

# Community Planning & Partnership Meeting: Blue Water District School Board

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Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Delegation by: Municipality of Meaford

# The Future Vision of Meaford

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- In late 2015, Council developed and approved Council's Strategic Priorities 2015-2018.
  - This includes making the Municipality of Meaford 'THE place to be on Southern Georgian Bay'.
- We are committed to being a welcoming community and strive for sustainable and progressive development throughout the Municipality, including growth in all sectors and demographics.
- A thriving and vibrant school system is fundamental to this ongoing community development.

# Council's Strategic Focus Areas 2015-2018

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- Investing in Infrastructure
- Growing our Economy
- Strengthening Our Community
- Leading in Municipal Government
- Ensuring Sustainability

The Municipality of Meaford considers the maintenance of local schooling options to be one of the keys to achieving many of these strategic goals.

# Background

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- The Municipality understood the need for BWDSB to make difficult decisions to make most effective use of resources with the creation of new school for JK to Grade 12 in Meaford.
- The Municipality strongly believed that the retention and continuation of a strong school system comprised of both elementary and high schools in the Municipality is essential to future growth and prosperity.
- The Municipality formally supported the option put forward in the Preliminary Final Staff Report received by the Board on January 5, 2016.
- The Municipality is ‘thrilled’ that the Board has received funding of approximately \$24 million to build a new school for grades JK to 12 in Meaford, at a location to be confirmed. We understand the anticipated date of opening is September 2018.

# Issues and Opportunities for Further Discussion

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- The Municipality of Meaford appreciates that with consolidation there will be significant review and analysis needed as it relates to students walkability or expanded bussing. As the provider of crossing guards we need to be fully consulted and advised of impacts and changes. This consultation is underway.
- The Municipality of Meaford believes that integration of public services, as well as many not-for-profit agencies through a community hub model is exceptionally beneficial to the health and well-being of the community. We encourage the Board to include other organizations and agencies, as well as adult learning where possible, at the new school in Meaford.

# Issues and Opportunities for Further Discussion Cont'd

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## **New School Design**

- We strongly recommend that the design of the new school fully evaluate how the facility provides for integration via the 'hub model' and develop strong community partnerships not limited to indoor and outdoor access for annual community use.

## **Meaningful Program for Rural Areas**

- There needs to be meaningful programs for rural areas so that our students have the opportunity to remain in their community to introduce students to a wide range of life choices available in rural communities.
- Examples include extended French Immersion, Shop and trade, technical, agriculture.

# Issues and Opportunities for Further Discussion Cont'd

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## Accessible Outdoor Recreation & Community Use

- We are fully committed to providing accessible and affordable outdoor recreation, and the new school can play a key partnership role in this for:
  - ✓ Track
  - ✓ Playgrounds
  - ✓ Sport fields
- We support the inclusion of fully accessible washrooms in the outdoor areas. The Municipality would be prepared to participate in funding these capital costs, including completing grant applications.
- This would support community use, community events/tournaments and an active community. It also supports our tourism strategies.

# Issues and Opportunities for Further Discussion

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## **Future Empty Buildings in Meaford**

- With the plan to build one centralized school in the Municipality of Meaford, the surplus disposition plans of the Board are important to the Municipality especially as it relates to not having unused and empty buildings in our community.

## **Provincial Funding Model – Lacks Rural Equity**

- We have concerns that the provincial funding model does not equitably support or recognize the needs of rural communities, and is somewhat punitive as it is too based on density and population. The subsidy ratio may need to be higher in smaller communities. As a result the scope of programming and opportunities are not provided in our rural schools.