



Michael Craig
City of Owen Sound

Full Steam Ahead to June

As spring takes shape in our local communities, schools in Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB) are capitalizing on the warmer weather with seasonal activities and event planning. Elementary schools are busily preparing for year-end trips and Grade 8 graduation ceremonies, while commencements for secondary graduates are in the works for June and the fall. This time of year also signals a full schedule of nature-themed outdoor field trips. It is an exciting time to be a student!

For those entering Grade 9 in September, 2023-24 course calendars and transition information for all nine of our secondary schools are now available. Elementary schools are also registering our next generation of young learners to begin kindergarten. Learn more about kindergarten registration and secondary transitions in the Quick Links section on the right.

With the inauguration of our newly elected 2022-26 Board of Trustees, system level work has begun at the board table and through our various committees. I look forward to the next four years, and the chance to work with our constituents to support the success and well-being of ALL the students in BWDSB.

Quick Links

- [Board Meetings](#)
- [Bus Cancellations](#)
- [Career Opportunities](#)
- [Commencement Dates](#)
- [Kindergarten Registration](#)
- [Online Student Registration](#)
- [Secondary Transitions](#)

Contact Me



Please feel free to reach out to me with your questions or concerns by calling 519-375-7925 or emailing michael_craig@bwdsb.on.ca.

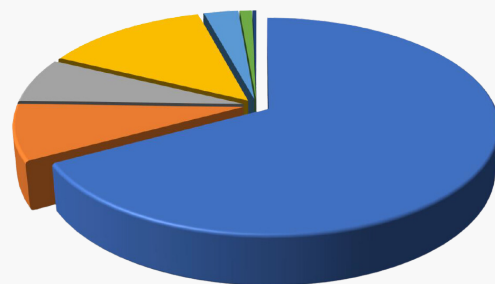
Website: www.bwdsb.on.ca

@BluewaterDSB on social media:



2023-24 Budget

Budget planning is well underway for 2023-24. To help inform trustees in setting priorities for the efficient, effective, and equitable use of board resources, a public consultation survey was conducted between February 8 and March 8. Thank you to all our stakeholders who took time to participate and share feedback. Emerging themes from the survey and the process for the [2023-24 budget](#) will be shared at upcoming [Business Committee of the Whole meetings](#).



Community Planning and Partnerships

Our board's annual [Community Planning and Partnerships](#) meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 as partners from local upper and lower tier municipalities and other organizations join us to share planning information. This meeting has served as a venue to spark further discussions on potential opportunities to share unused space in our schools. The public is welcome to join to observe.



Policy Update

Since our new term of office began in November, the Policy Standing Committee has met regularly, recommending several policies to the board for approval.

Board approved [December 20, 2022](#):

- BP 4705-D "Student Accident Insurance"

Board approved [March 21, 2023](#):

- BP 6850-D "Maltreatment of Staff and/or Students"
- BP 7240-D "Employee Psychological Health and Safety Management System (formerly "Psychological Health and Safety Management")"
- BP 1404-D "Dress Code"
- BP 1108-D "Code of Conduct -Trustee"
- Policy Standing Committee Terms of Reference

Building for the Future

Work continues on a number of build projects in BWDSB, including two new replacement schools:

- junior kindergarten to Grade 8 [Beavercrest Community School replacement](#) in Markdale
- Grade 7 to 12 [replacement for Kincardine District Senior School](#)

Ministry of Education funding has also been received for expanded child care at the following schools:

- new stand alone facility with two-room child care centre and two-room EarlyON Child and Family Centre, [Egremont Community School](#), Holstein
- 39 spaces (one toddler room, one preschool room), [St. Edmunds Public School](#), Tobermory

50 Years of Outdoor Education Excellence

Happy anniversary to the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre (BOEC), celebrating 50 years of excellence in experiential learning! Our students continue to enjoy high quality, curriculum-driven environmental education experiences on this amazing 320-acre property in Wiarton with its surrounding UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Follow the [BOEC on Facebook](#) for updates on celebrations to mark this significant milestone.



\$1,000 Scholarship Opportunity

Applications are open for the [Public Property Assessment Network Scholarship](#) offered through the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. The scholarship is being awarded in the amount of **\$1,000** to one recipient who demonstrates strong character, leadership skills, and potential, and cares deeply about their communities and furthering their own learning. The deadline for applying is **May 19, 2023**.

The Return of Regional Skills

The [Regional Technological Skills Challenge](#) returned for the first time since 2019 as secondary students in trades programs from across Grey-Bruce competed in the categories of Culinary and Welding on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Hosted by the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program at the Owen Sound campus of Georgian College, six BWDSB students secured a chance to compete at the Skills Ontario Qualifying Competitions in Barrie to be held in April.



BWDSB is Recruiting!

Human Resources Services and other department staff have been out and about attending job fairs, both locally and outside our region, to meet potential candidates and promote the many diverse career paths in BWDSB. In addition to educators, our board is often looking to recruit in the following areas: information communications technology, office administration, plant, custodian and maintenance, human resources, payroll, finance, and specialized system support in mental health and special education, among others. BWDSB offers a progressive career path in an equitable and empowered education system. Visit and bookmark the link to our current career opportunities under Quick Links (on page 1).

