



# Trustee Newsletter

Spring 2019



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Township of Georgian Bluffs  
Township of Chatsworth

## Welcome Spring!

At last! Spring is here! Last fall, I was honored to be acclaimed as the Bluewater District School Board trustee representative for the Township of Georgian Bluffs (Derby, Sarawak, and Keppel), and the Township of Chatsworth (Sullivan, Holland, and Chatsworth).



## Agriculture SHSM

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Agriculture satellite program, at the Chesley District Community School and Barn, is alive and well with thirteen students registered this semester. Teacher Dennis Watson was one of the speakers at the Midwestern Agrifair in Chesley, and one of his comments was that “it just takes time for the word to get out that every student in Grade 11 and 12 can take this course. The word is out, and I’m hoping we can build on that next year too.”

This year, Mr. Watson introduced information about hydroponics and growing greens. The program also produces maple syrup, and the students raise piglets, a few steers, some rabbits, and chickens. Also, two baby goats were part of the display at the agrifair. Hopefully, more students will be able to take advantage of this very worthwhile program in 2020.



## Out and About

New Bluewater schools are being built! Trustees toured the new John Diefenbaker Senior School in Hanover, and it makes me want to go back to school. It is a beautiful school, and will be all ready for students in September 2019.

I appreciate the 'respect-promise' bulletin board at Keppel-Sarawak Elementary School! At the start of the year, each student puts a sticker on this board. If a problem happens to arise, they return to the board for a visit. I was also fascinated to watch the Grade 2 class solve mathematics problems in different ways by using number lines and manipulatives.



April Fools' Day was celebrated at Holland-Chatsworth Central School, with a novel idea. Most staff switched roles for the first period! Also, congratulations to the Grade 8 Band, directed by Gael Mulvaney-Courtois, on winning GOLD at the Georgian Bay Regional MusicFest in Collingwood!

Students at Sullivan Community School worked hard over the past few months on science fair and heritage projects, which were displayed at the fair on March 19<sup>th</sup> in the school gym. Some of the interesting projects included 'Hurricanes', 'Saturn vs. Earth', 'Asteroid Mining', 'Lemon Battery', 'Ouija Boards', and 'Apple Pie Oh My!'

### 2019 – 2020 Budget



Trustees are working through the [feedback](#) received during the recent budget consultation survey to

determine the board's priorities for next year. We thank everyone who participated for their ideas on the most important areas for the allocation of board resources. The highest priority areas according to the results are 'reading and writing skills', followed by 'math', 'mental health and well-being', and 'technological education'. Our board is required to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education in June.

discussion on potential solutions to mitigate the impacts that any provincial decisions will have at the local level.

### Trustees Call on Local MPPs

Our board has been closely monitoring the recent provincial announcements regarding proposed changes to education. Some of these include greater class sizes in secondary and mandatory credits through centralized eLearning, among several other areas.

Trustees have sent a letter to the Minister of Education to outline some of the concerns on these points.

Invitations have also been extended to our local MPPs to meet with trustees to engage in a collaborative



## Multi-Year Strategic Plan Survey

Help our Board of Trustees set the future direction and priorities for our local public education system. We have launched an online survey to solicit public feedback as part of a review of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The survey, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, includes a series of questions that focus on assessing the relevance of the current strategic plan. It is a chance to share comments and ideas on the vision and mission statements, each of the four strategic priority areas with their associated goals, and any additional areas that might be considered in setting the course for the future. The survey runs from **April 17** until **May 13, 2019**, and can be found on our board [website](#), our new [mobile app](#), and at the following link: <http://ow.ly/Vdyd30okrHt>



Print copies of the survey will be made available upon request by calling 519-363-2014, ext. 2014 or emailing [communications@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:communications@bwdsb.on.ca).



## “Your Voice Matters” – Weekly Survey

Members of the public are invited to participate in our weekly quick survey related to a relevant topic in education. Visit our board Facebook or Twitter page, or our mobile app every Monday morning for a new question and results from the previous week.

### How to Contact Me

Your questions and feedback are always welcome by contacting me by phone at 519-376-4770 or at the e-mail address below. General trustee information is also available by visiting [www.bwdsb.on.ca/trustees](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/trustees).

As always, our commitment remains focused on providing quality education for every student in a safe and caring environment.

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# Across the Board....

## Students Shine in the Trades

Congratulations to our many student competitors who participated in another exceptional [Regional Technological Skills Challenge](#) on March 22 in Owen Sound! Between those who advanced to regional qualifiers and students who were previously entered directly, a record total



of 56 students from Bluewater District School Board advanced

to compete at the Skills Ontario Competition in Toronto on May 7!

## Celebrating Science

Our youngest scientists had their elaborate projects on display at the [Bluewater Regional Science and Technology Fair](#) in Owen Sound on April 3 (senior) and April 10 (junior)! The incredible participation by Bluewater District School Board students demonstrated our schools' commitment and growth in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Five of the six senior students who qualified to represent Team Bluewater at the 2019 Canada Wide Science Fair are from our board!



## COMING SOON: New Mobile Learning Lab

Bluewater District School Board and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program representatives recently joined local dignitaries and members of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization for the announcement of a [new mobile learning lab](#). Students from Grade 7 onwards will soon be able to explore the skilled trades and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) using simulators to try out welding or operate a crane, loader/back hoe and dozer, or an excavator!



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