

# B2UP BUZZ

October 2023

## WELCOME BACK

We hope that your school year has gotten off to a great start. Please enjoy the latest edition of the B2UP BUZZ.

Remember, if you ever have any questions about your contractual rights, please reach out to a member of the executive board. Their names and positions are listed at the end of the newsletter.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest B2UP Members! We are so glad to have you as part of our group.

John Billitier	Andrea Longchamps
Marilyn Buck	Gabby Milgate
Hannah Chesner	Leah Mould
Melissa Doherty	Jeff Peacock
Dan Figliole	Linda Rabjohn
Alison Greenwood	M Winegarner
Leanne Knitter	Janet Fitzpatrick

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN RELATED SERVICES SUBBING

The B2UP has just signed an agreement with administration regarding additional compensation for related services/teachers subbing in Exceptional Children. If you any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please reach out to a member of the executive board.

## GET TO KNOW THE B2UP BOARD

In each edition we will feature a member of the B2UP executive board to highlight. In this addition we would like you to get to know [Jim Jewel](#).

I have been employed at BOCES2 for almost 34 years as a School Social Worker and have been an executive board member and Technology Chairperson for B2UP (formerly B2TA) for the past 10 years. It has been a privilege to have worked

here just after graduating from college. I never thought I would be a School Social Worker as I started in college as a Computer Engineer, but am thankful that I did.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work in many of our special ed programs from pre-school to high school and now for over the past 10 years in the transition program. My experiences have made me a better person, professional, and parent. But I would have to thank everyone who I have worked with over these years for making it so fun and rewarding, especially my teams at Village Plaza. They are amazing and I enjoy everyday I come to work because of them.

My biggest learned lessons working with students with disabilities is

1. Treating all students, no matter their disability or behavior, with the same level of respect and care each and every day.
2. The best way to change student's behavior is to take time to understand them. Greet them everyday, express how glad you are they are in school that day, and encourage them when they are struggling.
3. Have reasonable expectations for students. Understand their disability, but also believe they can change, it may be just a little bit over time but still better than nothing. Modifying environments can be helpful, but helping the students develop lifelong learning skills will go further as they become adults.

I think one of my most rememberable moments was this past summer school. I was working at Westview and there was a student who rarely talked to staff and would never respond when I greeted him. However, I always told him how I was glad he was in school and that we missed him if he was absent. Then one day towards the end of summer when I came into the classroom to greet the afternoon students, he surprisingly said "Mr. Jewell you are a hard person to read." I wasn't sure how to take that so I asked him if he could give me 3 words that describe me. He said "1. You are respectful, 2. you care about people, and 3. money is not the most important thing in your life." I was so surprised that he said this. But it goes to show you how you carry yourself everyday can have a great impact on students, even when students don't respond. And after that day, that student came to me everyday to talk about what was going on in his life.

Lastly when I'm not working, I love remodeling homes, taking photos of landscapes, painting, playing the guitar and singing, and learning new things. I really enjoy seeing sunsets and going to beaches. I want to thank everyone for BOCES2 for making these years go by fast and memorable.



## B2UP Buzz Featured Topic

This addition's featured topic is: **NYSTRS Account and Website**

For some of you, retirement may be right around the corner, while for others it may be a bit farther down the road. Regardless of where you are in your journey, it is always important to be prepared. In this issue of the B2UP BUZZ, we bring you information about your NYSTRS account.

### Membership in NYSTRS is mandatory for:

- Teachers (classroom, speech)
- Teaching Assistants
- Guidance Counselors
- Substitute Teachers

The first step is to make sure you have filled out an application and set up a NYSTRS account. If you do not already have an account already established, please visit this website [MyNYSTRS](#) and set up an account.

Once you have an account make sure to take advantage of all the website and your account has to offer.

### NYSTRS Website:

- Provides the latest information and legislation related to your benefits
- You can access your personal membership information and view your benefits profile
- Apply for prior service
- Change your address
- Apply for a loan
- Register for PREP
- Use the pension estimator to project retirement benefits

- Make an appointment for benefits consultation
- Find publications in the library
- Print system forms

It is important to make sure that your benefits profile is accurate as this can not only impact when you retire, but the amount you receive at retirement. You can monitor your profile from your personal account. No need to wait for your benefits profile to be mailed to you.

## B2UP REMINDERS

### Personal Days

Remember you do NOT have to provide a reason when you ask for a personal day UNLESS it is before or after a break, or less than 2 days before the day you are looking to take off. Please reach out to the B2UP if you have any questions or run into any issues.

### Injuries

Remember to document all injuries, even if you do not need to go to the hospital or urgent care. This includes when you are scratched or spit on. Any injury has the potential to lead to something more severe and could result in the need for Worker's compensation.

### Membership Happy Hour

When: November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30

Where: McColley's in Spencerport

All members are welcome! We hope to see you there!

## Members of the Executive Board

Kimberly Stephenson-Co-President  
Melissa Pound-Co-President  
Mary Etta Chorbajian-Vice President  
Chris Gold-Treasurer  
Heather Case-Corresponding Secretary  
Tiffany Feldman-Recording Secretary  
Jennifer Montanino-Membership  
Grace Keegan-Political Action  
Katie Carmina-Technology Chair  
Carrie McKain-Public Relations  
Felicia Robinson-Rep  
Laura McNally-Rep  
Leigh Nenni-Rep  
Dave Shalke-Rep  
Jim Jewel-Rep  
Catherine Jackson- Rep  
Andy Fowler-Rep

### Website

<http://www.b2ta.org/>

### Facebook: B2TA

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/406004009844434/?ref=share>

### Twitter

@B2TA585

### Email

[boces2ta@gmail.com](mailto:boces2ta@gmail.com)

### Union Office Phone #

(585) 617-2310

**We are gearing up for Negotiations.  
Remember to wear your union shirt on  
Wednesdays!**

