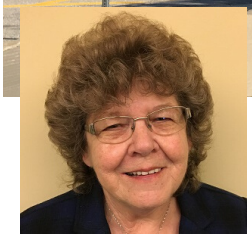
Trustee Newsletter

Fall 2019



Marilyn McComb
Township of Georgian Bluffs
Township of Chatsworth

Full Speed into Fall!

With the 2019-20 school year now in full swing, schools are once again hubs of activity. The start-up of athletics, clubs, and extra-curriculars, the return of school and student councils, commencements for our graduates, and next year's Kindergarten registration, are among the many initiatives underway. Whether you are a student, parent/guardian, staff member or other public education stakeholder, I extend best wishes in the hope that your back-to-school experience has been positive! As always, contact me any time with your questions or concerns: 519-376-4770 or marilyn_mccomb@bwdsb.on.ca

Labour Negotiations Ongoing

We are pleased that recent provincial negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) were resolved without a full strike being initiated. Trustees continue to monitor collective bargaining that is happening across the province with other education employee groups. The public will continue to be informed as required through our school communications, board social media, and Labour Updates web page.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan System Review

Trustees considered 363 submissions received through a public survey conducted in the spring as part of a review of the Bluewater District School Board Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). The feedback was used to draft a revised MYSP, which was then reviewed by the board's Policy Standing Committee in June. As a result, proposed changes have been incorporated into Board Policy BP 1101-D "Bluewater District School Board Strategic Plan". Further public feedback is being requested on the proposed changes by **October 30, 2019**. Click here to learn more.

New JDSS Marks Official Opening

John Diefenbaker Senior School held its official grand opening at its new location in Hanover on Thursday, October 3. Funded through approximately 20.8 million dollars from the Ministry of Education's School Consolidation Capital program, the building's unique design and construction includes upgrades to functional space, accessibility, and power energy savings, such as LED lighting. Student ambassadors conducted tours for invited dignitaries, who had a chance to view the new classrooms, full size transportation, manufacturing, and construction shops, double gymnasium, cafetorium with stage, and two-storey atrium. The afternoon also featured speeches, music, ribbon cutting ceremonies, a plaque unveiling, and a rededication of the monument that had been donated by members of the local Dutch community to the former school site commemorating the liberation of Holland by Canadian soldiers in World War II. After 95 years in its original location, the new JDSS welcomed Grade 7 to 12 students and staff for the first time this past September.

Meaford School Ground Breaking

On Friday, September 27, trustees joined Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, local dignitaries, board staff, contractors, the media, and other supporters for a ground breaking ceremony at the build site of the future Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Meaford. Construction is underway on a state-of-the-art facility that will include 1,033 student spaces and one EarlyON Child and Family Centre room. We thank the Ministry of Education for its funding support, our staff whose hard work has been crucial to this project, and the efforts of many partners and the Meaford community. Details on timelines and progress of the build will be shared in the coming months.

Your Voice Matters!

Participate in our weekly survey, which focuses on a relevant topic in public education. It only takes a few seconds to complete with a new question and the previous week's results posted every Monday morning via our board's social media pages, mobile app, and at this link.

Visit our website: **www.bwdsb.on.ca**

Find Bluewater District School Board on social media:

Download our free mobile app: