

# Schenevus

FALL NEWSLETTER 2019



## From the Superintendent's Desk



As you may know, the Schenevus and Worcester Central School Districts have been discussing opportunities to collaborate, share services and save costs, including the possibility of a merger. As these conversations continue, our priority is to keep you informed along the way.

### July 24 meeting

On July 24, Schenevus and Worcester board members heard a presentation from consultant Alan Pole, who described how the merger process works. The first step in the process is to conduct a merger study. The estimated cost of such a study is about \$50,000.

Schenevus and Worcester have conducted a merger study before, most recently in 1996. (Several years ago, the districts also applied for, but did not receive, grant funding to pay for a study.)

### Grant application submitted

Schenevus and Worcester Central Schools have applied jointly for a \$25,000 grant to help fund a merger study. A decision is expected in December or January. If the grant is not awarded, neither district has committed to taking on the full cost of the study. However, we will continue to explore opportunities to cooperate in ways we hope will benefit our students. For example, this fall, we will present a fall musical featuring cast members from both districts. We are excited about this and other opportunities we may have to work together.

### What you can do

As you can see, this process relies on your input. In addition, should we move forward, each district will be inviting community members to serve on advisory committees to guide us. We encourage you to attend meetings of the Board of Education during the school year to learn more about the district's future.

Whatever course we pursue, our decisions will be guided by you. We are counting on you to join in this process and help us reach the best decision not only for our students, but for the entire communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Theresa Carlin, *Superintendent*

### How the merger process works

While we still do not know if this is the route our two districts will pursue, we do know that **the merger process typically takes 1-2 years**. Both boards and a majority of voters would have to approve a merger before seeking approval from the state Education Commissioner. If approved at the state level, a second public vote would be conducted. A **majority of voters in both districts** would have to approve the merger for it to be finalized.

Everyone will be

*Challenged*

Please join us in welcoming our new staff:

### **Kimberly Matthews, Principal**

Kimberly Matthews was a classroom teacher for 10 years before becoming an administrator. Ms. Matthews lives in Sidney with her husband, who is also an educator; her youngest son, who will be a senior in high school this year; and their golden doodle, Solo.

In addition to her teaching experience, Ms. Matthews' professional experience includes serving as a Special Education School Improvement Specialist, improving outcomes for students with a disability and helping to establish statewide Quality Indicators for Literacy Instruction. She served as an Assistant Director and then Director of Special Education before joining Schenevus as the PK-12 Building Principal.



### **Erica Ylitalo, Music Teacher**

Erica Ylitalo is a music educator from the Syracuse area. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in Music Education with a focus in Percussion from the Crane School of Music.

Ms. Ylitalo has played with professional groups such as the Orchestra of Northern New York and Northern Symphonic Winds. She is also an avid fan and player of bluegrass music, performing on the mandolin, banjo and guitar since age 13.

Ms. Ylitalo is excited to join the Schenevus family and for the school year to start.



### **Ashley Warren, Licensed Clinical Social Worker**

Ashley Warren is a licensed clinical social worker. She will join Stacey Sinstack in the Guidance office. She just moved into her new home in East Worcester with her family. She has two boys (11 and 8) and 5 cows.

Ms. Warren embraces the concept of mindfulness and being present in the "now." She thrives on teaching students what they have control over and ways in which to regulate their emotions appropriately. Ms. Warren utilizes her training in CBT, motivational interviewing, solution-focused therapy, mindfulness-based stress reduction, crisis intervention, individual and family therapy to help meet the needs of our students and families. She advocates for meeting the student where they are at and moving forward from there.

Ms. Warren is most excited to be working so close to her home and getting to spend lots of time with our students.



Everyone will

*Contribute*

## Communications Guidelines

Frequently, parents and other community members request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. The communications guideline chart below will serve as a helpful resource. By contacting the following people in the prescribed order questions will be answered efficiently. We would ask that you always leave members of the Board of Education as your last contact.

Please contact Schenevus Central School at 607-638-5881 for access to each individual listed below.

QUESTIONS ABOUT:	FIRST CONTACT	SECOND CONTACT	THIRD CONTACT	FOURTH CONTACT
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Stacey Sinstack	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin
Behavior	Teacher	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
Scheduling	Teacher	Guidance Stacey Sinstack	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director Jen Pier	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
RTI/AIS	Teacher	Dir. of Special Education Pam Barber	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
BOE Policies	District Clerk Nicole Couse	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	Board of Education	
Budget	Deputy Treasurer Deb Geci	Superintendent Theresa Carlin		
Building Use	Main Office Theresa Mellor	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Buildings & Grounds Joe Bomba	Superintendent Theresa Carlin
Cafeteria	Cafeteria Manager Vincent Callejo	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
Extracurricular	Advisor	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
Facilities	Buildings & Grounds Joe Bomba	Superintendent Theresa Carlin		
Health Office	School Nurse Rebecca Whiteman	Principal Kimberly Matthews	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
Special Education	Teacher	Dir. of Special Education Pam Barber	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	
Transportation	Bus Driver	Tom Hunt Transportation Director	Superintendent Theresa Carlin	

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Kelly Gallagher  
Stacie Haynes  
Dr. Jay Deitchman  
Elizabeth Reed  
Timothy Green

## SUPERINTENDENT

Theresa Carlin

## 2019-20 MEETING SCHEDULE

Sept. 17  
Oct. 15  
Nov. 12  
Dec. 17  
Jan. 14  
Feb. 11  
March 10  
April 21  
May 12 (public hearing)  
May 19 (budget vote)  
June 16

With **our children** as our focus, and with accountability and honesty as our guiding principles, Schenevus Central School will provide a caring, stable, secure and academically challenging environment; one that motivates each student to discover, practice and master the skills to pursue a productive lifetime of work and learning within **our community**, and the world.

*Schenevus Central School mission statement*



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Schenevus, NY  
12155