



# Bluewater District School Board

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June 28, 2022

The Honourable Rick Byers  
MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
Suite 100  
920 1st Avenue West  
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 4K5

Dear MPP Byers:

On behalf of Bluewater District School Board, we would like to congratulate you on your recent election as Member of Provincial Parliament for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound. We have appreciated the positive working relationship we established with Bill Walker and look forward to developing the same with you.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share with you the following policy resolution that was submitted by Bluewater District School Board, and recently passed at the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Annual General Meeting:

*Whereas,*

*The financial formula for capital projects, a new school will frequently be funded based on current enrolment and community demographic data from years before the school is built*

*Whereas,*

*Future growth is not considered, which is unfortunate as a new school in a community often draws families into the area*

*Whereas,*

*It is unfortunate that portable classrooms are often required to accommodate the growth in enrolment soon after a new school is opened, as according to our school board mission, we aim to provide a quality education for every student in a safe, accepting, and caring environment,*

*Whereas,*

*OPSBA advocates for sustainable and equitable education funding, and includes new school buildings*

**Be it resolved, that OPSBA support and recommend that student population estimates and professionally projected enrolment data in school size be considered in the funding formula for school size when building new schools, and to use the same planning data that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance require municipalities to use.**

This resolution is, in part, a result of the newly opened Georgian Bay Community School in Meaford, which is significantly over capacity, and knowledge that the same will be true for the soon-to-be-built

replacement for Beavercrest Community School in Markdale. Our resolution received a high level of support from all Ontario school boards in attendance as they face the same challenge.

We ask that you follow this issue and help to promote solutions, and look forward to working with you in your new role to support the success and well-being of all our students.

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

Sincerely,



Jane Thomson  
Chair



Jan Johnstone  
Vice-Chair

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