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## Byron Area Schools

December 10, 2021

Dear Byron Families,

Yesterday, county superintendents had the opportunity to meet with local law enforcement agencies to review safety protocols and procedures. This group included local police departments, the Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, the Shiawassee County Emergency Manager, and the Shiawassee County Prosecutor. We are thankful for the strong partnership we share with all local law enforcement agencies. We discussed the proactive, increased presence of deputies and police officers you may have already noticed in our community. We expect, in the near future, you will also observe an increased presence of Shiawassee County Sheriff Deputies visiting our buildings. Their goals include building positive relationships with staff and students and getting to know the layouts of our schools. While we know seeing a law enforcement vehicle at the school can be unsettling, we feel this is a positive step toward early detection of potential issues and improved response if ever needed. If an actual emergency occurs, the district will notify families as soon as possible.

Additionally, we were reminded of the layering of law enforcement support throughout the county. For example, the Sheriff Deputies work primarily during the daytime hours, while the Michigan State Police Troopers are on duty in the county through the overnight hours. Depending on the timing of a situation, and the location, there are multiple law enforcement agencies who could respond including out-of-county officers if needed. These law enforcement agencies work and train together to ensure a consistent response.

As a parent and an educator, I understand the concerns regarding safety at school and the stress that brings. Byron Area Schools has a strong and effective Emergency Operations Plan that provides protocols and procedures in the case of a variety of emergency situations. We continue to update this plan as needed and have spent time reviewing it with staff over the last week. In addition, we will provide further training to staff throughout the winter months with the support of law enforcement, the Shiawassee County Emergency Manager, and our security consulting firm. All employees are committed to making Byron Area Schools a safe, positive and caring place focused on students. I continue to be impressed with our safety protocols and procedures. Our buildings are secure, and we are always looking at ways to improve. I am proud of the efforts of the district and look forward to the continued refinement of our plan. It takes a partnership with families and the community to best keep the school safe, and I encourage you to reach out if you have specific concerns.

Sincerely,

David E. Schulte  
Acting Superintendent