



# Trustee Newsletter

Spring 2019




**Terry Boyd-Zhang**  
*Municipality of Brockton*  
*Municipality of South Bruce*

## Welcome Spring!

As the warmer weather settles in, it is full steam ahead as the 2018–2019 school year winds down. From kindergarten information sessions for next year’s newest learners to post-secondary preparations for our soon-to-be graduates, May and June are always exceptionally busy months in our schools. We recognize the hard work and many responsibilities of all our students, staff, and families. During the busyness of spring, we are reminded of the strength and caring of our school communities, and all they do to support well-being. In this newsletter, we highlight just a few of our many board initiatives and success stories that reflect this work!

## 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.

collaborative 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



## 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 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.

[terry\\_boyd-zhang@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:terry_boyd-zhang@bwdsb.on.ca)

# 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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