN

Montrose Community Center
200 Center Ave S, Montrose, MN

Poll Finder



In-person early voting is available NOW through Monday November 4 in the BHM District Office located in Discovery Center at 214 1st Ave NE, Buffalo from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To have a ballot sent to you in the mail, scan the code on the right or go online to: www.bhmschools.org under Election Information for the early ballot application. Fill out the form and mail or email it to the address listed (you can take a picture of it on your phone and email it in). A ballot will be mailed directly to you. Election Day is near, so remember to allow yourself enough time for this option.

Early Voting



More Information

Website: www.bhmschools.org
Call: 763-682-0877
Email: election@bhmschools.org



Schedule a Visit

Want to know more about the election, school finance or exactly how the district spends the budget? Call 763-682-8706 to have the superintendent and/or the director of finance and operations meet with you and your neighbors, friends, family and colleagues. All your questions can be answered in person. No group size is too small!

Early Voting

Don't let an unexpected illness, bad weather or an unexpected out-of-town trip keep you away from the polls on November 5. Consider voting early. It's easy to do.

Opportunities for Students, Parents and Voters

The school year is off to a great start and the bright sunshine on the first day of school was perfect as students were welcomed to another school year. The elementary bus routes ran smoother than any previous year and for the second consecutive year, K-5 started, and our 6th and 9th graders had the middle school and high school buildings all to themselves on the first day. They were able to meet their teachers and staff members, tour the buildings, participate in an orientation and mock schedule, meet student mentors, have lunch together, participate in team building activities, and experience the dismissal process and the bus protocol procedures without hundreds of upper-class students in attendance. On day two, the rest of the secondary students joined their classmates. It has been a wonderful start to the school year.



Scott Thielman

opportunities for students based on their students' best interests. Those decisions have given our students the opportunity to excel each and every day. It can be witnessed in our schools when we see students receive individualized instruction and attention. It is evident in the opportunities and choices students are afforded to choose college credit bearing courses for technical colleges, two-year colleges or four-year colleges. These opportunities for students have a twofold effect for them and their parents. We have calculated the annual tuition savings for students and parents to be approximately \$1.8 million. The aforementioned investments in our students, personalized instruction, and strong supportive relationships with our students sets the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District apart from all other districts in the state. It might seem like a big claim but our student and parent surveys back it up.

As stated above, every decision that is made in the BHM School District is made in the best interests of our students. That is the reason so many opportunities have been created for our students and why the district is in need of an operating levy this fall. The district wants to keep all of its schools open and continue to provide all of its outstanding programs and opportunities for our students. It is my hope that our community has seen and read about the upcoming operating levy and the needs of the district as it made bud-

get reductions for the 2019-20 school year (\$1.375 million) and the drastic budget cuts it faces for the 20-21 school year (\$2.9 million) and beyond.

These budget cuts are not unique to BHM Schools and unfortunately, the reality is, BHM is one of the few school districts that do not have an operating levy in place. In fact, the BHM School District hasn't had an increase in the voter-approved operating levy since 2002. The proposed operating levy will provide additional revenue for the school district for the next five years. The revenue will allow the district to keep all of the current teachers and programs for our students but will not add anything new for our students. Community members and parents can find more information about the November 5 operating levy election in this edition of the *Insider*, in the September issue of the *Insider* and on the district's website at www.bhmschools.org. We encourage everyone to be informed about the upcoming levy and to vote on November 5.

It has been great to see parents meeting with their teachers these past few weeks for parent/teacher conferences. Our mission is *Making a difference by preparing all students for a successful future in a changing world.* We are deeply committed to our mission and to ensure that **BHM Schools is the place for students to dream, believe and achieve.**

BHM school district is proud of the relationships our teachers and staff have with our students, the academic choices we provide to students, and the number of opportunities and options students and parents are offered. Every day our teachers, support staff and principals make decisions and provide



Proud Of....

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



Buffalo High School senior, Benet Eld, who is a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student.



Buffalo High School English Teacher Tracy Hagstrom-Durant for receiving the Outstanding Individual in Speech and Theatre Award from the Communications and Theatre Association of Minnesota.



(Top) Buffalo High School All State Musicians-Band: Maggie Hermanson, Sigourney Wubben, Tate Hanson, Luke Lichtenberg, Luke McGorry and Ella Lichtenberg; and (Bottom) Choir: Director Zack Carlson, Grace Thompson, Patrick Stonecipher, Jack Lanners, Sam Carlson, Owen Klaphake and Danielle Ruhr.

School Start Time Study

Sleep Results are In

This is the fourth year students at the secondary level are starting school later than before. Originally, secondary students began school at 7:45 a.m. Now, students begin class at 8:50 a.m., about an hour later. This places the district in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation to delay the start of middle and high school times to 8:30 p.m. or later.

The year before the district made the time switch, Buffalo High School (BHS) was asked to participate in a multi-year START Study conducted by the University of Minnesota and led by U of M professor and Social Epidemiologist, Dr. Rachel Widome. So far, over the course of the last three years, the study has shown that students are now getting an average of about 34 minutes more sleep per night than other students in the study who did not change to a later start time. It was also shown that BHS students are sleeping less over the weekend indicating the need for less "catch-up sleep."

It was also revealed that fewer students were identifying themselves as victims to bullying, after the time change as compared to



before the change. This can't be directly aligned with the later start time, but the shift is moving in a positive direction. Another point of interest is the drop in the number of Buffalo Hospital Emergency Room visits by teens in the communities of Buffalo, Hanover and Montrose. Buffalo physician, Dr. Cory Martin has reported a 40% drop in BHM teen visits in the ER from 2015-2018. Again, it's uncertain if these teens attend school in BHM Schools, but the shift is positive.

BHS has noted an improvement in the number of students tardy for their first class of the day. Overall, since 2015-16, that number

has dropped by more than 20%. BHS has also noted that the time change has not had a negative impact on students' grades or in the number of students participating in sports and activities (no significant decrease). Some students and parents have felt that the later start time posed as a barrier for employment opportunities. BHS responded to this concern with a creative solution to create, develop and expand the Work Experience and On-the-Job Training provided to students.

Dr. Widome said there is one more year left of the study to analyze the data collected. More information will be shared as it's discovered.

Proud Of....continued p. 2



At the Minnesota High School Press Association Convention, the 2019 Buffalo High School *Tatanka* Yearbook won "All-State Gold" and was named the best yearbook in Minnesota for the seventh consecutive year. The BHS *Hoofprint* Newspaper also took second place "Best in Show" and "All-State Silver" for newsmagazines. *Hoofprint.net* took fifth place "Best in Show."

2019-20 Buffalo High School *Tatanka* Yearbook editors who won "Best in Show" at Balfour Publishing's Summer Yearbook Camp.

Buffalo High School 2018-19 *Tatanka* Yearbook which earned All-American recognition from the National Scholastic Press Association. This is the third consecutive year the *Tatanka* has earned this highest ranking award. Editors in Chief were Tucker MacCallum and Kenzie Myrkle and Alyssa Romportl was the Managing Editor.



Pictured top to bottom, left to right: Breanna Landrus, Tatanka Elementary STEM School Social Worker; Jen Olson, Montrose Elementary School of Innovation Curriculum Coordinator; Shelly Hoard, Buffalo Community Middle School English Teacher; and Janelle Welch, Buffalo High School and PRIDE Transitions Speech/Language Pathologist who were selected as Leaders in Educational Excellence and honored at the Resource Training and Solutions program in St. Cloud.



Brilliant Bison—Alumni Shining in the World

Alumni: Anita (Dalman) Underberg
Buffalo High School Class of 1974

Lives In: Buffalo, Minnesota

Family: Husband Kevin ('72) and
Two Daughters: Jackie Heinz ('97) and April Kiernan ('98)

Employed: Bufflao-Hanover-Montrose Schools

Leading the Band, Buffalo Royalty and the School District

Ever wonder who...
...sets the school calendar?
...runs the school district elections for school board candidates and referendums?
...organizes the Buffalo Royalty for Buffalo Days?

You only need to know the name, Anita. Her name is as interesting and unique as she is. Born to Les and Marilyn Dalman in Maple Lake, Minnesota, it wasn't long before they moved their family to Buffalo in 1962. Anita was in the first grade and attended St. Francis Xavier through 6th grade. Being the oldest of three girls, it was her natural ability to be responsible, organized and a strong leader.

Anita attended 7th and 8th grade in the building now known as Discovery Center. She was in the first freshman class to attend the new high school, in 1971, now known as Buffalo Community Middle School. Sports were not readily available to female students at that time, but she made sure she tried a variety of activities including German club, choir, yearbook and was captain of the color guard for marching band. She remembers enjoying her math, accounting, typing and shorthand classes with Mr. Melby and Mr. Specht. She loved working with numbers and she mentioned that those were two good teachers and they made going to class fun.

After graduating from Buffalo High School (BHS) in 1974, Anita set her sights on the big city of Minneapolis and began working immediately as the secretary for the small

group insurance department at IDS Life Insurance in the IDS Tower. It wasn't long before she became re-acquainted with 1972 BHS graduate Kevin Underberg, and she was back in Buffalo. They married in 1977 and had their first daughter, Jackie, in 1978. Just a short 17 months later, their second daughter April was born. Anita was able to be home with the girls until they both were in school, and she followed right behind them, landing a job in Community Education. What started out as a summer job-share position in 1986 soon turned to a full-time secretary to the director of community education.

By 1991, Anita became the BHM Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education. For the last 28 years she has been the quiet leader behind the scenes managing the superintendent's schedule and budget, generating teacher contracts, setting the school year calendar, monitoring and reporting on enrollment numbers, maintaining district policies and emergency procedures, and proofing all district level communications. She also serves the school board by setting their agendas and taking minutes at all workshops and meetings. She is responsible for school board and referendum elections by coordinating polling places, judges, election equipment and organizing all of the legal forms and procedures. One of her most rewarding tasks she coordinates is the district retirement luncheon. "It is a great opportunity for our staff to be recognized by the superintendent and school board for their years of service to our students. It's really a special event."

Giving back to the community has been an important part of Anita's life. She has volunteered

Part of the responsibilities of the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education is to serve as the head election judge for school district elections. Recently, Anita (Dalman) Underberg (middle) has been busy explaining ballots to early voters for this year's operating levy referendum.



Anita (Dalman) Underberg (pictured second from the left) was captain of the Buffalo High School Marching Band Color Guard. They performed in parades, home football games and some basketball games.

in many different capacities for her church and various service organizations. Possibly one of her biggest contributions is during Buffalo Days. "One of my proudest volunteer efforts is my involvement with the Buffalo Royalty Ambassador Program. This program provides leadership opportunities for high school senior girls and allows them to learn about ways women are successful in various careers." Anita has been working with the program since her daughter Jackie was crowned Miss Buffalo in 1997.

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

"My experience in BHM Schools taught me to put forth my best effort in everything I do. I realized during high school that I liked to be involved in a variety of things. My job provides me with that. I didn't go onto to college after high school, but it was a different time back then. I was on the cusp of women staying home and raising a family and women entering the workplace. In those days, you didn't necessarily need to go onto school. But today we know a college or technical school degree is necessary to find a good job. I hope every student today can find their calling in a career that gives them fulfillment like I did."

Anita has always been involved with her daughters as they navigated through BHM Schools, from volleyball boosters to president of the Herd Band Aids. Both are now living and raising their families in the district also. With six grandchildren being raised in BHM Schools, Anita is excited for the opportunities that will be afforded to them. "So much has changed since I was in BHM Schools and yet the hope for everyone to be successful has remained constant."





New Teachers Join BHM Schools

This year, over 25 new teachers were hired around the district to replace those who have retired or moved on to other opportunities. Front Row (left to right): Melanie Stenson—Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE); Katherine Evans—Buffalo High School (BHS) Special Education; Erin Boettcher—Hanover Elementary School (HES) and Montrose Elementary School of Innovation (MESI) English Language Development; Bobbi Lind—MESI Title I; Heidi Lucas—Discovery Elementary Special Education; Jessica Grundmann—HES/MESI Social Worker; Stephanie DeSmith—Parkside Elementary School (PES) Social Worker; Megan Hedrington—BHS Special Education; Taylor Peterson—BHS Special Education; Gina Pogue—PES Physical Education; and Peter Kruize—Buffalo Community Middle School (BCMS) Math.

Middle Row (left to right): Heidi Gallart—District-Wide Elementary Nurse; Anne DeFoe—BHS Special Education; Jackie Hendrickson—PES/Tatanka Elementary STEM School (TESS) English Language Development; Lisa Polzin—BCMS Special Education; Megan Strong—TESS Title I; Kendra Phillips—TESS Grades 3 and 5; Emily Schoephoerster—BCMS Social Studies; and Dawn Przekurat—PES Special Education.

Back Row (left to right): Bryan Norman—BHS Special Education; Kelly Steinke—TESS Special Education; Heather Stowman—Northwinds Elementary School (NES) Special Education; Jennifer Korolewski—HES/PES Psychologist; Crystal Thorson—TESS Art; Chris Conway—NES Special Education; and Nick Ward—BHS Chemistry. Not Pictured: George Moilanen—Phoenix Learning Center Math and Wendi Bottinger—NES Kindergarten.



Kindness in Chalk

Montrose Elementary School of Innovation students recently took to the sidewalks in front of the school to spread messages of caring and kindness. October is National Bullying Prevention Month and students around the district are learning about and performing acts of kindness. First grader Brody Lindsley and 3rd grader Peter Chinikaylo work together to create a kindness masterpiece.

New Schedule for Buffalo High School

Students at Buffalo High School (BHS) started the 2019-20 school year with a new daily schedule. The new schedule shifted the end of the day AAA/Bison Time and repurpose it into the middle of the day in two ways: Advisory Time and structured Bison Academic Support and Enrichment (BASE) Time.

Advisory Time focuses on making sure every student at BHS has a staff member with whom they can connect, as well as experience personal and academic growth. Lessons focus on college/career readiness, academic support and planning, and social/emotional literacy. Students start the week with this group (on Mondays) and check-out at the end of the week together on Fridays. Students are in an Advisory Group, with roughly 18-20 students per staff member, for 30 minutes. They are arranged in groups by grade and their assigned counselor and will stay in the same group for their entire

time at BHS. The goal is to produce stronger connections between students and staff and provide an experience of belonging, foster healthy relationships, develop academic skills, and enhance school culture.

The structured BASE Time involves identifying and supporting, in a timely yet flexible fashion, students who are in need of additional support with their classes, as well as those in need of enrichment. ALL students get 35 minutes of scheduled time on Tuesdays and Thursdays to see teachers for extra homework help or enrichment. This approach promotes equity, rapport-building, and accountability for everyone.

Change is always challenging. Students have mixed feelings about the shift, but have positive feelings about it for the most part. Seniors Chloe Lohse and Maggie Hermanson both have appreciated BASE Time to work on homework and get extra help if it's needed.

Buffalo High School Science Teacher Rachel Busch helps students with their classwork during the new BASE Time available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Photo by Maddy Anderson.





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 RESIDENT DISTRICT 877

Upcoming Events

Boo Bash FUN for the Whole Family, October 26



The second annual Boo Bash will be hosted in Buffalo on Saturday, October 26 by BHM Community Education in partnership with Buffalo Great River Regional Library, Buffalo Chamber, City of Buffalo, BHM Early Childhood Family Education and Opening Doors for Adults with Disabilities. Events include:

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. ECFE in Sturges Park–Seasonal Activities in the Park
- 1-1:15 p.m. Walking the Pumpkin Path (Buffalo Lake to Library)
- 1:15 p.m. Story Time–Buffalo Library
- 2-4 p.m. Buffalo Merchant Trick-or-Treat
- 4:10-4:30 p.m. Costume Parade–Discovery Center Gym
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. Halloween Dance–ECFE and Opening Doors
 (Register by October 21; Dance in Discovery Gym)

Purple listed items are FREE. Cost is \$7 per person for the Halloween Dance. Registration for the dance is requested by October 21. Register online at bhmschools.ce.eleyo.com or call ECFE at 763-682-8780. For more details, look in the Fall Community Ed Catalog on p. 10 or search Boo Bash online at www.bhmschools.ce.eleyo.com.

Guys and Dolls Rolls onto the BHS Stage

A cast of 33 Buffalo High School (BHS) students and over 70 participants in the orchestra pit and other crews, will present the musical production of *Guys and Dolls* November 21-23, at 7:30 p.m. and November 24 at 2 p.m. in the Buffalo High School (BHS) Performing Arts Center.

Set in a mythical New York City, *Guys and Dolls* is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler, Nathan Detroit, tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for fourteen years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler, Sky Masterson, for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown, as a result. *Guys and Dolls* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong.

Tickets will be available in the BHS Activities Office and at Gartner's Hallmark beginning October 28. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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VOTE

BHM Operating Referendum | November 5, 2019

School Board

- Dave Wilson Chairperson
- Sue Lee Vice Chairperson
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- Laurie Raymond Treasurer
- Ken Ogden Acting Clerk/Treasurer
- Amanda Reineck Director
- Bob Sansevere Director
- Elle Kaiser Student Representative
- Scott Thielman Superintendent

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Reader comments or questions welcome!

