



Director's Annual Report

2018

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



It has been another year of change and growth in Bluewater District School Board.

In addition to a new provincial government taking shape, we welcome our 2018-2022 Board of Trustees. I extend best wishes to our new trustees and to those who are returning. As we transition, I have every confidence that our board is in good hands with this dynamic incoming group of advocates for rural education. I also thank our [outgoing trustees](#), whom I join in passing the baton, for their years of dedication to students, staff, and families. Much has been accomplished as we share highlights of the past year.

Ron Motz, Board Chair

Student Senate's Message



This year, our Bluewater DSB Student Senate has been focusing

on the theme of "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds" to assist our schools in a number of key areas. Ensuring students have access to resources for their physical and mental health, making Bluewater DSB schools more environmentally friendly, and supporting Gay Straight Alliances are critical sections of our work this year. We also plan to engage with our elementary student peers and promote the Student Senate to encourage outreach and participation. Overall, we are looking forward to a productive year!

Ryan Brown and Emma Schuster, Student Trustees

Director's Message




It is my pleasure to share some key areas over the past 12 months where we have made progress in

accordance with our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). There has been significant focus on staff well-being (in addition to our ongoing student wellness efforts), expanding our communications, Indigenous education, and technology, to name a few. We have a lot to celebrate in this ever-changing landscape for public education. I thank all of our students, staff, parents/guardians, trustees, volunteers, community partners, and other stakeholders. It is their continued hard work, resilience, and commitment to excellence in Bluewater DSB that form the basis of this report.

Alana Murray, Director of Education

Download this report: www.bwdsb.on.ca/director/Directors_Annual_Report

Coverage Area



8,673 square kilometres within Bruce/Grey Counties

Schools

- 39 elementary
- 9 secondary


English Language Learners



849 students; an increase of approx. 120 students since last year

Quick Facts

Students



16,500 approx. full time equivalent; an increase of 1.5% 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

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


Encourage parent engagement

Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources

Student and Staff Well-Being

Organizational Health and Wellness foci:


- Alumni Profiles
- Workplace Wellness Challenges
- Students from 7 schools trained as Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions
- OPHEA Healthy Schools – GOLD/SILVER
- Trustee motion advocating for the student voice



Literacy and Mathematics

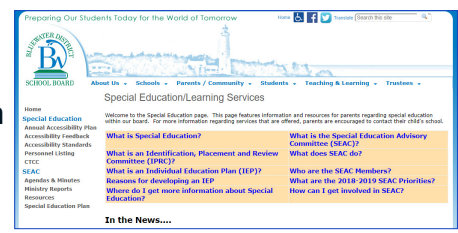
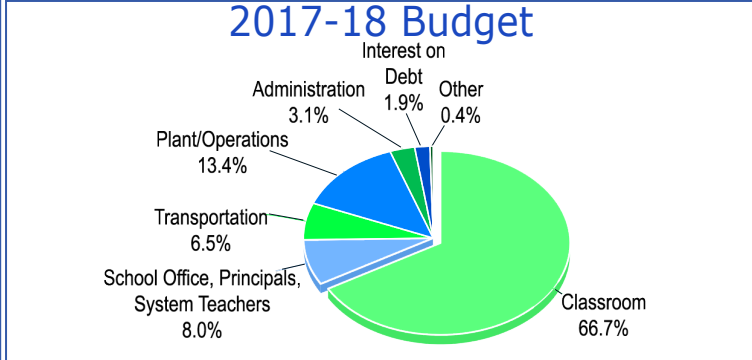
Grade 3 and 6 reading scores continue to increase, with 2017-18 boasting the highest reading scores of the past several years. Initiatives that supported math achievement included:

- Professional learning for administrators/educators through school-based inquiry projects
- Additional supports/resources for intensive schools
- Cross-panel math inquiries
- STEAM



Special Education Advisory Committee

Under the guidance of SEAC, a newly redesigned Special Education web page was introduced to offer parents/guardians better ease of navigation and access to information.

Safe and Accepting Schools

Schools supported this priority in a variety of ways. A key highlight of the year was Osprey Central School's receipt of the Premier's Award for Accepting Schools.



Specialist High Skills Majors

24 programs now in all secondary schools spanning 10 industry sectors



- Agriculture
- Arts and Culture
- Construction
- Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Horticulture and Landscaping
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information and Communications Technology
- Manufacturing
- Transportation


SCHOOLMESSENGER®

SchoolMessenger Communicate, Bluewater DSB's official new platform for school to home communications, was launched at all schools. Parents/guardians can now receive phone, email, and/or text broadcasts based on their preferences by downloading the SchoolMessenger app or via a web portal.

A More Sustainable Path Forward

Bluewater DSB continued on the path toward long-term financial stability. A stronger financial year was the result of past decisions to address excess student spaces in our schools, combined with an overall enrolment increase in 2018-19:

- 237 additional students



Indigenous Education

702 secondary students participated in 50 Indigenous Studies courses; Ojibway as a second language was offered at 2 schools.

- Treaties Recognition Week
- Orange Shirt Day
- National Indigenous History Month
- "Zgaa-biig-ni-gan" Bridge ceremony
- Indigenous Leadership Camp
- Indigenous Student Forum

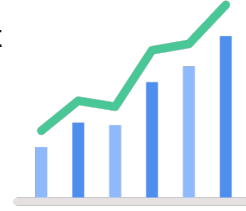


Technology and Innovation

The Director's Advisory Committee on Technology and Innovation was initiated to establish the Information Communication Technology Roadmap. Priorities: equitable access for students/staff; high speed, robust, secure infrastructure that is responsive to changing learning/business environments; automated and integrated communications/authoritative systems; ensuring timely and effective assistance and services.

"Your Voice Matters" Weekly Survey

Using social media and the new Bluewater DSB mobile app, a survey question was introduced to solicit feedback from parents/guardians on a variety of education related topics. Every Monday morning, a new question and the previous week's results are posted.




Community Partnerships

- Community Planning and Partnerships joint meeting with Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB
- \$1.5M for expanded child care spaces in partnership with Bruce and Grey Counties
- EarlyON partnership with Bruce County
- Regional community hub for skilled trades training at former Sydenham Community School


Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments

Bluewater DSB's more than 150 full/part time custodians were formally acknowledged at a board meeting for their tireless work during summer preparing schools for start-up, and keeping facilities safe year round.




Summer School/ Blended Learning

For the first time in Bluewater DSB, 266 of the 359 students who received credits through Summer School achieved them through online learning.



Awards of Excellence

A fine representation of outstanding Bluewater DSB volunteers from all school areas were recognized at the final board meeting of 2017-18 for their contributions to our local education system.



Facility Reinvestment

- \$16.9M investment in summer capital renewal work
- \$6.4M for Beavercrest Community School replacement with additional \$1.05M for child care and EarlyON rooms



Read more about the above priorities and next steps for 2018-2019.

Bluewater DSB Launches Mobile App

A new **Bluewater DSB mobile app** was introduced to broaden methods of communication with parents/guardians, students, staff, and the community. The information that is most important to stakeholders can now be accessed in one convenient location on an **Apple or Android** device.



Provincial and National Recognition



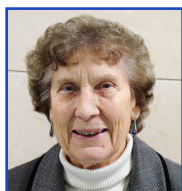
Students: Skills Canada, **Skills Ontario***, **Canada Wide Science Fair**, National MusicFest Canada*, **OFSAA***, **NASP** Provincial Championship*, Special Olympics Ontario School Championships**, **Ontario EcoSchools (PLATINUM/GOLD) *GOLD**

Staff: Canadian Geographic Magazine – Geography Teacher of the Month, Royal Canadian Geographical Society – **Innovation in Geography Teaching Award**, COEO - **Dorothy Walter Award for Leadership**

Board Of Trustees



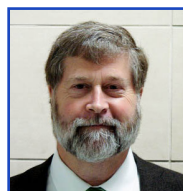
Jim Dawson
*Township of Southgate
Municipality of Grey Highlands*



Marg Gaviller
City of Owen Sound



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



David Mason
*Town of Saugeen Shores
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie*



Marilyn McComb
*Township of Georgian Bluffs
Township of Chatsworth*



Fran Morgan
*Municipality of Meaford
Town of The Blue Mountains*



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



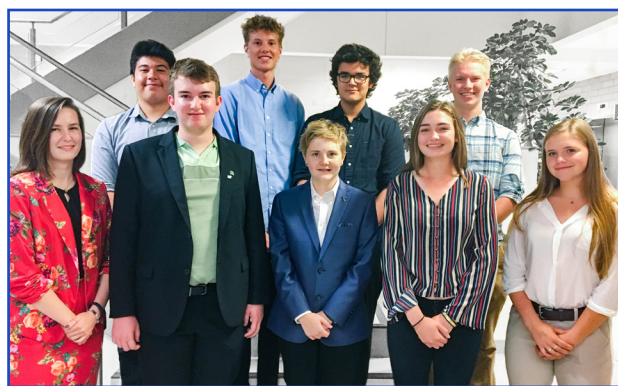
Dan Wong
*Municipality of Brockton
Municipality of South Bruce*

Administrative Council



Front L to R: Superintendent of Education Paul Hambleton, Director of Education Alana Murray, Superintendent of Education Cynthia Lemon; Back L to R: Superintendent of Education Wendy Kolohon, Superintendent of Business Services/Treasurer Rob Cummings, Superintendent of Education Lori Wilder

Student Senate 2018-2019



Front L to R: Emma Schuster, Ryan Brown, Moira Robertson, Natalia Heinke, Holly Becker; Back L to R: Jack Pilon, Ethan Parker, Lucas Chegahno, Luke McBride; Absent: Liam Kelly, Georgia-Ann Reidl