



Trustee Newsletter



Spring 2013

Terry Bell

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

Dear friends,

The school year will soon be coming to an end. It has been a tough year for students and parents. Labour disputes between teachers and the government have understandably had a negative impact on students. We are each entitled to our own opinion as to who is right and who is wrong, but our students always seem to be the ones who suffer in these disputes. Students should not be used as tools for either side in labor negotiations. Just my opinion.

Did we have enough SNOW DAYS this year? Holy mackerel!!! The kids were home more than they were at school! We also had to undergo an accommodation review involving the Sauble school and the Hepworth school. It would take far too long to discuss it in one newsletter. I can say though, that I would not want to go through the process again, and I was just an observer! The process needs to be reviewed as it is unfair to volunteers sitting on a review committee to be expected to solve problems they did not create. The Ministry of Education should have been sitting at the table as an active participant at the grassroots level, taking the lion's share of the heat. Again, just my opinion. At the end of the day, it is the Ministry's guidelines and funding model that set the stage for these reviews. The members of the ARC did an excellent job. Many members of our school community dedicated countless hours to this project. Katherine Arnold and Sunny Chun were co-chairs of this extremely important committee, and they could not have done a better job. The focus was always on the best solution for the students of BOTH schools. Kudos to Councillors Jackson and Klages for their honesty and support in dealing with the agreement between the Board and the Municipality. There is more work to do but I think there is light at the end of the tunnel.

And, in other news, congratulations to the students and staff of Bruce Peninsula District School and Peninsula Shores District School for their recent academic accomplishments. We are all proud of you!! Thank-you also to members of our schools' SCC groups. You can truly be the voice of your school.

The challenges for our schools remain the same. The Board has no money. The Ministry has no money. Enrolment hasn't changed much in the last little while. I guess we'll just take it a day at a time and do our best.

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Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow



Across the Board....

April is United Way Month

At the February 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board, trustees approved a recommendation to declare April as United Way Month across the system. The theme is “Food for Thought” to raise awareness in schools with regard to issues surrounding poverty and respect for others. Each week during April has a special theme to recognize United Way Month. Find out more by clicking [here](#).

Bluewater Continues to Engage Parents

Three Community Forums on Parent Engagement hosted by the Director of Education and Co-Chairs of Bluewater’s Parent Involvement Committee were held throughout the district on February 28, March 26 and April 4. The forums resulted in some productive discussion and useful feedback from parents/guardians and stakeholders to assist the board in developing strategies around its Strategic Priority to ‘Encourage parent engagement’. Preliminary results were also shared from a Parent Engagement survey, which generated over 1,200 responses. Learn more about the survey [here](#).

BOEC 40th Anniversary Open House and Reunion

Help celebrate 40 years of excellence in outdoor environmental education by joining alumni, supporters and other guests for a celebratory Open House and Reunion at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Activities get underway at 2:00 p.m. and include tours, hikes, a chance to catch up with friends and more. Click [here](#) for the full itinerary.

New Website for School and Bus Cancellations

The Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce has launched a new publicly available website for parents and guardians to receive timely communication on snow days. Click [here](#) to view and ‘follow’ the site.

Board Meetings and Webcasts

Members of the public are always welcome to attend monthly Committee-of-the-Whole Board Meetings (first Tuesday) and Regular Meetings of the Board (third Tuesday). Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre in Chesley. For a complete schedule and agendas, click [here](#).

Regular Meetings of the Board are also webcast live at the following [link](#), or can be viewed after the fact by clicking [here](#).