

Director's Annual Report 2015



Our Vision:

**Preparing Our Students Today for
the World of Tomorrow**

Our Mission:

**We are a learning organization committed to
providing quality education for every student
in a safe and caring environment.**

Vision, Mission and Priorities

Bluewater District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, which includes the following vision, mission and priorities, was recently revised based on input received from parents/guardians, students, trustees, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. The revisions are reflected throughout this report.



VISION

Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow

MISSION

We are a learning organization committed to providing quality education for every student in a safe and caring environment.

PRIORITIES

1. Ensure the well-being of students and staff in a safe supportive environment for teaching, learning and working
2. Provide quality instruction and learning experiences in an equitable and inclusive environment
3. Encourage parent engagement
4. Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources

Chair's Message



While the past year has been a learning curve for me, I have enjoyed the rewarding experience of returning to the role of Chair for Bluewater District School Board. A lot has changed in public education since I last served as a trustee and chair for Bluewater in 2004. The issue of excess space in our schools and the increasing urgency to right size our board is undoubtedly more pronounced now. I am thankful to be surrounded by a group of conscientious and dedicated trustees who are committed to working together to address our difficult challenges. I know that each and every one of them cares

deeply about the success and well-being of our students and that their collective decision-making is based on careful consideration of all facts and perspectives. This would not be possible without our expert staff, whose combined knowledge and experience provide the essential groundwork that informs board decisions.

As we chart our course for the year ahead, it is beneficial to reflect on the important work that is being done under our Multi-Year Strategic Plan. I firmly believe that our current challenges will ultimately open the door to many exciting opportunities for our students, and hope you will find this report to be helpful in shedding light on how the strategic priorities are setting the stage for an accomplished and sustainable future in Bluewater.

Ron Motz, *Board Chair*

Director's Message



Since joining Bluewater District School Board as Director of Education in 2013, it has been a privilege getting to know and work with so many excellent people who demonstrate such passion and caring for the success and well-being of our students. Their dedication in our school communities makes a tremendously positive impact in the lives of our students every day. I would like to personally thank all of our staff, trustees, parents/guardians, volunteers and other education partners for their pivotal role in helping us to realize our vision of "Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow."

The past year has seen the introduction of our revised Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The changes reflect input we received from our stakeholders through a public online survey that we conducted in the spring. The Multi-Year Strategic Plan is a critically important reference tool for our trustees and senior leadership team as we continue to work hard to navigate through the pressures facing our board, such as managing our excess school space. Our vision, mission and four strategic priorities are the foundational pieces that inform our decision-making to enhance student achievement and well-being. This report highlights our continued work and progress made over the past year in each of the strategic priority areas along with some additional examples of success stories resulting from the efforts of our students and staff.

I look forward to continuing to work in collaboration with all of our stakeholders as we collectively face the challenges and reap the rewards of our hard work.

Steve Blake, *Director of Education*

Student Trustees' Message



L to R: Sana Hussein, Morgan Liverance, Matalyn Loughheed-Rico

It is an exciting time for our new Student Senate as we pick up on the momentum and continue the groundwork of the previous group of dedicated student senators. We look forward to working in collaboration with fellow students in our respective school communities, along with trustees and board staff to ensure that the student voice continues to be well represented at the board table during the course of our term.

While we plan to announce shortly some key initiatives that our group will be involved in, it is important to acknowledge the important work that has taken place during the past year thanks to the efforts of the 2014 – 2015 Student Senate. Their focus, "Creating an Innovative School Community for All Students," has drawn attention to priority areas that were identified by Bluewater students, such as technology, classroom innovation, healthy eating, mental health, and fostering welcoming and inclusive school environments. It is in this spirit that we will continue to seek ways to engage and inform the student voice through conversations and information sharing with the schools that we represent.

Bluewater Quick Facts

Coverage Area: 8,673 square kilometres within Bruce and Grey Counties

Schools: 42 elementary
11 secondary

Students: 16,000 (approximate full time equivalent)

Staff: 1,750 permanent (approximate)

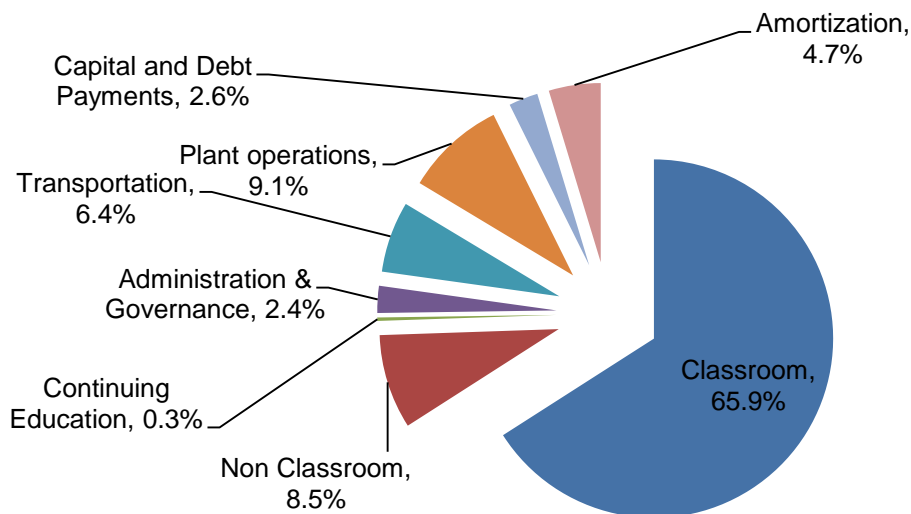
Full-Day Kindergarten: 39 schools

French Immersion: 13 schools

First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI): 748 secondary students participated in 45 Native Studies courses offered throughout the district in 2014-2015

2% of the 2014-2015 student enrolment self-identified as FNMI

2014-2015 Budget:



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

During March and April 2015, a public online survey was conducted to assist trustees and senior administration in determining the current relevancy of Bluewater District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan in meeting the needs of our local education system. The following revised strategic priorities, which reflect survey input, were approved by trustees at the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board.



1. Ensure the well-being of students and staff in a safe supportive environment for teaching, learning and working

- Provide a safe and supportive work environment that values and recognizes the personal strengths, professional contributions, and personal well-being of staff
- Create conditions where students, staff, and parents/caregivers are comfortable and confident in seeking help and responding to student mental health and emotional well-being

2. Provide quality instruction and learning experiences in an equitable and inclusive environment

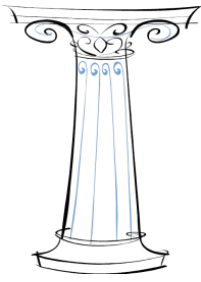
- Create a learning environment that promotes high expectations for all students
- Provide authentic and relevant experiences that enable all students to connect their learning to the real world
- Instil a commitment to responsible environmental stewardship
- Encourage and respect the best efforts of each individual

3. Encourage parent engagement

- Engage all parents/guardians to enhance the learning of their children
- Actively pursue innovative ways to support our parents/guardians in the education of their children
- Welcome advice from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and School Councils on matters of student achievement and well-being

4. Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources

- Create alignment of human and financial resources through both short term and long term strategic planning
- Maximize operational efficiencies which includes right-sizing instructional spaces
- Focus on leadership development and succession planning
- Ensure effective communication within and among departments and schools
- Manage risk in all aspects of operations and program delivery
- Promote confidence in our education system and encourage partnerships



Strategic Priority: Ensure the well-being of students and staff in a safe supportive environment for teaching, learning and working

The mental health and wellness strategy for students and staff continues to evolve. Ongoing work includes further refinement of initiatives, protocols and procedures based on current evidence-based research and practices. A focus on the key areas of student and staff wellness combined with the expansion of collaborative partners will promote engagement, positivity and support for mental health and wellness in Bluewater.



Student Well-Being

Key areas of focus included:

- Refinement, coordination and implementation of mental health and wellness strategy as per the priorities established last year;
- Development of a Health and Wellness Model for Achievement, which includes key concepts from current research and policy initiatives from the Ministry of Education:
 - the goal of the wellness model is to align with the board's vision of "Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow," with special emphasis on career/life planning, health and social well-being;
- Ongoing consultation/collaboration with internal and external partners to address issues of system navigation, and to streamline pathways to care for students and their families;
- Presentations and workshops with teachers and occasional teachers, administrators, Tragedy Response Team, Student Success Leads, system staff, Barrie regional groups and community partners;
- Committee work with mental health advisory team, organizational health and wellness, community partners, bully prevention and intervention advisory committee, public health, tragedy response and special needs;
- Student-based activities, such as bullying prevention initiatives, Gay-Straight Alliance groups, mental health awareness/promotion; and
- Refinement of the procedures and protocols included in the board's mental health and wellness strategy, including suicide prevention and intervention protocols, roles and processes for collaboration with community partners, school presentation and guest speaker guidelines, and a referral process for mental health and addiction nurses.

Staff Well-Being

Key areas of focus included:

- Completion of the Psychological Health and Safety Management System (PHSMS) policy and procedure for all staff with a future focus on three areas:
 - organizational culture;
 - involvement and influence;
 - civility and respect (Guarding Minds@Work); Accountability mechanisms and system/school leadership are required to ensure the success of the PHSMS.
- A staff wellness event on May 6 and 26, 2015 featured stress expert, Dr. David Posen.

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2015 – 2016

For Students:

- To continue:
 - wellness initiatives, including mental health and wellness clubs in all secondary schools to promote caring school climates of inclusiveness, anti-stigma and anti-bullying and foster student engagement, belonging and well-being;
 - collaborative community partnerships and expansion of school-based programs;
- To expand mental health promotion and prevention activities for students and parents;
- To develop early intervention strategies for students at risk of exclusion, suspension or expulsion due to behavioural/mental health issues.

For Staff:

- To continue the work of the Organizational Health and Wellness Committee to support staff wellness, engagement, belonging and ongoing communication/information for employees.

Mindful Moments

John Diefenbaker Senior School in Hanover is an example of a community of caring that has been built in Bluewater District School Board for students, staff and the community. The BOX project, a student initiated concept which has been running for the past three years, provides in-house support from community partners to students with health issues ranging from anxiety and depression to smoking cessation. The initiative has opened students and staff to new ways of thinking about health and wellness, such as the idea of self-responsibility and ability to affect one's own health. More recently, The BOX and Leadership class have been incorporating the practice of 'mindfulness' into the fabric of the school culture. Mindfulness allows students to become self-aware by providing them with teacher and peer taught methods to calm themselves, focus and take positive action, which helps them to become more responsible for their own health. Leadership Teacher Dan Kramar starts each class with a 'Mindful Minute' (term borrowed from Toronto District School Board) where students take a brief rest from intruding thoughts, which may affect mood (which can affect health), and focus on what they are attending to. Using the MindUP Curriculum, produced by the Hawn Foundation and Scholastic, grade 11 Leadership class students have also been working with their younger grade 7 peers to build positive relationships while teaching mindfulness. Students have learned how to be more aware of their senses, body language and limiting or negative thought patterns. This allows them to open the door to a more positive growth mindset, benefitting them in both learning and relationships.



A mindful moment at John Diefenbaker Senior School; Photo by Ronan Bryson

“Doc Calm” Speaks to Bluewater Staff

As part of the ongoing work of Bluewater's Organizational Health and Wellness Committee, two presentations with guest speaker Dr. David Posen, M.D., were offered to all board staff in May 2015 at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre in Chesley. The best-selling author, who is also known as “Doc Calm”, has presented to employees at some of the biggest corporations in North America. His interactive sessions on stress mastery provided staff with tips on recognizing and managing stress, time management techniques, observations on the correlation between one's thoughts and feelings, and simple lifestyle changes to consider. Based on the impressive turn-out and positive feedback from these sessions, the Organizational Health and Wellness Committee plans to organize similar events for staff in the future.



Strategic Priority: Provide quality instruction and learning experiences in an equitable and inclusive environment

The past year's efforts were focused in three primary areas:

- Increasing achievement in intermediate literacy;
- Increasing achievement in junior mathematics; and
- Effectively meeting the learning needs for students with learning disabilities across all grades.



Create a learning environment that promotes high expectations for all students

- Early Years Educator Teams (teachers and early childhood educators) were engaged in multiple learning opportunities focused on facilitating student learning through inquiry and pedagogical documentation;
- Technology enhanced learning has been underway across the board supported by participation in the 21st Century Learning Initiative, which investigates using technology to leverage the depth and quality of learning;
- French as a Second Language (FSL) teachers from across the district participated in learning opportunities around the implementation of the revised FSL curriculum aimed at increased relevance and enhanced conversational skills. DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) testing for international accreditation in French language proficiency was offered to Bluewater students for the first time;
- Secondary schools developed and implemented specific, short and long term plans to address the literacy needs of their students; and
- System level workshops for administrators and learning resource teachers were held related to effective support and monitoring of instructional practices.

Provide authentic and relevant experiences that enable all students to connect their learning to the real world

- The board's literacy goal was to engage all students in a comprehensive, integrated and responsive literacy program that would allow them to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate equitably in the world upon graduation;
- The board's math goal was to ensure that students developed deep conceptual understanding, procedural fluency and a positive growth mindset so that they could demonstrate strong mathematics skills and see themselves as capable and competent mathematicians;
- School based inquiries investigated effective instructional strategies and self-advocacy skills for students with learning disabilities;
- Workshops/learning opportunities were offered on supporting students in which English is not their first language or who have language deficits related to their background; and
- The Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) through the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative (MAEI), was offered to First Nation students at Saugeen District Secondary School, to assist them in creating a product or service-based business.

Positive Trend Continues in EQAO Testing



The positive trend continued in 2014 – 2015 for Bluewater District School Board in the area of standardized testing administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The success rate for grade 10 students who participated in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) was 77 percent, which signified a four percent increase from the previous year's score. The biggest gain was in the success rate for students with learning disabilities, which jumped by 10 percent.

In Grade 9 Applied Math, the success rate remained steady at 51 percent. While Grade 9 Academic Math saw a slight decrease to 80 percent, this remains an

area of strength for Bluewater students.

Since not all schools in the English language system participated in the Grade 9 Assessments of Academic and Applied Math last year, the province did not publish a provincial level result this year. Last year's provincial results were 85 percent for Grade 9 Academic Math and 47 percent for Grade 9 Applied Math.

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2015 – 2016

- To continue:
 - the development of deep conceptual understanding combined with procedural fluency in mathematics;
 - the development of strong literacy programs which equip students with the broad scope of skills required to be successful beyond the classroom;
 - building programs which are responsive to student needs and interests;
 - supporting technology enhanced learning that allows students to increase the breadth and depth of their skill and knowledge acquisition;
- Review special education delivery model;
- Expand the implementation of Early Years learning strategies into the primary division and create seamless connections with school based child care programs.

Students Excel on DELF Exam

As part of a pilot project during May 2015, a group of grade 12 students enrolled in core French or French Immersion courses took part in a world recognized French exam that assesses second language proficiency. The DELF exam (Diplôme d'études en langue française or Diploma in French Studies) enables students who do not speak French as their mother tongue to gain internationally recognized accreditation that will support them in gaining employment requiring French language proficiency. Twenty-two students received certificates at their selected level, while 14 earned B2 level certificates, which is the highest level that students are eligible to take. Participation in the pilot project has helped to better inform and refine French instruction within Bluewater, while allowing staff to provide feedback that will contribute to how the exam is administered provincially in the future.



Students with their DELF certificates



Strategic Priority: Encourage parent engagement

In 2014 – 2015, the work of Bluewater’s ‘parent engagement’ strategic priority committee was aligned with that of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). ‘Parent engagement’ is now a standing item on each PIC agenda. The PIC has expanded its membership to include a representative from the board’s federations and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).



Greater inroads have been made in bringing parents into the educational conversation by focusing on instructional strategies. The board recognizes that many parents can take an active role in their children’s education without a physical presence in the school building. The board’s Communications Officer has been regularly posting interesting ‘parent tips’ articles on a variety of topics to both the PIC and board websites as well as on Twitter. Some of the parent articles have also been featured in local print media.



Parent resources on display at a PIC networking meeting for School Council chairs

The spring parent involvement networking event hosted by the PIC for School Council chairs highlighted two sessions on instructional practices. Principals shared their school efforts and recent research on developing a growth mindset. There was also a staff presentation of a hands-on math inquiry lesson demonstrating how teachers work to solve patterning questions with math manipulatives.

All School Improvement Plans (SIPs) will continue to have a specific parent engagement goal as one of their key pillars to align with the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA). A recent sampling of school goals includes:

- Open house for students to showcase their learning and use of technology;
- Offering a parent workshop for each class/grade to help parents understand math instructional strategies and how they can help their children at home;
- Sharing success criteria and learning goals in school newsletters;
- Including parents in the professional development dialogue teachers are participating in through newsletters and sharing assessment and evaluation guidelines;
- Presentation for parents on the risks of social media.

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2015 – 2016

- ‘Parent engagement’ will continue to be a standing item on the Parent Involvement Committee meeting agendas;
- Continued efforts will seek new ways to better communicate upcoming events, new trends in educational strategies, homework suggestions and links to educational articles;
- Regular contributions will be made to the PIC website;
- School Improvement Plans will continue to have a specific parent engagement goal as one of their key pillars;
- Efforts to provide “Just in Time” online helpful tips is one avenue anticipated to engage

- more parents;
- Engage parents to improve the junior math results.

Parents/Guardians Provide Feedback on Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Of the more than 500 responses to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan public survey that was conducted on the Bluewater District School Board website during March and April 2015, almost half of the participants were from the 'parents/guardians' stakeholder group. The survey included a series of 10 questions regarding the board's vision, mission and priorities to determine whether or not the Multi-Year Strategic Plan was still meeting the needs of Bluewater District School Board. The survey also included a short video to welcome and encourage participants to provide their feedback. The themes that emerged from the survey results were extremely helpful to the senior leadership team and trustees in revising the existing plan to ensure that stakeholders are committed to the same path in supporting the success and well-being of all students. Following analysis of the survey feedback by board staff, recommended revisions to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan were approved by trustees in June 2015. A new brochure and poster have since been created and are being distributed to schools. These materials are also available for viewing and downloading on the board [website](#).



Ontario's Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum

In September 2015, schools across Ontario were required to begin implementing the Ministry of Education's revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum. In anticipation of these changes, a 'parent tips' [article](#) with several downloadable easy-to-read resources and fact sheets, was prominently featured on the websites for Bluewater District School Board, the Parent Involvement Committee and all schools across the district. Social media, via the board's Twitter feed, was also utilized to further disseminate the information to assist parents/guardians in learning the specifics of what would be taught according to grade level, the research behind the curriculum revisions and tips on supporting their children's learning and well-being.

Northport Elementary School "Raising Awesome Kids Speaker Series"

Northport's School Community Council (SCC) conducted a survey last spring to find out what topics parents were interested in. This generated an active search to find great speakers on the topics of helping kids and families with daily pressures, competing priorities, stress, anxiety and 'hidden' mental health issues. The 2015 SCC Speaker Series began on October 22, 2015 with mental health awareness advocate Kendra Fisher. All those in attendance were treated to Kendra's honest and moving personal story. Her message of hope on the importance of ending the stigmas that exist around mental health issues was well received and appreciated. On November 27, 2015, Hamilton social worker Gary Drenfeld brought a wealth of experience as well as some great advice and strategies related to raising awesome kids. These free events were open to anyone from the community and also included assistance from the G.C. Huston Public School SCC. Two more sessions are planned for 2016. On April 22, Kate and Wayne Jones will present on understanding kids' behaviour, and a May 5 workshop with Paul Davies will help inform both students and parents on the topic of creating a safe online presence and protecting one's privacy.



Northport students join Kendra Fisher



Strategic Priority: Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources

The management of resources is an integral component in the successful operation of Bluewater District School Board. The focus of this past year has been to ensure resources have been efficiently and effectively utilized to support the strategic goals within this priority.



The key actions for the year were to:

Create alignment of human and financial resources through both short term and long term strategic planning

- Align the board's operational expenditures with the ministry funding provided and develop the 2015 – 2016 budget;
 - The longer term plan in this area is to actively seek opportunities to ensure financial resources are available to support the strategic priorities of the board. Staff are reviewing the excess student spaces in schools and developing a plan to address this unused space;
- Develop department goals to align with the board's strategic plan priorities; and
- Align staffing to reflect enrolment.

Maximize operational efficiencies including the use of instructional spaces to enhance program opportunities for students

- Revise BP 3101-D – “Accommodation Review – School Program and Facility Efficiency” to align with ministry guidelines, to ensure that efficient use of space in schools can be achieved in the next few years;
- Align instructional space with school enrolment by right-sizing the number of classrooms within the board's schools; and
- Dispose of the surplus property.

Focus on leadership development and succession planning

- Hire for key staff positions, such as Manager of Finance and Payroll Supervisor; and
- Review recruitment and staff development processes for employees.

Ensure effective communication within and between departments, between departments and schools and within schools



Staff present at the annual Public Budget Information Meeting on March 31, 2015

- Engage in ongoing and regular dialogue about the budget cycle and process with trustees and management;
- Develop a school budget recovery process;
- Align effective practices through audit reviews of processes at schools; and
- Provide timely and consistent communications throughout the board through numbered memos and reports.

Manage risk in all aspects of operations and program delivery

- Implement recommendations from the board's internal auditors;
- Align expenses to funding for the 2015 – 2016 budget;
- Introduce an electronic travel expense application for employees;
- Pilot 10 'cashless schools' to allow parents/guardians to pay for school fees online, thereby minimizing the amount of cash that students carry and schools process; and
- Segregate Human Resources Services functions and payroll functions as per our auditor's recommendations.

Promote our education system and encourage partnerships

- Revise BP 2360-D – "Community Planning and Partnerships" to align with ministry guidelines in supporting community partnerships;
- Recruit a full complement of Audit Committee members to meet ministry regulation;
- Promote a strong working relationship with the board's external audit team;
- Launch a marketing strategy to promote Bluewater District School Board;
- Propose revisions to the board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan;
- Deliver technology curriculum safety enhancements; and
- Host international students.

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2015 – 2016

- Reduce underutilized school space by seeking out community partners and undertaking accommodation reviews;
- Reduce ongoing financial risk to the board in a declining enrolment environment by continuing to align operating expenses to the funding envelopes;
- Investigate options to increase revenue (e.g. expand international student program);
- Build planning capacity to undertake long term capital planning;
- Continue to develop strategies/plans for succession, recruitment and retention of staff;
- Continue board marketing plan;
- Implement revised Multi-Year Strategic Plan;
- Review Information Communication Technology (ICT) organizational plan.

2015 – 2016 Accommodation Reviews

At the October 20, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board, trustees approved recommendations to commence accommodation reviews for the [Meaford Area Group of Schools](#) and [Owen Sound Area Group of Schools](#). As outlined in the board's recently revised accommodation review policy, [BP 3101-D](#), consultation on the recommended options in the Initial Staff Reports has begun with affected upper and lower tier municipalities and members of the public. Final decisions will be made by trustees at the end of the process.



Regular Meeting of the Board on October 20, 2015

On June 15, 2015, the first annual Community Planning and Partnerships (CPP) public meeting was attended by senior staff and councillors from several local municipalities and both counties, community organizations, members of the general public and local media. The intent of the meeting was to share planning information, discuss potential partnerships and learn about the Ministry of Education's new CPP guideline. Several communities and organizations have since followed up with Bluewater District School Board to engage in productive consultation.

Celebrating Partnerships in Bluewater

Bluewater District School Board acknowledges the many community organizations, businesses, volunteers and other stakeholder groups and individuals whose ongoing partnership and support enables the delivery of excellent programs for students across the system. Below is just a small sampling from the past year of Bluewater partnerships in action.



A partnership with the [Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative](#) (MAEI), [Bruce Power](#) and [Saugeen First Nation](#) has enabled the [Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program](#) at Saugeen District Secondary School, which helps grade 11 and 12 First Nation and Métis students gain hands-on entrepreneurial experience. Above: Former Prime Minister of Canada and MAEI founder, The Right Honourable Paul Martin (second from right), joins Director of Education Steve Blake (far left), Saugeen First Nation Chief Vernon Roote (second from left) and Harry Hall of Bruce Power (far right) on February 25, 2015 at the school program launch.



A renovated section of Dundalk & Proton Community School has created 31 new child care spaces thanks to a jointly funded project through the Ministry of Education's Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy, the County of Grey and Bluewater District School Board. The policy enables school board and child care partners to identify and repurpose available spaces in schools to meet the needs of younger children during the regular school day. Above: Dignitaries and staff observe as small hands cut the ribbon at the [Dundalk Kids & Us](#) official opening on November 10, 2015.



Thanks to the partnership of the [Ontario Student Nutrition Program - Grey-Bruce](#) and countless volunteers who assist daily, healthy breakfast, lunch and snack programs are available for students at all Bluewater schools. Above: A Bluewater student with some healthy eats next to the mobile food cart purchased by Owen Sound Collegiate & Vocational Institute with funding from the Healthy Eating in Secondary Schools grant.



Through the [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#) (OYAP), Bluewater students continue to reap the benefits of numerous regional partnerships involving various organizations and businesses who provide local opportunities and career related training in the skilled trades. Above: A Bluewater student at the Regional Technological Skills Challenge on March 27, 2015.

2015 Awards of Excellence

At the Regular Meeting of the Board on June 16, 2015, Bluewater District School Board honoured the extraordinary efforts and contributions of some of the many dedicated volunteers in our school communities with the annual [Awards of Excellence](#). Each trustee invited a recipient from each family of schools to the podium where nomination comments were shared as part of the recognition.

Awards of Excellence recipients are nominated by others within their family of schools, including teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, students, support staff and community members.



2015 Awards of Excellence recipients

Board of Trustees



Front L to R: Marilyn McComb, Vice-Chair Marg Gaviller, David Mason; Back L to R: Jan Johnstone, Jane Thomson, Linda Hamill, Jim Dawson, Stacey John, Dan Wong, Chair Ron Motz

Bluewater District School Board has ten trustees who vote on key decisions and represent all municipalities, townships and First Nations in Bruce and Grey Counties.

The Student Senate represents the student voice at board and committee meetings of the board. Members are elected annually at all eleven secondary schools. Three of these senators are selected by their Student Senate peers to act as student trustees at the board table each month.

The Administrative Council is the senior leadership team that provides system guidance and direction to staff as well as expertise and support to help inform the key decisions made by the Board of Trustees.

Administrative Council



Front L to R: Superintendent of Business Services/Treasurer Rob Cummings, Superintendent of Education Lori Wilder, Director of Education Steve Blake; Back L to R: Executive Officer Human Resources Services Cynthia Lemon, Superintendent of Education Jean Stephenson, Superintendent of Education Alana Murray

Student Senate 2015-2016



Front L to R: Gabrielle Hatten, Rose Nadjivan, Tianna Krampien, Branden Wheeler; Middle L to R: Ella Bolton, Aspen Chapman, Morgan Liverance, Jacklyn Marshall; Back L to R: Kersti Landra, Hannah Diebold, Connor Bye; Absent: Sana Hussein, Matalyn Lougheed-Rico



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