



## School Board Asks BHM Residents to Invest in Students on Election Day, November 6, 2018

The BHM School Board and district administration have been discussing, for the past couple of years, the possibility of asking the community to support an operating levy. The district has not had an increase in the voter approved operating levy since 2002 and will need to increase revenue in order to achieve the district's goals of: reducing class sizes, addressing school safety and security personnel and infrastructure, creating more opportunities for students at the middle school by reorganizing the class schedule and addressing the state's under funding of special education. A bond was approved in 2014 for building and technology improvements but is separate from operating levy funds.

Superintendent Scott Thielman shared at the July 2018 school board meeting that the district has always been cautious when budgeting due to the lack of funding from the state and under funding of special education mandates. He reminded everyone of the

district's budget reductions in 2008-09 and 2009-10 due to a lack of state funding. He shared that more can be done to address the goals of class sizes, school safety and middle school opportunities, but not without support from the residents. Thielman pointed out that even if taxpayers approve the levy this November the district will still be below the state average in per pupil revenue.

Director of Finance and Operations Gary Kawlewski shared that the district has been spending down the fund balance to try to address the district's goals. The district's policy is to keep an 8-12 percent fund balance. Kawlewski stated that the district will drop below the 8 percent minimum by fiscal year 2020 if other revenue sources or budget reductions are not found. The board discussed approving an operating levy for this November to ask for an additional \$950 per pupil to address the district's goals and to keep the district from dropping below the minimum

fund balance. Kawlewski also recommended the board revoke and replace the current levies totaling \$119.87 that will expire over the next two years and roll them into the new levy proposal. The district will lose two years of the existing levy authority but will eliminate the need to go out for additional elections over each of the next two years. He suggests the new levy proposal should also include an inflationary adjustment (based on the Consumer Price Index—CPI) in the levy referendum authority.

Based on all of the information presented, and Kawlewski's recommendation, the board approved a resolution to revoke the existing referendum authority of \$119.87 and replace it with a new levy authorization of \$1,069.87 for a net \$950 per adjusted pupil unit increase that will be in place for 10 years if approved. The operating levy question will be included on the general election ballot on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

### More Election Information

#### More Information

A *Special Edition Insider* will come out in October filled with more information about the operating referendum. You will also be able to find information on the district's website at [www.bhmschools.org](http://www.bhmschools.org) and on the district's Facebook page. If you would like to schedule a referendum presentation for a group from the superintendent, call 763-682-8706. Community-wide presentations will be announced in late September.

#### Election Hotline and Email

If you have a question about the upcoming referendum election we have set-up a hotline for you to call and an email for your convenience: 763-682-0877 or [election@bhmschools.org](mailto:election@bhmschools.org).

#### Early Voting

Starting September 21, residents who live in the following cities may vote in person at their city hall: Buffalo, Greenfield, Hanover, Rogers and St. Michael.

To receive a ballot by mail you may complete an online application on the state's election site at: [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail). If you are a BHM resident, you may email [aunderbe@bhmschools.org](mailto:aunderbe@bhmschools.org) for the Absentee Ballot Application that you need to complete and mail to Wright or Hennepin County for an election ballot.

#### When to Vote

Polling places will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

#### Where to Vote

Since this is a general election, district residents will vote in their regular polling places. To find where you vote, you can visit the state's polling place finder at: [www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us).

## Welcome Back!

### Rainy Start but Beautiful First Week

This year marked the first rainy day start of school during my tenure. Even with the rain, it was a very nice way to begin the year for our students in grades 6 and 9. Those students had the buildings to themselves whereby they were able to meet their teachers and staff members, tour the buildings, participate in a 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. The initial indications from teachers and principals are that it was a big success!



Scott Thielman

### Funding the Future

This summer, at the July School Board meeting, Board members passed a unanimous resolution calling for an operating referendum election. The board took this action in order to address class sizes and safety, address security concerns through personnel and infrastructure, expand middle school student opportunities through a new schedule, address the inflationary pressures on the budget causing us to spend down the fund balance, and address the special education funding deficit caused by the state and federal government.

Each of these areas are of concern and have been at the forefront of the school board for several years. The board has taken action to address some of the concerns, but the lack of adequate funding has placed us, and frankly all school districts, in a position where we need to request additional funds in the form of an operating referendum from our residents. The amount of the BHM operating referendum request is \$950 per pupil. That amount is still below the state average of the general education revenue per pupil.

One of the biggest negative impacts on the annual general education budget is the special education funding deficit caused by the state and federal government. On an annual basis, the BHM School District takes \$760 per pupil out of the general education fund to cover the lack of funding for special education programming. This is not just happening in BHM Schools, but occurs throughout the state of Minnesota. The district will hold parent and community

informational meetings to explain the need for the operating referendum election and to answer questions voters may have regarding the referendum. The dates and locations of these informational meetings will be announced in late September and posted on the district's website, [www.bhmschools.org](http://www.bhmschools.org) and on the district's Facebook page.

### Great Start to the School Year

Every year, our district kicks off the new school year with an all staff "Welcome Back" program, and every other year, our community businesses welcome our staff by participating in our wellness fair. On behalf of the board, our staff and myself, I thank our businesses for their support and generosity.

Our staff met all week to prepare for open house celebrations and most importantly, to be ready to welcome our students back to school. This year our enrollment is a bit better than anticipated and we are very excited to welcome everyone to our district. 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 ensuring that **BHM Schools is the place for students to dream, believe and achieve.** Have a great school year!

The place to  
dream, believe  
and achieve.

### Bond Construction Wrapping Up

This summer was the beginning of the end of the bond expenditures and other projects around the district. The middle school had repairs to the roof and exterior walls and the ball fields south of the building began to take shape. The high school began the conversion of the pneumatic controls to an electronic control system and work will begin in October on replacing the rigging system in the Performing Arts Center. At Parkside Elementary, improvements were made to classrooms as well as the replacement of a storage building, and at Discovery Elementary, the former school office was remodeled to a classroom. There will be several smaller projects that will be completed during the school year.



## 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 2019 Tatanka Yearbook Staff who won 1st Place at Balfour Publishing's Summer Yearbook Camp. Individual awards included: Laila Ragab and Eloise Hanson-1st Place for Design; Grace Moran- 1st Place for Writing; Carly Strom - 1st Place for Student Life Photography; Chloe Paul - 1st Place for Portrait Photography; Carter Barton - Runner-up in Writing and 3rd Place for Student Life Photography; and Jayden Perry - 2nd Place for Design.



Tatanka Elementary STEM School students Tommy Fuchs, 1st Place, and Mackenzie Mjelde, 3rd Place winners in the Minnesota Grades 4-6 Division of the Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art contest. Their teacher Erica Carlson was selected as Teacher of the Year for the contest.

Proud Of... p. 3

# In the Construction Zone

Summer is always a busy time for the maintenance crews in BHM Schools. This summer was no different as crews worked to prepare buildings for the opening day of school.

Summer is also the time when larger projects can be completed aside from cleaning. Three years of bond projects are over 95 percent complete and the few unfinished smaller projects will continue during this school year. Bond projects that were worked on over the summer include the middle school outdoor fields, a new shed at Parkside and a door replacement at Discovery will be complete this fall.

Here is an update on some of the highlighted projects:



One of two new hallway floors in Hanover Elementary.

## Buffalo Community Middle School

- Reroofing and tuck pointing on a portion of the building is complete.
- Outdoor fields—the final grading and seeding of the fields between the stadium and John Ause Boulevard was completed in early September; irrigation and drain tile were added along with a second ball field. The space will continue to be used as two full-sized football/soccer fields and will be ready for play in the fall of 2019.
- Girls' pool locker room shower upgrade is complete.

## Buffalo High School

- Work continues on the replacement of the pneumatic heating/cooling controls with digital components and wiring—making this change will allow for better control over the heating and cooling of spaces within the school.
- The Performing Arts Center rigging system update will begin in October.

## Discovery Elementary

- After the relocation of the Discovery office, the old office space was remodeled into a new kindergarten classroom.

## Construction Zone, p. 4



Buffalo Community Middle School field "make-over" located between the stadium and John Ause Boulevard in front of the school.



The former Discovery Elementary office was converted into a new kindergarten classroom.



Located behind Parkside Elementary, the new storage shed for the school and district-wide maintenance is almost complete.

## Proud Of, p. 2

BHS Tatanka Yearbook Staff - the 2018 yearbook earned an All-American recognition from the National Scholastic Press Association. This is the highest award given for receiving marks of distinction in all five areas of judging - Essentials, Coverage, Writing and Editing, Design and Photography. Editors-in-Chief were Lindsey Kauffman and Hannah Park. Alison Tokkesdal was the Managing Editor.





## Alumni: Sue (Tiemann) Olmscheid

**Lives In:** Buffalo, MN

**Family:** Husband Dave ('85) and three sons: Darrin ('07), Jordan ('08) and Collin ('14)

**Employed:** Buffalo Chamber of Commerce and Lillians

**Education:** Gustavus Adolphus College—B.A. in Business and Psychology (minor), 1986

## Buffalo's Best Ambassador

Sue (Tiemann) Olmscheid is nothing but a "living, breathing Buffalonian." Olmscheid's roots are deep in Buffalo. Her parents Kathleen Harff ('51) and Ronald Tiemann ('49) were high school sweethearts and both graduated from Buffalo High School (BHS). Olmscheid was born and raised in Buffalo and returned to the community with her husband Dave (also a Buffalo grad) in 1990 to raise their three sons who also graduated from BHS.

You may be able to take the girl out of Buffalo, but you can't take Buffalo out of the girl. After Olmscheid graduated from BHS in 1982 she went on to graduate from Gustavus Adolphus in 1986 with a degree in business. She used her degree to work as a human resources manager in the Twin Cities metro in the areas of manufacturing, human services and sales. But by 1990, Buffalo was calling her home and for years, Olmscheid commuted to the Twin Cities for work. In 2005, Olmscheid and her sister Cindy

opened a one-of-a-kind occasional store that sparked a new shopping trend for the Buffalo community. Lillians (named after their grandmother) is open every weekend and offers shoppers a wide array of handbags, clothing and accessories. They also opened stores in Anoka and Waconia before franchising the business in 2008. At their peak, they oversaw 35 stores in nine different states. By 2015, they allowed the stores to become independent. Ten stores kept the name Lillians and Olmscheid is now the sole owner of the Buffalo store.

In July 2016, Olmscheid was presented with the opportunity to become the President of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. She jumped at the chance to take over the reins.

"This is my dream job," expresses Olmscheid. "This position fits me well. I was a member on the board for seven years, from 2008-2014, even serving as the board chair in 2013. I'm very passionate about Buffalo and the timing was ideal."



### How did BHM Schools Prepare You for Where You are Today?

"I always felt supported and encouraged by my teachers while going to school (in BHM Schools)," explains Olmscheid. "I liked all of my teachers."

While she may have liked all of her teachers, a few stood out like Joel Squadroni who she believes she had during his very first year of teaching. She shared how she didn't enjoy reading, but he encouraged her and changed her attitude. Laurie Raymond was her psychology teacher who inspired her to want to be a psychologist (ended up as her college minor) and learn more about how people think and how they are all different.

Olmscheid was involved in girls basketball and played alto saxophone in stage (jazz) band and marching band. "I wish I would have been involved in more. Girls sports were fairly a new thing, and I wish I would have played in more than just one."

Olmscheid enjoyed watching her own boys grow up in BHM Schools and create relationships with some of the same teachers she did. She shares, "The school district was great back then and is even greater now. There is so much more offered to kids with college level courses, sports and activities. The teachers and administration here really care about kids. I am hoping my grandkids move back to the area so I can get a fourth generation in the district!"



Kids will be funny no matter what age. Sue (Tiemann) Olmscheid was a member of the BHS Stage (Jazz) Band pictured here from the 1980-81 *Tatanka* Yearbook. She is pictured in the front row, second from the left with her alto saxophone (and J. Meyer's trombone on her head).

*If you know of a "Brilliant Bison" who is shining in BHM or somewhere in the world, email your suggestion to: [lbarta@bhmschools.org](mailto:lbarta@bhmschools.org).*

## Construction Zone, p. 3

- Outside door replacement of the "ramp" doors off the parking lot will take place this fall.

### Montrose Elementary

- Relocating the hard-surface, asphalt play area (which includes basketball hoops and four square) from the parking lot to the play yard will begin in October.

### Parkside Elementary

- Casework replacement/updating (cup boards and counter tops) in the third kindergarten classroom is complete (the other two kindergarten classrooms were completed in 2017).
- A new shed will be complete this fall for Parkside equipment and district-wide maintenance storage.

### Abatement Projects

Abatement projects around the district continued over the summer including: two new hallway floors in Hanover Elementary, new carpet in Discovery Elementary Commons A, and two new floors in the science rooms and a downstairs hallway in Buffalo Community Middle School.

# Upcoming Events



## Apply Today for the BHM Community Teaching & Learning Council

BHM Schools is seeking both parent and community representatives to serve on the Community Teaching & Learning Council for the 2018-19 school year. Meetings are typically held the first Friday of the month from October through April, from 7-8:30 a.m. at the Discovery Center (please note morning meeting time).

The Community Teaching & Learning Council (CTL) provides teachers, parents and community representatives an avenue for input to the school district on teaching and learning topics. The Community Teaching & Learning Council reviews program proposals, suggested curriculum materials, required reports, and develops recommendations regarding these topics to the BHM School Board for consideration.

Both parent and community representatives are needed to represent all ages of students, as well as the communities of Buffalo, Hanover and Montrose. Members will be chosen by two members of the school board, the superintendent and the director of teaching & learning. If interested, submit your name and representation to BHM Director of Teaching & Learning Pam Miller, at 763-682-8777 or at pmiller@bhmschools.org. Deadline for submissions is Monday, October 1, 2018.



## Emergency TEST Message Set for Mid-October

BHM Schools wants to ensure that we are communicating with parents in the most effective way possible. In mid-October, the district will send out a district-wide emergency test message to parents and guardians from our Infinite Campus Parent Notification System. You will receive a call, email and text message (based on information you have on file with your child's school).

Especially with the upcoming winter months, we want to be sure parents/guardians don't miss any important messages from the school or the district about cancellations or delays. If your contact information has changed, please update your information in the Campus Parent Portal or contact your child's school for assistance.

## Boo Bash FUN for the Whole Family, Oct 27

The first ever Boo Bash will be hosted in Buffalo on Saturday, October 27 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:

- 10 a.m.-12 p.m. ECFE in Sturges Park
- 10-10:30 a.m. Walking the Pumpkin Path
- 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Food Truck Fare
- 12 p.m. (Start) Booffalo Run 5k
- 1:30 p.m. (Start) Candy Corn Fun Run/Walk 1k
- 2-4 p.m. Buffalo Merchant Trick-or-Treat
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Mini Monster Meal



## BHS Presents *The Birds* in November

November 15-17, Buffalo High School (BHS) will present their fall play, *The Birds*, with performances each night at 7:30 p.m. in the BHS Performing Arts Center.

*The Birds* is a Greek play by Aristophanes, adapted by Walter Kerr, which takes a comedy approach to politics and Utopia. Two characters leave Athens to find the king of the birds to help them create Cloud Cuckooland so that they can escape taxes, prophets and politics. The Comedy includes puppets and masks, visits from the Gods and an ending to keep you laughing.

Tickets will go on sale two weeks prior to the opening of the show in the BHS Activities Office and may also be purchased at the door—\$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.



- 5:30-6 p.m. Costume Parade
- 6-6:30 p.m. Jump & Jive for Kids
- 6:30-8 p.m. Opening Doors Dance

Purple listed items are FREE and green items have a fee. For more details, look in the Fall Community Ed Catalog on p. 4 or search Boo Bash online at [www.bhmschools.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.bhmschools.ce.eleyo.com).

## New Infinite Campus App for Students and Parents

Beginning Monday, September 17, Infinite Campus has two NEW and IMPROVED mobile apps: Campus Student (for students) and Campus Parent (for parents). Download your free app for real-time access to the following and much more:

- Announcements:** Quickly see announcements as they are posted.
- Assignments:** Browse assignments by specific class or due date.
- Attendance:** Review attendance events in summary and detail form.

**Grades:** Immediate access to grades as they are posted.

**Schedule:** Review schedule from anywhere, at any time.

If you are using the old Infinite Campus app, you will need to download the new app. The old app will no longer be supported. You can download the apps from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*  
RESIDENT DISTRICT 877

## Welcome to BHM Schools!

### New PLC/BHS Leadership

Over the summer, the BHM School Board approved the appointment of Stephanie Ward as the next Buffalo High School (BHS) and Phoenix Learning Center (PLC) Assistant Principal. Ward replaced outgoing Assistant Principal Kyle Resler.



Stephanie Ward

Learning and Leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2010 and her K-12 Administrative Licensure from Hamline University in 2013.

Director of Teaching and Learning Pam Miller shared, "We believe Ms. Ward will be a great fit at Phoenix Learning Center and Buffalo

High School based on her experience. She is knowledgeable about best practices, is highly organized and has the ability to make instant connections with colleagues, students and parents. We are excited to have Stephanie as part of the BHM leadership team."

Ward finds working with students rewarding and is looking forward to new opportunities in BHM Schools. "The opportunity to join the talented team at BHM Schools is both exciting and comforting," shared Ward. "This is a community that I grew up close to and I am looking forward to being a part of both

Ward stood out to the hiring committee because of her communication skills and her understanding of the importance of building and maintaining strong relationships with students, staff and families. She is considered an instructional leader and a strong facilitator of professional development.

Ward comes to Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools from Forest Lake Area High School in Forest Lake, Minnesota where she served as Dean of Students since 2013. Prior to that, she was a high school language arts teacher for eight years. Ward received her B.A. Comprehensive English Education degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2004. She went on to earn her Masters of Teaching,

the district and greater community." Ward continued, "I have such a passion for forming a rapport with students (parents and staff), celebrating their successes and supporting them through tough times. I do this by truly listening to understand, being open-minded and equity-focused, and by relying on my personal goal of service-oriented leadership. I look forward to working with both PLC and BHS students and staff. I am not afraid of hard work and rolling up my shirt sleeves to work along others towards a common goal."

Ward began in the district on Monday, July 30, 2018.



**Brilliant Bison**  
Sue (Tiemann) Olmscheid is passionate about Buffalo and BHM Schools. Here she is showing her school spirit by dressing up for "Western Day" during the festivities for homecoming week during the 1981-82 school year. Read more of her story on p. 4.

#### School Board

Dave Wilson ..... Chairperson  
Sue Lee ..... Vice Chairperson  
Melissa Brings ..... Clerk  
Laurie Raymond ..... Treasurer  
Ken Ogden ..... Acting Clerk/Treasurer  
Amanda Reineck ..... Director  
Bob Sansevere ..... Director  
Jack Leipholtz ..... Student Representative  
Scott Thielman ..... Superintendent

#### INSider Editor:

Laura (Barta) Lindquist, Communications Coordinator  
763-682-8783 | lbarta@bhmschools.org

*Reader comments or questions welcome!*



**New Teachers for 2018-19** This year, over 30 new teachers were hired around the district to replace those who have retired or moved on to other opportunities. Pictured from front to back, left to right: First Row—Sandy Hanson (BHS); Kim Lombardi (NES); Christina Sogn (NES); Marissa Friedrich (MESI); Haley Nelson (DES); Rachel Vannett (BHS/BCMS); Anna Grewe (PES); Stephanie Klein (BCMS); Kaitlin Kolbinger (BCMS); and Laura Elder (BCMS); Second Row—Kristina Grossinger (MESI); Tia Volkers (TESS); Lauren Wollman (TESS); Megan Steil (BHS); Rebecca Klatt (MESI); Elizabeth Fink (District-wide Elementary); Ashley Cook (ECFE); Tammy Larson (NES); Madison Hageman (NES); and Erika Clifton (BHS); Third Row—Sara Berning (NES); Sarah Thompson (BHS); Leslie Miller (BCMS); Cecelia VanDorp (PES); Emily Nelson (PES); Amy Van Beusekom (TESS); Jennifer Johnson (HES); Cassie Parish (HES); Ashton Preiss (HES); and Judy Emerick (BHS); Fourth Row—Stacy Hart (MESI); Diedre Anderson (BHS); Nate Hanson (wRight Choice); Zack Carlson (BHS); Christopher Pullar (BHS); Nate Conroy (BHS); and Samantha Dahl (BHS). Not pictured: Nicole Reicks (BHS).