

Director's Annual Report 2016



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

The following vision, mission and strategic priorities are the foundational pieces of Bluewater District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, which acts as the impetus that guides the important work and decisions of trustees, staff, students, and other stakeholders within our local school communities.



VISION

Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow

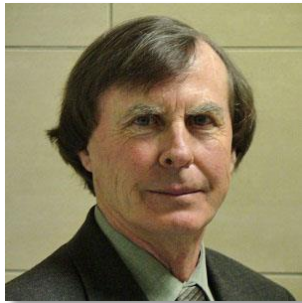
MISSION

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



As the Board of Trustees enters year three of its four-year term, I continue to be proud and humbled to serve our students and communities as part of this hard working and resilient group. The past 12 months, in particular, have seen trustees face some difficult decisions in the wake of accommodation reviews, which have resulted in school closures and amalgamations in a few of our local communities. While it is understandable that decisions of this nature can be unpopular within affected communities, trustees must weigh many factors and perspectives to ensure that the best interests of all students are represented. Despite our challenges, we have remained unified in recognizing the need to address the empty pupil spaces in our schools. I firmly believe that this commitment to focusing our resources on programming opportunities, as opposed to unsustainable infrastructure, will pay enormous dividends for our students in the long run.

In addition to the very important work that has taken place surrounding the responsible stewardship of our resources, trustees have been involved in supporting several other initiatives related to the strategic priorities that are featured in this report. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our staff, students, families, and other members of our Bluewater communities, we have many things to be proud of over the past year. I hope you will enjoy reading about them.

Ron Motz, *Board Chair*

Director's Message



I am pleased to once again share my annual report, which highlights some of this past year's most notable accomplishments in Bluewater District School Board resulting from the hard work and dedication of our stakeholders. Let me begin by thanking our many staff who fulfill a diverse range of roles within our education system, our Board of Trustees, parents/guardians, volunteers, education partners, and others in our school communities who contribute in meaningful ways to student success and well-being.

It is my hope that you will take this opportunity to learn more about our Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the four strategic priorities that we are proud to showcase in-depth. This will provide you with a broad overview and understanding of the pivotal role that our Multi-Year Strategic Plan plays in guiding and informing the decisions of trustees and the senior leadership team in the best interests of all of our students. As always, we have chosen to augment each featured strategic priority by including a few examples that illustrate the efforts and achievements of our students and staff in that specific focus area.

Without question, our board is currently at a crossroads of significant change and transition. While there are still challenges and hard work that lie ahead of us, we also have many amazing accomplishments and stories of excellence to celebrate. As you peruse this report, I invite you to join me in recognizing some of these accolades from 2016, while learning more about our goals and anticipated next steps for 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Blake". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Blake, *Director of Education*

Student Trustees' Message



L to R: Branden Wheeler, Holly Melsom,
Luke Burrows

As the 2016 – 2017 school year settles into a groove, the Student Senate is finding its stride. This year's group, which features many new and some returning faces, is excited to expand upon and continue the important and impactful work of last year's leadership. We anticipate a very productive year, working fluently with our schools, communities, and fellow board members, to allow our privileges to be utilized to their full potential. It is our goal, as a senate and as leaders in our schools, to represent all who wish to be a part of the board room conversation.

The Student Senate plans to work closely with the Ontario Student Trustees' Association to share and implement initiatives happening in boards across Ontario. As members of this association, our resources and connections will greatly benefit our service across the district. We intend to announce our official initiative shortly. Until then, we will be functioning to our full capacity as we advocate and work for the students of Bluewater District School Board.

Bluewater Quick Facts



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

Schools: 41 elementary
10 secondary

Students: 16,000 (approximate full time equivalent)

Staff: 1,800 permanent (approximate)

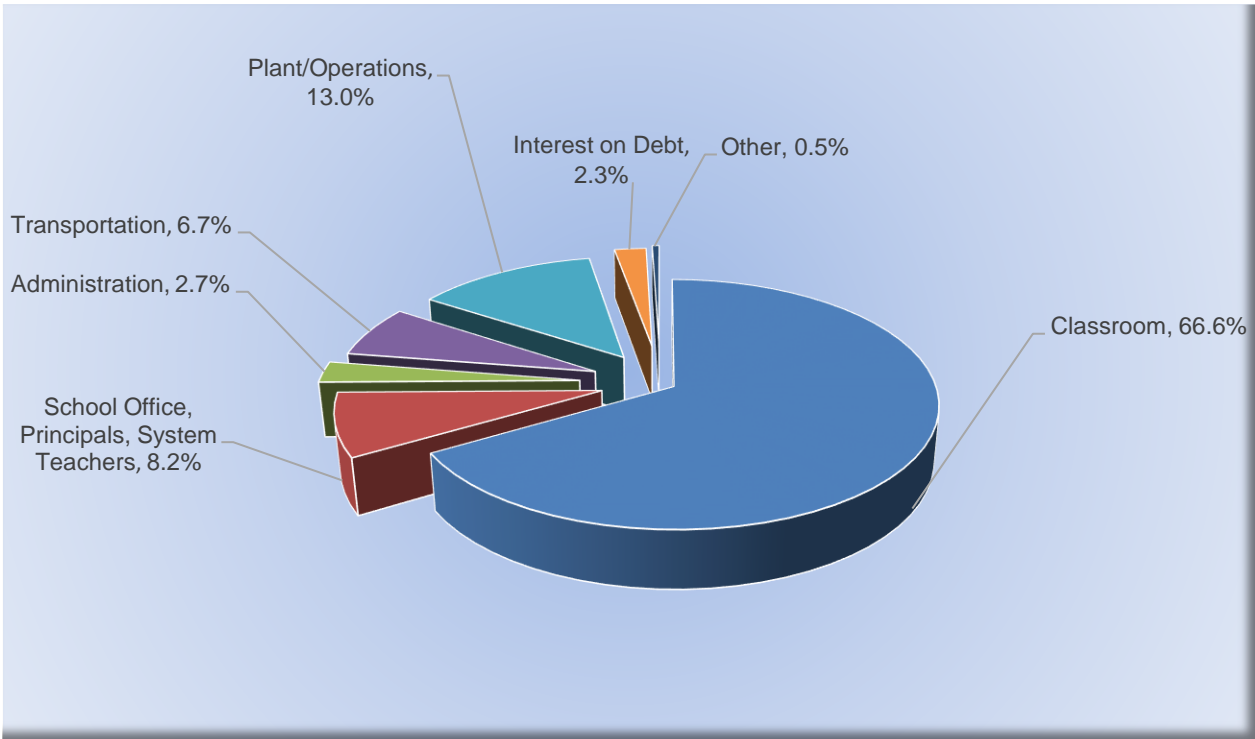
French Immersion (FI): Nine elementary schools offer FI (two are French only) while five secondary schools offer enhanced French programming.

First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI): In 2015 – 2016, 561 secondary students participated in 36 Native Studies courses offered throughout the district.

Two schools offer Ojibway as a second language.

Graduation Rate: Our board’s five-year graduation rate of 83% closely aligns with the provincial rate. Since the early 2000s, our rate has continued to steadily increase.

2015-2016 Budgeted Expenditures: The following outlines budget allocations for 2015-2016.



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

The four strategic priorities outlined below are part and parcel of Bluewater District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Each priority contains a set of specific goals, which form the basis for the work that takes place over the course of the year. This report includes an overview of the key accomplishments of 2016 in each priority area, including some recent notable success stories, as well as next steps for 2017.



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

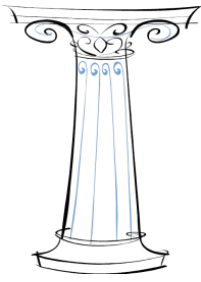
- Create a learning environment that promotes high expectations for all students
- Provide authentic and relevant experiences that enable all students to connect their learning to the real world
- Instil a commitment to responsible environmental stewardship
- Encourage and respect the best efforts of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

Bluewater District School Board continues to proactively promote and support a number of initiatives aimed at fostering a positive culture in its schools and facilities that is conducive to mental wellness, and inspires success for all.



Student Well-Being

The past year has seen continued alignment of mental health and wellness strategies, including the utilization of a tiered, differentiated support model to reach all students.

Tier 1 Services – Promotion and Prevention: good for ALL

Focus: stigma reduction and early intervention

- school-based collaborative inquiries (e.g., self-regulation and mindfulness)
- Mental Health Lead and Canadian Mental Health Association presentations (e.g., “Flourishing”, “Grit”, “Resilience”, “Creating Mentally Healthy Classrooms and Schools”)
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit and Gay Straight Alliance student forums

Tier 2 Services – Targeted Prevention: for some students (20 – 30%)

Focus: provide earlier intervention to high risk/vulnerable students and help them navigate pathways to care

- demonstration classroom – ‘The Zone’ training for educators on Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) principles for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- shared support model case conferences to support youth and their parents/guardians
- school-based consultations with all stakeholders;
- staff and student training in Mental Health First Aid and SafeTALK (suicide prevention and intervention)

Tier 3 Services – Clinical Intervention: for a few students (3 – 12%)

Focus: primarily involves community partners and connecting students with relevant, timely services

- individual clinical interventions – Community Care Access Centre Mental Health and Addictions Nurses, Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services, Choices (HopeGreyBruce Mental Health and Addictions Services), Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) psychiatric consultation services
 - in 2015 – 2016, more service providers supported students within our schools

Staff Well-Being

The Organizational Health and Wellness Committee has continued to work with the Psychological Health and Safety Management System to identify and provide supports and training for administrators and managers/supervisors in order to support staff wellness in our board’s worksites. The following initiatives have been provided this past year:

- training on staff wellness at administrator mentoring sessions for new administrators
- three after school workshops – “Walk the Talk”, “Managing Conflict”, “Mindfulness and Well-Being”
- investigation of opportunities for an employee wellness portal to provide access to health and wellness information to all employees, up to and including the Employee and Family Assistance Program

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2016 – 2017

- continued development, expansion and refinement of mental health and wellness initiatives for students and staff

Spring Health & Wellness Series

Our board’s Organizational Health and Wellness Committee continues to coordinate interactive workshops to support the well-being of staff. The 2016 Spring Health and Wellness Series included the following free evening sessions, which were offered to all employees: “Walk the Talk”, sponsored by the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO) with ETFO executive Joanne Myers on developing positive and active collegiality in the workplace; “Managing Conflict”, sponsored by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF) on understanding and resolving conflict in the workplace; and “Mindfulness and Well-being” with facilitator Michele Chaban on the benefits of practicing mindfulness for pain management, stress reduction and well-being enhancement. In light of the positive response to this series, additional sessions with other facilitators are being planned.



Staff practice mindfulness with Michele Chaban at a session on June 2, 2016

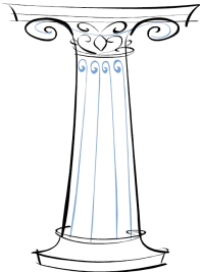


ABA Demonstration Classroom

Learning in ‘The Zone’

A demonstration classroom referred to as ‘The Zone’ launched in January 2016 at Hanover Heights Community School to facilitate training for educators on how to incorporate Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) principles into programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Rotating teams of educators from elementary and secondary schools have been participating in a six-week hands-on program to gain knowledge, as well as engage in collaborative group discussions. Some of the many areas covered in the training include an introduction to Structured Learning, the criteria for diagnosing ASD, functions of behavior, data collection, communication, self-regulation, and social skills. By the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year, 27 educators had completed the

training with an equal number scheduled to participate in 2016 – 2017. This type of ongoing instruction and outreach enables Bluewater District School Board to distribute informal leadership across all schools, while allowing educators to upscale their knowledge when working with all students, including those with ASD. In addition to further aligning with Ministry of Education guidelines, the project reinforces Bluewater District School Board’s commitment to its priority to ensure student well-being.



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



Key highlights in this priority area from the past year include:

Create a learning environment that promotes high expectations for all students

- **Kindergarten and Grade 1:** Coaching and school-based inquiries for early years educator teams (teachers and early childhood educators) focused on facilitating student learning through inquiry and pedagogical documentation.
- **French as a Second Language (FSL):** Teacher inquiries related to FSL instruction were aimed at increased relevance and enhanced conversational skills. Additionally, the expansion of Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) testing for international accreditation in French language proficiency was offered to interested students.
- **Grades 7 to 12 Literacy and Numeracy:** Schools developed specific and targeted short and long term plans to address the literacy and mathematics needs of their students.
- **New Teacher Induction Training:** New teachers received training on effective instructional and assessment practices.
- **Administrator Mathematics Learning:** Research and dialogue focused on effective mathematics learning and teaching.



"Stolen Lives" staff training on June 6, 2016

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

- **"Stolen Lives" Workshops:** Elementary and secondary teacher training was provided on Indigenous Peoples of Canada and residential schools to support implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada recommendations.
- **Technology Enhanced Learning:** Implementation of the Office 365 learning environment has enabled a secure platform for educators and students to collaborate and communicate their learning online.
- **Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM):** Students in SHSM programs implemented an Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) initiative with an industry partner.
- **Dual Credit:** Students taking dual credit courses earned a college and secondary credit.
- **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP):** The OYAP – Dual Credit Level 1 Cook program was expanded at Georgian College.
- **First Time, Full Time (FTFT):** Students transitioning to the world of work were provided with industry certifications.
- **Transitions:** Students in Grades 8 and 11 were provided with transition to college experiences at Georgian College.

Instil a commitment to responsible environmental stewardship

- **Outdoor Learning:** 'Into Nature Mentor Certification Program' helped teachers engage students in authentic outdoor learning.
- **Science Fair:** Students continue to be encouraged to pursue inquiry and problem solving independently via science projects.
- **Environmental Studies Programs:** Offered in some of the secondary schools, these programs develop respect and responsibility for the natural environment.
- **Educational Events:** Students attended environmentally themed community events such as the Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival, Roots of Bruce, and Grown in Grey.



Secondary student receives Senior Gold at the 2016 Canada Wide Science Fair in Montreal, thus becoming the event's top senior student in Canada

Encourage and respect the best efforts of each individual

- **Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities:** A learning disabilities reading inquiry looked at how data-driven, precise and personalized tiered interventions improve literacy skills for all.
- **French as a Second Language (FSL) Learning Support:** Administrators, learning resource teachers and Core and French Immersion teachers received training on the implementation of FSL for all.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL):** Inquiry and coaching for teachers/administrators focused on supporting ESL students, and those with limited English vocabulary.
- **Self-Regulation:** Kindergarten educators and administrators from five schools engaged in inquiries related to developing self-regulation skills. Schools also trained in a Structured Learning Unit demonstration classroom.



- **First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Student Support:** The FNMI Student Work Study Teacher (SWST) worked collaboratively with students and teachers to identify and implement effective learning strategies. FNMI tutors also provided direct support to Peninsula Shores and Saugeen District Secondary School FNMI students.
- **Summer Learning Program:** Literacy and mathematics programs to mitigate against summer learning loss were offered to primary students at 10 schools across the district.

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2016 – 2017

- continue building capacity related to the board's mathematics goal: all students will have a deep understanding of mathematical concepts from which they can build procedural fluency, strategic competence and adaptive reasoning
- continue to develop strong literacy programs which equip students with the broad scope of skills required to be successful beyond the classroom
- continue building programs which are responsive to student needs and interests
- continue supporting technology enhanced learning that allows students to increase the breadth and depth of their skill and knowledge acquisition
- implement the revised Kindergarten Program, 2016/Communication of Learning
- implement the Ontario Renewed Mathematics Strategy
- share with other schools the learning disabilities reading inquiry to support instruction



Strategic Priority: Encourage parent engagement

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) continued to meet throughout the year. This group included parents representing schools within the district, system administrators (one elementary and one secondary), an employee group representative, a trustee, and a superintendent of education.



'Parent Engagement' is a standing item on each PIC agenda in order to provide an opportunity to focus on education through the lens of student achievement.

A "Building Healthy Relationships – Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Relationships" resource was provided to each school by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE). This resource includes a "Parent Tool Kit" and "A Guidebook for Parents and Schools", as well as access to the CODE website, which features electronic resources in both English and French.



A networking event for School Council members was held in November 2015. Members of the PIC also had the opportunity to attend the Barrie Regional Symposium hosted by the Ministry of Education.

School Councils were supported in submitting [Parents Reaching Out \(PRO\) Grants](#), which allow for the identification of

local strategies to involve more parents in supporting their children's learning and well-being. Bluewater District School Board received approval for \$17,215 from the Ministry of Education for 18 School Council projects to occur throughout the 2016 – 2017 school year. Approved proposals are to support parent engagement activities, such as family science nights, promoting the importance of self-regulation and mindfulness, family fun evenings with a literacy and numeracy focus, and support for new Canadian families.

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

- a technology open house for students to showcase their learning and use of technology
- school hosted events including a family movie night, Snowflake Café, Meet the Teacher open house, Adopt a Book program
- information for parents on how to support developing a growth mindset in their children
- parent orientation session and open house events
- sharing success criteria and learning goals via school newsletters and social media
- including parents in the professional development dialogue that teachers are participating in through newsletters and the sharing of assessment and evaluation guidelines (e.g., teacher worksheets from a recent professional development session that were posted in the front foyer of a school to allow parents to see staff learning goals)



Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2016 – 2017

- input from the PIC on how to engage parents in their children's learning, especially in the area of mathematics
- continue networking meetings for School Councils
- 'Parent Engagement' to continue as a standing item on the PIC meeting agenda
- continued efforts to better communicate upcoming events, new trends in educational strategies, homework suggestions and links to educational articles
- the PIC to continue offering contributions to staff to be posted on the PIC website
- School Improvement Plans to continue to have a specific parent engagement goal as one of the key pillars

Foxes Promote Parent and Community Engagement

The examples in Bluewater District School Board are numerous when it comes to the hard work of School Councils to promote parent engagement. The team of 'Foxes' at Hanover Heights Community School is just one of many highly active and involved parent groups that continues to find fun ways to foster a vibrant and engaged school community. In February 2016, the School Council, in partnership with some generous local businesses, offered up a very successful pancake breakfast to over 440 students, staff, and community members. In June, the School Council solicited the help of staff and businesses to organize a 'make your own pizza' lunch, which provided students and parents with an opportunity to get creative using locally grown vegetables. Both of these events showcased, to both students and parents, the level of engagement and sense of community that are possible when like-minded individuals work together.



Eagles Engage to Support Student Well-Being



Some very generous parent donations, coupled with the efforts of members of the School Council, have resulted in a brand new 'Buddy Bench' for the playground at Alexandra Community School in Owen Sound. The purpose of the bench is to assist students in making friends, or finding peers to play with at recess. A student who is feeling lonely or isolated can simply sit on the bench, which provides a signal to other students to invite them to join their play group or sit and talk with them. School staff appreciate the efforts of these dedicated parents to support a sense of belonging, and encourage a welcoming 'Eagles nest' for all students.



Strategic Priority: Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources

The efficient and effective management of resources is integral to the operation of Bluewater District School Board. Below are the key highlights of the past year in this priority area.



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 2016 – 2017 budget
 - a long term plan to ensure financial resources support the strategic priorities, which includes addressing excess student spaces in schools
- develop department goals to align with the board's strategic plan priorities
- 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 and ensure that efficient use of space in schools can be achieved in the next few years
- accommodation reviews for the Meaford and Owen Sound Area Groups of Schools
- align instructional space with enrolment in schools throughout the board
- dispose of the surplus property

Focus on leadership development and succession planning

- stabilize staffing in payroll and accounting departments to ensure continuity
- update Plant Services staff and portfolio of work to ensure continued effectiveness
- build planning capacity through a shared services arrangement with Simcoe County and Upper Grand District School Boards
- review Information Communication Technology (ICT) processes and functions

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

- engage in ongoing dialogue about the budget cycle/process with trustees/management
- align effective practices through audit reviews of processes at schools
- provide timely, consistent internal communications via numbered memos and reports

Manage risk in all aspects of operations and program delivery

- implement recommendations from the board's internal auditors
- monitor financial activity to ensure the board operates within budget/revised estimates
- align expenses to funding for the 2016 – 2017 budget
- streamline enrolment collection and reporting function, and ensure understanding and expectations are communicated to key stakeholders
- segregate human resources and payroll functions as per the 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
- reduce the walk distance for Bluewater District School Board secondary students for the 2016 – 2017 school year to a standardized 1.6 km walk distance for all students
- promote a strong working relationship with the board’s external audit team
- launch a marketing strategy to promote Bluewater District School Board
- deliver technology curriculum safety enhancements
- host international students

Next Steps: Strategies/Initiatives for 2016 – 2017

- continue to reduce underutilized school space and related operating costs by seeking out community partners and undertaking pupil accommodation reviews
- reduce ongoing financial risk to the board in a declining enrolment environment by continuing to align operating expenses to funding
- continue to investigate options to increase revenue (e.g., international student program)
- continue to build planning capacity to support 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 the Information Communication Technology organizational plan
- assess surplus property needs

The Changing Face of Bluewater

Accommodation reviews in 2015 – 2016 resulted in significant changes to a few of the board’s school communities. In the [Meaford Area Group of Schools](#), Grades 4 to 8 students joined their new secondary peers at the renamed Georgian Bay Community School, St. Vincent-Euphrasia Elementary School was reconfigured to accommodate JK to Grade 3 students, and Meaford Community School was closed. In light of these changes, it was announced that the Ministry of Education had approved the board’s submission for School Consolidation Capital funding in the amount of 24.1 million dollars to build a new K-12 school in Meaford to accommodate all of the area’s students.



Minister of Education Liz Sandals visits St. Vincent-Euphrasia Elementary School on April 29, 2016 to announce new funding

The [Owen Sound Area Group of Schools](#) review resulted in the consolidation of Owen Sound Collegiate & Vocational Institute (OSCVI) at West Hill Secondary School under the new name of Owen Sound District Secondary School, and the closure of Derby Public School. Dufferin Elementary, Bayview Public and Sydenham Community Schools are slated for closure in June 2017, with JK-8 students from the latter two joining together in the renovated former OSCVI facility in September 2017. To coincide with these changes, urban walk distances were reduced to accommodate secondary students. It was also announced that 11.75 million dollars in capital funding from the Ministry of Education would be provided for renovations to the yet to be named Owen Sound elementary school (5.02 million) and Owen Sound District Secondary School (6.73 million).

On September 20, 2016, trustees voted to commence accommodation reviews for both the [Chesley and Paisley Area Schools](#) and the [Markdale and Area Schools](#).

Community Planning and Partnerships

Bluewater District School Board continues to foster ongoing partnerships with numerous community organizations, businesses, groups and individuals while also actively seeking out new partnership opportunities. The Annual Community Planning and Partnerships meeting held in June was an invaluable opportunity for groups to meet with the board to exchange ideas and needs. This year's meeting was a huge success as 39 invited guests, which included representatives from local community organizations as well as senior staff and council members from upper and lower tier municipalities, convened for a productive discussion regarding opportunities for possible future collaboration. Community partners who may be interested in sharing space in school facilities or who have new planning information to pass along are encouraged to contact the board at any time. More information is available on the board's Community Planning and Partnerships [web page](#).



Ground breaking on October 27, 2016 with (L to R) Hanover Mayor Sue Paterson, Board Chair Ron Motz, Director of Education Steve Blake, and JDSS School Council Co-Chair Cheryl McCubbin

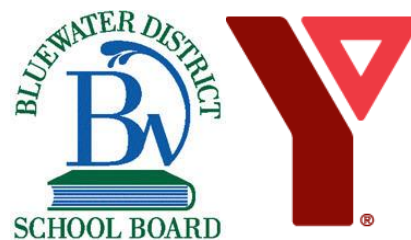
New Hanover School Build Moves Forward

It has been a busy year in Hanover as plans continue to come together to build a new Grade 7 – 12 replacement school for John Diefenbaker Senior School. A public meeting was held on September 21, 2016 to discuss the proposed concept design and site plans. This was followed by the official ground breaking on October 27, 2016, as members of the local media and other invited guests joined trustees and board staff at the future build site on 18th Avenue in Hanover. In addition to the symbolic act of turning the sod, the ceremony included remarks from Board Chair Ron Motz and Director of Education Steve Blake, who shared greetings sent by Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter.

The new school, which is being funded through approximately 20.8 million dollars from the Ministry of Education's School Consolidation Capital program, is scheduled to open its doors to students in September 2018. Board staff continue to engage in discussions with potential community partners who have expressed interest in exploring opportunities to utilize space within the new school.

A Partnership to Benefit our Youngest Learners

As part of the 5.02 million dollars in renovation work that is being funded by the Ministry of Education at the yet to be named Owen Sound elementary school, as many as 55 licensed childcare spaces are being added to accommodate toddlers and preschool aged children. The work is being completed thanks to a renewed partnership between Bluewater District School Board and the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce. Board staff are pleased with the establishment of this successful partnership, which is a direct result of Bluewater's Annual Community Planning and Partnerships meeting that took place in June 2016. Staff at the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce also look forward to this opportunity, which will allow them to operate in program space that is fully accessible and assist families in making the transition from childcare to school. The arrangement will also include the provision of before and after school programming for older children.



Awards of Excellence

A group of dedicated Bluewater District School Board volunteers was recognized at the June 21, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board with [Awards of Excellence](#) for their outstanding contributions over the past year. Recipients of this annual honour are nominated by others within their family of schools. Congratulations and thanks are extended to all of this year's recipients for their ongoing efforts that support students and contribute to excellence in Bluewater!



2016 Awards of Excellence recipients

Board of Trustees



Jim Dawson
Township of Southgate
Municipality of Grey Highlands



Marg Gaviller
City of Owen Sound



Linda Hamill
Municipality of Meaford
The Blue Mountains



Jan Johnstone, Vice-Chair
Municipality of Kincardine
Township of Huron-Kinloss



David Mason
Town of Saugeen Shores
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie



Marilyn McComb
Township of Georgian Bluffs
Township of Chatsworth



Ron Motz, Board Chair
Municipality of West Grey
Town of Hanover



Jane Thomson
Town of South Bruce Peninsula
Municipality of Northern
Bruce Peninsula



Cheree Urscheler
First Nations



Dan Wong
Municipality of Brockton
Municipality of South Bruce

Administrative Council



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

Student Senate 2016-2017



Front L to R: Andre Wiecherkehr, Branden Wheeler, Holly Melsom, Sasha Morano; Back L to R: Brooklyn Seigmiller, Malcolm Bainborough, Luke Burrows, Jacklyn Marshall, Mariah Slot, Kate Lupo-Flewelling; Absent: Aspen Chapman



351 1st Avenue North, Chesley, Ontario N0G 1L0
Telephone: (519) 363-2014 Toll Free: 1-800-661-7509
Fax: (519) 370-2909 www.bwdsb.on.ca



Follow us on Twitter @BluewaterDSB

