



Trustee Newsletter

Spring 2018



Jane Thomson

*Town of South Bruce Peninsula
Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula*

Bring on Spring!

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is already within our sights. As always, our schools are abuzz with activity as the warmer temperatures begin to set in. The many public speaking, science fair and skilled trades competitions occurring in our region are a sure sign that spring has sprung in Bluewater District School Board! There is also a lot happening around the board table as trustees plan for next year, which I am pleased to report on as part of this newsletter edition.

2018 – 2019 Budget



Trustees are in the process of determining priorities for next year's budget. We thank all members of the public who recently participated in our online survey to provide their feedback on what they see as the most important areas for the allocation of board resources. In addition to assessing the feedback received, we also invited members of the public to present their ideas at the May 1, 2018 Business Committee of the Whole Board meeting. Please feel free to monitor our [2018 – 2019 budget web page](#) for the latest developments as we work our way through the budget process.

building and upgrades to the interior space of the school. Funds for these projects are provided by the Ministry of Education.

Capital Projects

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some construction work that will be happening at two of our local schools this summer. Amabel-Sauble Community School will be having some additional child care spaces added within the existing building. At Bruce Peninsula District School, there will be some corrective work done, which will include the removal of an used portion of the





Student Transportation Consultation

The Ministry of Education is working to renew the vision for student transportation in Ontario. Many stakeholders across the province were recently invited to participate in a public consultation, which will help to inform a final report slated to be released by the ministry during the fall of 2018. As part of the consultation process, our board is submitting for consideration the following recommendations pertaining to student transportation in Bruce and Grey Counties:

- Continue the existing funding formula with modifications, including a general funding increase to support recommendations to enhance services included herein.
- Support discussion on how to strengthen the driver supply market locally by looking to nontraditional pools of labour.
- Improve service for rural areas that serve large geographic distances. Service improvements should include: options to better manage ride times; specific points of consideration for the impact of accommodation reviews on student ride times; provide amenities such as Wi-Fi, GPS and related smartphone apps for users; cameras, and in some cases, washrooms.
- Improve levels of staff support on buses for supervision to enhance student safety. As our student needs increase, so does the need for greater supervision.
- Reduce greenhouse gases through alternative power school buses or vehicles. Provincial support for our operators to adopt this technology would be helpful through funding or incentives.
- Continue to support current and new safety standards on buses in the industry.
- Support municipalities in understanding their critical role and the importance of clearing walking paths next to busy roads for school age pedestrians, to maintain high levels of safety for our students engaged in active transportation.

Trustee Election 2018

In preparation for the upcoming municipal election, the Board of Trustees recently approved the following motions related to trustee determination and distribution:

- That no area within Bluewater District School Board's jurisdiction is considered a low population area for election purposes;
- The number of trustees to be elected in 2018 will not be voluntarily reduced below the number provided for in the Act and Ontario Regulation 412/00;



- The determination of nine trustees, and the distribution contained in our [staff report](#).

How to Contact Me

Your questions and feedback are always welcome by contacting me by phone at 519-793-3788 or at the e-mail address below. General trustee information is also available by visiting www.bwdsb.on.ca/trustees.

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

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Across the Board....

Busy Time in the Skilled Trades

Congratulations to all of our secondary students who participated in the Regional



Technological Skills Challenge on March 23, 2018 in Owen Sound. The top scoring students are now preparing for the Skills Ontario Competition in May. Click [here](#) to view results, photos and videos from this year's event. Meanwhile, Owen Sound also plays host to the First Time Full Time Conference on May 2 and 3, 2018.

Approximately 350 students are participating to obtain career related certifications in First Aid/CPR, Safe Food Handling, Working at Heights, Forklift, and many other areas. Students interested in registering are encouraged to speak with their teachers as soon as possible.

Alumni Profiles

Bluewater District School Board is celebrating some of our many examples of staff excellence! Be sure to monitor the board website and Facebook/Twitter accounts for regular postings that spotlight former graduates whose career pathways have led them back to Bluewater to serve another generation of local students and families.

Supporting Staff Wellness

During February, 31 teams comprised of 333 staff members from various schools and departments across Bluewater District School Board voluntarily competed in the Workplace Wellness Challenge. Coordinated by our board's Organizational Health and Wellness Committee, the challenge was aimed at supporting staff wellness by building and strengthening positive relationships amongst employees. Team members earned a point for every physical fitness activity they participated in. Congratulations to the Highland Hikers from Grey Highlands Secondary School, who garnered the most points and won the "Bluewater cup"!

An honourable mention goes to the East Ridge Energizer Falcons, who were a VERY CLOSE second.



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