

# BCUEA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 17<sup>th</sup>

School Budget Vote

May 18<sup>th</sup> is General  
Membership meeting and  
Elections

May 30<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The General Membership Meeting is coming fast. It is on Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be elections of officers and voting at Slingerlands School Gymnasium and meeting will start by 4:45 pm. The positions open are for President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Following the By-Laws, there will be no nominations from the floor meaning you should have sent a letter to Jeanette Machlowski prior to the meeting as stated in the posting sent to all Building Rep. We hope to see many of you there.

## School Budget vote is coming soon

**Help by voting “yes” on the budget on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Please read the information that is included in this newsletter and help support a “yes” vote. The enclosed letter is from Dave Rounds, the BCTA president and Charlie Jones our BCUEA President. It will be distributed to the community in hope of getting the budget passed.

## Health Insurance Open Enrollment

**It is that time of year again for benefit eligible employees to make decisions regarding health insurance plans. During open enrollment you may change plans or add**

**dependents. If you do not want to make any changes, simply do nothing. Your insurance will continue as it is currently and the rate changes will apply effective 7/1/16. It is also the time to renew your health insurance buyout if you do not participate in the district's insurance plan. Forms will be due in mid June. If you wish to make a change to your plan, please reply to this email (openenrollment@bcsd.neric.org) to request the enrollment form. This mailbox has been set up specifically for open enrollment questions and it will be checked regularly. All health insurance forms are due in Human Resources by May 31, 2016 and will be effective 7/1/16. Buyout forms will be due in mid June. You will receive a reminder prior to the deadlines. Please review the information carefully.**

**Amy Baluch  
Human Resource Director  
439-7481 x31926**





Dear NYSUT Members and Friends,

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, you will have an opportunity to vote for the 2016-2017 budget for the Bethlehem Central School District. You will also have an opportunity to vote on a proposition to purchase new buses and to elect two school board members. The budget vote is being held at Bethlehem High School from 7a.m. to 9p.m. For the second year in a row the District was able to rebuild its instructional program that was cut heavily during the economic downturn of the past years. This additional staffing allows our district to provide additional instructional support to our students who struggle in the classroom the most and at the same time continue to offer a diverse and challenging variety of classes at all levels. This additional staffing and programming is being added with minimal impact to taxpayers. The increase in spending is one of the lowest in history. The tax rate is expected to increase by only .09%. That means a home with an estimated value of \$250,000 will see a tax increase of approximately \$5 per year. The 2016-17 budget manages to improve the instructional environment of our school district with minimal tax impact due to a long overdue increase in state aid, a significant reduction in pension costs, and carefully negotiated contracts that have provided fiscal stability. To learn more about the budget and purchase of new buses go to the district website at [bethlehemschools.org](http://bethlehemschools.org). You can also review the reverse side of this letter which lists some of the budget highlights. We encourage you to support our school district by voting "YES" on the school budget and on the bus proposition.

You will also have an opportunity to vote to fill two (2) positions on the Bethlehem School Board. There are two candidates running for these two positions so it will not be a contested election. You can learn more about both of these candidates on the school district website.

We hope that this information is useful to you and **thank you for supporting our schools by voting "yes" on the budget on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully,

David Rounds

President – Bethlehem Central Teachers Association

Charlie Jones

President – Bethlehem Central United Employees Association

## **2016-2017 BCSD Budget Highlights**

### District-wide

- Funds special education programs paid through BOCES to meet increased student needs
- Increases substitute teacher rates to \$105/day and substitute nurses to \$20/hour to better compete in regional job market
- Lifts substitute non-instructional staff wages by \$1/hour to \$10 and \$11/hour for various substitute positions
- Increases role of core academic supervisors in science, math, ELA, social studies and PE (Adds 1.0 FTE total)
- Adds districtwide Response to Intervention (RTI) supervisor to oversee program for early learners who struggle in ELA and math
- Restores 0.6 FTE Asst. Transportation Supervisor
- Replaces and repairs musical equipment
- Adds support for instructional technology in classrooms in grades 6-12
- Restores K-12 Guidance Supervisor
- Adds support for library databases

### Elementary Schools

- Adds five elementary bus routes to alleviate overcrowding of K-5 students
- Adds 1.0 FTE special education teachers to meet enrollment needs
- Adds 1.0 FTE Response to Intervention (RTI) teacher to help early learners
- Adds 2.0 FTE aides to students with disabilities
- Increases noon aide coverage
- Provides for new science curriculum materials
- Adds summer program for grades K-1

### Middle School

- Eliminates one Grade 6 team (0.8 FTE) to meet projected enrollment needs
- Adds one custodian at the school
- Restores BCMS Art Club
- Adds 0.6 FTE special education teacher and 1.0 FTE aides to students with disabilities

### High School

- Eliminates funding for proposed International Baccalaureate (IB) program that was rejected after an extensive two-year review
- Expands Intensive Skills class to the high school with 1.0 FTE special education teacher and 2.0 FTE aides to students with disabilities
- Creates Lab School Honors Program (0.4 FTE)
- Provides training for new AP Chemistry teacher
- Provides Project Lead the Way (PLTW) training
- Restores BCHS Art Club

### Athletics

- Replace service contract for Athletic Trainer with district-employed trainer
- Create modified-level cross country teams for boys and girls
- Create modified-level outdoor track teams for boys and girls



# *Celebrates our Nurses*

## **NYSUT SALUTES OUR NURSES – THANK YOU!**

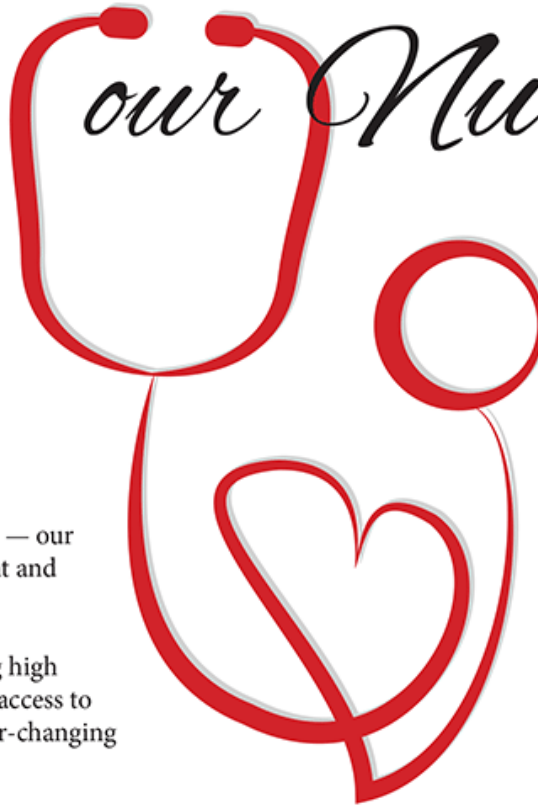
### **National Nurses Week May 6-12, 2016**

- We (NYSUT) appreciate and thank you — our nurses — for your service, commitment and leadership.
- Nurses are leading the way to providing high quality health care for all — increasing access to care and improving outcomes in an ever-changing and dynamic health system.
- Nurses are healers, educators, role models, and comforters — critically needed members of our community.
- Wherever health care is provided, a nurse is likely to be there — from hospitals, schools, health centers, social service agencies, to homes and nursing homes.

### **School Nurses Day • May 11, 2016**

- School nurses juggle a complex range of medical and social issues, from communicable diseases, stress and chronic illnesses (diabetes and asthma) to accidents, injuries and school safety and often moving from school to school throughout the district.
- For some students, the school nurse is the only health care professional they ever see.
- School nurses' work goes beyond the nurse's office — they interact with teachers, doctors, child study teams, administrators, school counselors, social workers, coaches, parents, police, substance abuse professionals and other School-Related Professionals.

**We are proud to salute our nurses — you deserve special recognition for your efforts in leading the way for your patients, students and for a healthy nation.**



**HEALER  
EDUCATOR  
COMFORTER  
ROLE MODEL  
PROFESSIONAL**

## Did you know...

Did you know that NYSUT is affiliated with

American Federation of Teachers

National Education Association

AFL-CIO

Education International

New York State AFL-CIO

New York State Labor Religion Coalition

American Labor Studies Center

LRC Fair Trade Project

## Check us out

BCUEA.org (your contract is online!)

and on Facebook

NYSUT.org for information and Member Benefits



---

*Don't Forget Election are May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 at Slingerlands School Gym*

---

## TELL US IF YOU MOVED

If you move or change any contact information please let the BCUEA know asap. The School District does not tell us of any changes. When we need to mail you information about elections and important meetings we get a lot of mailings returned because people move and we don't know it. You can give your Building Rep any change of information and they can pass it on.

## Are you interested...

Are you interested in being on a committee or a Building Rep? There are a number of committees you can join or would you like to be a Building Rep? If you want to try being a Building Rep there are classes we and NYSUT offers to help you understand your job as a Building Rep. Let us know when you come to the General Membership meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Slingerlands school.