



# Trustee Newsletter



Fall 2015

**Linda Hamill**

*Municipality of Meaford  
The Blue Mountains*

It was a pleasure to attend grade 8 graduation at Beaver Valley and Meaford Community Schools. I was amazed at how much thought and care went into these events to make them a very special occasion for all the students. While I was unfortunately unable to attend Sydenham Community School's event, I do plan to be at Georgian Bay Secondary School's commencement on November 7th.

On September 21st, I attended the Sydenham Fall Fair. The enthusiasm displayed by the students makes this event so worthwhile. It also helps us keep in touch with our rural roots. I have been able to attend at least one School Council meeting at each of the schools that I represent.

It has already been a busy fall for Bluewater District School Board. Despite the recent provincial labour action, our Bluewater District School Board staff have done a great job at ensuring no interruption to classroom learning for our students. The latest labour updates are available by visiting the board website at [www.bwdsb.on.ca](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca).

I am the trustee that sits on the Parent Involvement Committee. This group is hosting a very worthwhile networking meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 PM at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre in Chesley. Each School Council is welcome to send four members along with the principal. A light meal will be provided.

The accommodation review process has begun for Meaford and Owen Sound area schools. Board staff are presenting the following options for public input:

*That the grade 4-8 program in the Meaford Area Group of Schools be re-organized and accommodated in the Georgian Bay Secondary School for the 2016-17 school year; and That the grade JK-3 program in the Meaford Area Group of Schools be re-organized and accommodated in the St. Vincent-Euphrasia Elementary School for the 2016-17 school year; and That the Meaford Community School be closed for the 2016-17 school year; and That the Board submit a business case to the Ministry of Education to seek funding for a new JK-12 school with a proposed capacity to meet the future enrolment expectations in the Meaford area.*

*That the grade 7 and 8 program in the Owen Sound Area Group of Schools be accommodated in the Owen Sound area secondary schools; and That Bayview Public School, Derby Public School and Dufferin Elementary School be scheduled for closure for the 2016-17 school year with students being accommodated at the remaining schools in the Owen Sound Area Group of Schools and surrounding schools.*

For ongoing information please check the board website: [www.bwdsb.on.ca/business/schl\\_accom/home\\_page\\_1516](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/business/schl_accom/home_page_1516)

This will be a stressful time for students, parents and communities.

I encourage you to check out coming events at your local school on their websites. There is a calendar on the right side of the homepage. I hope to see you out and about and always welcome your e-mails at the address below.

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# Across the Board....

## Multi-Year Strategic Plan

The revised Multi-Year Strategic Plan for Bluewater District School Board was recently launched. The revisions reflect input received through a public survey on the board website during March and April 2015. Members of the public were asked to respond to a series of questions regarding the board's vision, mission and priorities to determine their current relevancy in meeting the needs of our local education system. View or download the revised Multi-Year Strategic Plan by clicking [here](#).

## School and Bus Cancellations

With winter looming in the not-too-distant future, the Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce is reminding parents/guardians of a few ways to receive timely updates regarding school and bus cancellations. Visit and bookmark this new [webpage](#), where anyone can subscribe for e-mail notifications for general notices, school closures and route cancellations/delays. General cancellation updates are also posted on Twitter at [@GBSchoolBus](#).

## Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Schools in Bluewater District School Board are recognizing Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week from November 15 - 21, 2015. Several anti-bullying themed activities are being planned to raise awareness and reaffirm the board's commitment to ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. More information can be found on the Ministry of Education's [website](#).

## Kindergarten Registration

"Let's Learn" registration dates continue for children starting kindergarten in September 2016. Click [here](#) for more information, including a list of dates, times and locations. If you have missed a registration date, please contact your local school for assistance with registering your child.

### 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](#).

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