

Expanding on Social Media

Expanding the board's corporate social media presence was identified as a key goal in the communications plan. New accounts were launched this past year to better reach parents and stakeholders with timely information:

- ❖ Facebook 
- ❖ YouTube 
- ❖ Director of Education on Twitter 

An Exemplary Year for Awards



Skills Canada National Competition – GOLD
Skills Ontario Competition – GOLD/BRONZE
Canada Wide Science Fair – JR. BRONZE
International Science and Engineering Fair – TEAM CANADA

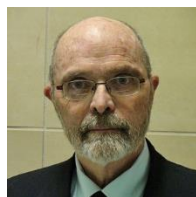
MusicFest Canada – GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE
OFSAA - GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE
National Archery in the Schools Program Provincial Championship – DIVISION CHAMPIONS
Ontario EcoSchools – 1 GOLD, 2 SILVER schools



Director's Annual Report 2017



Board of Trustees



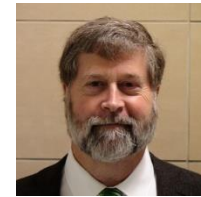
Jim Dawson
Township of Southgate
Municipality of Grey Highlands



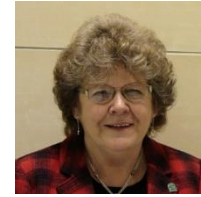
Marg Gaviller
City of Owen Sound



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



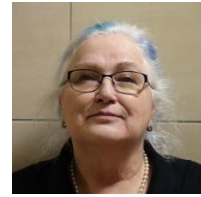
David Mason
Town of Saugeen Shores
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie



Marilyn McComb
Township of Georgian Bluffs
Township of Chatsworth



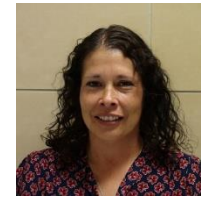
Ron Motz, Board Chair
Municipality of West Grey
Town of Hanover



Fran Morgan
Municipality of Meaford
Town of The Blue Mountains



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 Alana Murray, Superintendent of Education Paul Hambleton; Back L to R: Superintendent of Education Wendy Kolohon, Executive Officer Human Resources Services Cynthia Lemon, Superintendent of Education Lori Wilder

Student Senate 2017-2018



Front L to R: Sasha Morano, Moira Robertson, Alexandra Madill, Lucas Chegahno; Middle L to R: Alex George, Quinn Buratynski, Branden Wheeler; Back L to R: Ethan Parker, Cailyn McKay, Malcolm Bainborough, Ryan Brown; Absent: Julia Gropp

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.

Chair's Message



As we enter the fourth and final year of our term as trustees, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, families, students, partners, and communities for all they do to support student excellence in Bluewater District School Board. For the first time in a long while, we are seeing some areas of growth and a more sustainable path forward. We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders on our many shared goals, which include reinvesting in student programs, promoting enhanced Indigenous learning, building strong community partnerships, and ensuring our board has a voice on provincial decisions affecting [rural education](#).

Ron Motz, Board Chair

Student Senate's Message



The 2017-2018 Student Senate is full of bright and motivated members who are eager to represent the students of our respective schools. This year, we are planning exciting leadership opportunities for students to enjoy. We plan to work closely with the Ontario Student Trustees' Association to better advocate for our students provincially, and bring back important connections and ideas for initiatives to take on within our board. The Student Senate will be consulting further to determine our specific focus for this year in the best interest of the "student voice".

Branden Wheeler and Ryan Brown, Student Trustees

Director's Message



I am pleased to provide a snapshot of key highlights from what was an eventful and productive year in Bluewater DSB. When I assumed the role of director in March, I established four key goals to align with our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#): 1) achievement for ALL students in literacy, numeracy, science, and technology; 2) staff well-being and recognition; 3) promoting and building our board's profile; and 4) financial stability and community partnerships. I invite you to learn more about some of the many action items that have been initiated as we continue to work towards these goals.

Alana Murray, Director of Education

Quick Facts



Coverage Area
8,673 square kilometres within Bruce/Grey Counties

Schools
❖ 39 elementary
❖ 9 secondary



Students
16,200 approx. full time equivalent; an increase of 1% since last year

Staff
❖ 3,000 approx. permanent and casual



French Immersion
❖ 9 elementary schools (2 are French only)
❖ 5 secondary schools with enhanced programming

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

Staff Well-Being

Organizational Health and Wellness Committee foci:

Key initiatives:

- ❖ Mental Health First Aid
- ❖ Wellness presentations
- ❖ New internal staff resource web page
- ❖ Increased staff profiling on board website/social media accounts



Student Well-Being*

- ❖ Partnerships with approximately 12 community groups/agencies
- ❖ new mental health class at John Diefenbaker Senior School
- ❖ Pride Month flag displays in all schools/sites
- ❖ Pink Shirt Day recognition



Indigenous Education

520 secondary students took 37 Indigenous Studies courses; 2 schools offered Ojibway. Trustees/staff/the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee supported expanded learning in multiple ways: Orange Shirt Day; Treaties Recognition Week; SDSS murals; National Aboriginal Day; GC Huston Bimaadziwin doors; Good Path bridge naming.

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of Staff Trained to Support Wellness

- ❖ Behaviour Management Systems – 228
- ❖ SafeTALK – 198
- ❖ Applied Behaviour Analysis Demonstration Classroom – 27
- ❖ Specialized Equipment Technology Demonstration Classroom – 11
- ❖ Indigenous Education Educator Forum – 107
- ❖ Cultural sensitivity and awareness – 88

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

Graduation Rate
81.4%

While the graduation rate slightly decreased from last year, there has been a general upward trend since the early 2000s. Staff will continue to work to increase the graduation rate through quality instruction and ensuring varied pathway options are available for all students.

Numeracy and Literacy

Results improved in most areas of EQAO Reading, Writing and Mathematics assessments. Staff training focused on many areas:

- ❖ Ontario's Renewed Mathematics Strategy
- ❖ Primary/Junior Mathematics Part 1 Additional Qualification
- ❖ Cross Panel Mathematics/Literacy inquiries
- ❖ School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement

English Language Learners

731 students were supported to gain English proficiency

- 126 international students
- 27 exchange students
- 13 schools now have English as a Second Language educators
- 6 English Literacy Development school teams support educators across all grade levels
- 1 system lead teacher



Accessibility in Bluewater DSB

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Committee led several initiatives that focused on:

- ❖ Accessibility features of board locations
- ❖ Ensuring accessible recruitment processes
- ❖ Increasing awareness and supports through training and resources
- ❖ Revisions to the Annual Accessibility Plan

Read more about this priority and next steps.

Encourage parent engagement

Strong Parent Voice in Bluewater DSB

Parent engagement is a pillar in all School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement.

The Parent Involvement Committee continued to raise awareness of its role to support parent engagement through presentations to School Councils. Members attended the Ministry of Education's Barrie Regional Symposium.



Vibrant and Welcoming Schools

Staff, School Councils, and volunteers hosted various themed engagement events. A few examples:

- ❖ Well-being (Healthy Minds at Egremont)
- ❖ Literacy/mathematics (East Ridge Book Nook)
- ❖ School celebrations (Bayview Public, Dufferin Elementary, Sydenham Community, Chesley District Community secondary panel)
- ❖ Back-to-school "welcome" BBQs

Awards of Excellence

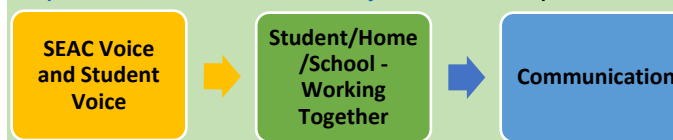
Outstanding Bluewater DSB volunteers from each school area were recognized at the final board meeting of the 2016-17 school year. Recipients were nominated by others within their family of schools.



Special Education

The Applied Behaviour Analysis After-School Skills Development Program supported parents/students with social skill development strategies.

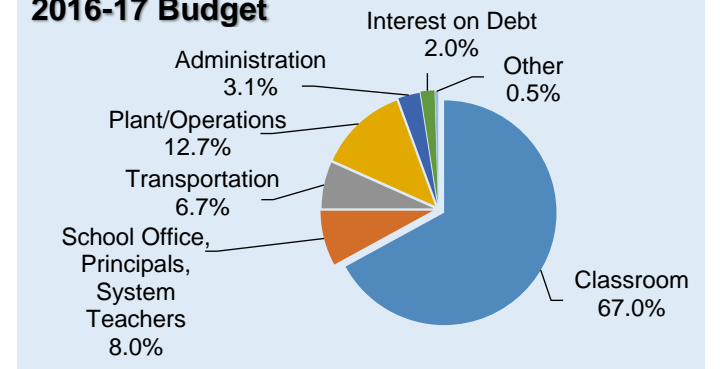
Special Education Advisory Committee priorities:



Read more about this priority and next steps.

Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources

2016-17 Budget



Reducing to Reinvest

A 2017-18 budget surplus of \$45,000 reflects savings from school consolidations and the efficient use of resources. This stronger financial position is a first in many years, and a significant step forward in the path to long-term sustainability/stability.

2016-17 accommodation review decisions for the Chesley/Paisley and Markdale area schools will further advance progress towards this goal.

Community Partnerships

34 guests attended the June Community Planning and Partnerships meeting.

The new YMCA Early Learning Centre opened at East Ridge Community School.

Productive discussions with municipalities and other partners continue to explore potential community hubs for Markdale and Paisley.

Infrastructure Upgrades and New Builds

- ❖ Opening of East Ridge Community School
- ❖ John Diefenbaker Senior School build
- ❖ 2017 summer renewal projects

\$10M is earmarked in capital renewal work for Bluewater DSB schools in 2018!

Read more about this priority and next steps.

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*Well-Being Strategy image source: Ministry of Education