

12/16/2021

Good Afternoon,



Here's an update from Byron Area Schools:

The Byron Board of Education will consider entering into an interim superintendent contract with Dr. Jan Amsterburg at the regularly scheduled board meeting Monday night. Jan has served as Superintendent in both local school districts (including time in Durand as Superintendent) as well as Gratiot-Isabella RESD. He brings a wealth of experience, has served as an interim in the past, and is very excited to help move the district forward. If the name sounds familiar, that's because Jan is the spouse of retired Byron teacher, Carol Amsterburg. The Board will also hear from the Michigan Leadership Institute regarding available options as they move toward a resolution for the superintendent position. Information will be shared with you after that process has been finalized.

At the elementary building, Mr. Vanderlip, who's been acting principal, will finish up his time in that role on December 17th. He has done an excellent job, and I am indebted to him for his willingness to jump in and help on short notice. Mrs. Autumn McGuire will be stepping into the role of acting principal effective January 3 when school resumes. We have begun to review the resumes of the many applicants for the principal position we have received over the last two weeks, and plan to have a recommendation for consideration in January. In other elementary school news, we have a new teacher joining the team! Katie Knieper will begin on January 10, 2022 as a special ed teacher. We are excited to have her as part of the dedicated team at the elementary school, and to bring her expertise and training to our students.

Since before the tragic situation in Oxford, the district has had the school safety plan that is regularly reviewed and practiced. We will continue that process after break with some additional training. To allow this training to occur, we will only have morning classes for all students on Thursday January 13. We understand this changes our calendar and want to give you as much notice as possible. We appreciate your understanding of the need for this critical training for all staff across the district. The pre-existing half day on January 14 will remain as staff will be working on end of the first semester activities.

I want to conclude with a few personal thoughts of my time here as your acting Superintendent. As I have worked closely with staff of Byron Area Schools, I have been thoroughly impressed and humbled by the dedication and commitment of all employees. I have not met anyone who is not willing to help with whatever is asked of them including many who proactively reached out because of their strong enthusiasm for the schools. Although I have not had the chance to interact with as many parents, I hear the passion and commitment you have to your children's education and to the district. Additionally, it is evident to me your Board of Education is fully committed to their job and to the schools.

Byron Area Schools is a great district, and I only see a bright future if everyone continues to work together. Are there opportunities to improve? Sure, and there always will be! And although change is unsettling, it does bring opportunity. You have all the necessary ingredients to continue to grow and strengthen your district. And although I will be heading back to my other full-time job, know I will continue to be in your corner promoting the quality education provided to the students of Byron Area Schools!

May you have a blessed and peaceful holiday season!

Dave Schulte