

**BYRON-BERGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Thursday, February 13, 2025
6:00 p.m. – Professional Development Room**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by Vice President K. Carlson.

Members Present: K. Carlson, H. Ball, J. Cook, L. Forsyth, C. Matthews, L. Smith

Members Absent: D. List

Also Present: P. McGee, L. Prinz, K. Loftus, R. Stevens, B. Brown, J. Back, P. Hazard, K. Grattan, K. Kaercher, and 16 member of the audience.

Executive Session: It was moved by H. Ball and seconded by C. Matthews to enter executive session at 5:21 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.

Return to Public Session: It was moved by H. Ball and seconded by L. Forsyth to return to public session at 6:05 p.m.

The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.

President's Report: K. Carlson said that the school has been doing great things. The band and chorus sang the national anthem at the Amerks game. Winter sport teams have been doing excellent. Craig Schroth was received \$1,000 from RENY for microscopes. Coach Ellis received "Coach of the Year."

Academic Focus: None

Student Council Report: Elementary School
The Thanksgiving Food Drive went well and 12 boxes of food items were donated to the North Bergen Food Pantry. In November, the Elementary school agreed to follow the Jr./Sr. High suggestions for the dress-up days to help parents with planning. They had a dress-up week before Winter Recess and ended the week with a sing-a-long, and Santa even came. It was voted on that in December Student Council members would go to homeroom classes and read a story to spread holiday cheer; after the story they handed out candy canes to every student. In January, Student Council was asked to take over the responsibility of the 100th Day Project; this year they decided on the Genesee County Animal Shelter. Student

Council members are also working on decorating folders that get handed out to families that are adopting a pet.

Jr./Sr. High School

They are currently working on an “I Have a Dream” project. There is a pep rally tomorrow to recognize the winter sport teams. There will be games, raffles, and prizes. For March, they are working on a Pot of Gold Food Drive.

Principals’ Comments:

K. Loftus reported:

- Second grade participated in a fossil dig that was done by Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Reserve.
- Student Council’s 100th day community service project is wrapping up and a lot of donations have been coming in.
- Read Across America is coming up March 3-7.

P. Hazard reported:

- Jade Wolf and Adam Piper advanced to the semifinals of the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Competition that was held on February 12th at Buffalo State University. Jade was announced as the overall winner for Western New York. She will advance to the State Finals on March 15th at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.
- The Winter Formal is tomorrow.
- The 5th/6th grade band and chorus performance at the Amerks was great and some of the older students came to help out.
- The musical *Honk* is three weeks away.
- The Junior class parent night was very well attended.

Director of Instructional Services Comments:

B. Brown gave her mid-year Instructional Services Report. She talked about curriculum and building curriculum maps that are aligned with the NYS Standards and creating and using assessments to drive instruction and determine intervention needs. There are currently 100 students with disabilities in grades K-12. Work is being done to continue to build consistency between CSE Chairs. She also continues to help teachers by providing PD around testing accommodations. Teachers are participating in the Instructional Coaching Cycles with Debbie and Megan. Superintendent Conference Days have focused on Technology Integration, Curriculum Development, SEL Practices, Mandated Reporter Training, and Building Goals/Initiatives. Outside agencies are also being utilized for PD. She is also supporting the Director of Technology and Assessment to work on the goals of the Instructional Technology Plan, data security and reporting, and NYS Testing. The 2024-2025 ESSA Accountability Report has been released. The Blue Ribbon Commission is a four phase transformation approach to the New York State Portrait of a Graduate and redefines credits, sunsets diploma assessment requirements, and moves to one diploma format. This has not been approved by the Board of Regents as of yet.

Director of Technology & Assessment Comments:	J. Back stated the practice simulation testing that was done in January went very well. The New York State testing for ELA and Math for grades 3-8 are scheduled in April. The District Technology Committee met in January. The review of the District Technology Plan has a revised due date of June 2026.
Business Administrator Comments:	L. Prinz reported the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System is a State Comptroller early warning system for schools with fiscal problems. Byron-Bergen is currently rated as no designation, which means there is no sign of fiscal problems. The Budget Committee is meeting on February 24 th . Some preliminary budget information for 2025-2026 was reviewed.
Superintendent's Comments:	P. McGee handed out a Cell Phone Ban letter to the Board that would be sent to families explaining the ban that the Governor has mandated to take effect in the fall of 2025. The Scholarship Committee met and will increase their transparency; all students now can review the scholarships being offered. The Committee may consider students outside the Top 10. If any Board Member wants to be part of the senior exit projects let him know. He thanked everyone who was able to make it to the Legislative Breakfast at Elba. The District still has three emergency close days left.
Consent Agenda:	<p>It was moved by H. Ball and seconded by C. Matthews that the following consent agenda be approved:</p> <p><u>Approval of Minutes</u> January 16, 2025 <u>Financial Matters</u> General Fund Bills: Warrant A-42, Ck. # 26149-26155, \$329,370.06 Warrant A-44, Ck. # 26156-26158, \$2,861.76 Warrant A-45, Wire # 99192, \$5,250.00 Warrant A-46, Ck. # 26159-26164, \$19,814.23 Warrant A-48, Ck. # 26054-26258, \$188,426.92 School Lunch Fund Bills: Warrant C-13, Ck. # 201363, \$14,262.60 Warrant C-14, Ck. # 201364-201372, \$10,551.68 Federal Fund Bills: Warrant F-7, Ck. # 400589-400590, \$35,245.12 Capital Fund Bills: Warrant H-11, Ck. # 2876-2888, \$421,260.84 Trust & Agency Fund Bills: Warrant TA-16, Wire # 1818-1821, Ck. # 301578-301585, \$428,849.71 Warrant TA-17, Wire # 1822-1827, Ck. # 301586-301594, \$480,024.53 Monthly Treasurer's Report – January 2025 <u>Personnel Matters</u> Resignations/Retirement/Termination: Retirement – Bus Driver – Cathy MacConnell (Eff. 2/28/25) Resignation – Teacher Aide – Deborah Amador (Eff. 1/24/25) Termination – Cleaner – Chad Hayes (Eff. 1/9/25)</p>

Approvals:

Substitute Teacher – Rachel DeVries

Permanent Appointment – Registered Professional Nurse (School)
– Heather Foeller (Eff. 3/3/25)

Permanent Appointment – Cleaner – Marlene Murray-Spink
(Eff. 2/26/25)

Part-Time Cleaner – Mark Demersman (Eff. 2/18/25)

Cleaner – Leigh Buckenmeyer (Eff 2/20/25)

Substitute Teacher – Julia Scroope

Substitute Teacher – Anne Sapienza

Substitute Teacher – Abigail Swinehart

Miscellaneous Matters

None

CSE/CPSE Review

CSE cases as presented

CPSE cases as presented

The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.

Reports:

Pre-K Report – Elem Principal

The UPK program at Byron-Bergen is a half day program with a morning and afternoon option. There are 18 students maximum in each classroom and there is a teacher and an aide. Parents have the option for a full day with the partnership from Gillam Grant. Curriculum for the UPK program is Really Great Reading Launch Pad for ELA and Inspire for Math. Students also learn through play, hands-on tools, and STEM. Battelle and Byron-Bergen created benchmarks are used for assessments.

Elementary & Jr./Sr. High Goals Update – Asst. Principals/Principals

Both the Jr./Sr. High and Elementary School goals for the 2024-2025 school year were presented in the fall. A mid-year review was done and both building principals are confident that their goals are on track for the remainder of the school year.

Policy Committee
Update:

None

Facilities
Committee
Update:

Met on Tuesday. The work on the lights for the parking lot at the soccer stadium is scheduled to be completed by summer. The chiller is in the process of being fixed over the next few months. The Building Conditions Survey is complete and now the District is working on the priorities of what was listed.

Budget Committee
Update:

Meeting scheduled for February 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Audit Committee
Update: None

SOAR Update: Tentative date set for February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Byron-Bergen.

Positive
Recognition: Recognize at the Staff vs. Sherriff's basketball game on March 20, 2025.

Approval –
Creation of
Swimming Program
Director Position Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by L. Forsyth and seconded by H. Ball to approve the Creation of the Swimming Program Director Position. There was discussion.
The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.

Approval –
First Reading
Of Policy # 7680 –
Independent
Educational
Evaluations Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by L. Smith and seconded by C. Matthews to approve the First Reading of Policy # 7680 – Independent Educational Evaluations. There was discussion.
The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.

Approval –
2025-2026
Instructional
Calendar Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was moved by H. Ball and seconded by L. Forsyth to approve the 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar.
The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.

Public Comment: None

Information/Announcements/Reports: Parental Leave of Absence – Sarah Saeli (Eff. 4/11/25)

Requests Requiring Board Consideration: Getting more information on a second SRO, 10-month, for the District.

Review of Next Meeting's Agenda:

Policy Committee Update
Facilities Committee Update
Budget Committee Update
Audit Committee Update
SOAR Committee Update
Positive Recognition

Adjournment: It was moved by J. Cook and seconded by H. Ball to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
The motion passed 6 Yes, 0 No.