

From Your Catholic School Trustee  
Sharon Hobin  
Trustee, Wards 2 & 8 and Vice Chair

I am very pleased to be your Catholic School Trustee. I am serving my second term and so I feel that I have had an opportunity to get to know the Iona community. Iona is a vibrant school offering many wonderful opportunities to the students. The school is lead by your principal Olivia Farone, along with vice principals Genya Woloshyn and Ferdinando Tantalo. Dufferin-Peel is still considered a growth board but as you know we are seeing decline in the south, east and west Mississauga. The good news is we are over projections in many of my elementary schools which is great news. So for the over 85,000 students and over 10,000 employees this has been a very good start to this school year. We are continuing to retain over 96% of our students from grade 8 to grade 9. And we are seeing a steady flow of students who are moving to the Catholic system which is recognition of the value of Catholic education.

This September, we have begun the full implementation of the New Healthy Food Policy in our secondary and elementary schools; a significant change for many in our daily practice. More information will be forthcoming as we work through this year. Trustees also approved a policy on school fees that is shaping our practice starting this September. More information on this subject will be coming your way. We are also gathering information around school fundraising and along with the Ministry of Education will be formulating a new fundraising policy for schools in the near future.

One of our largest investments this year is in the hiring of a total of 37.5 qualified individuals to better service our identified students as Education Resource Workers. Our investments in school base resources for this September has been \$1.5 million for Science textbooks to support student achievement and \$2.0 million for text books for various subjects. All of these funds came from our accumulated surplus, as directed at the December 14, 2010 Board Meeting, for expending this fall. In addition, we have launched our new Community Studies Project in Grades 7 and 10, which will provide students with an understanding and appreciation of this province and this region and the role Catholic Education has played in the development of our communities.

We are very blessed to have the support and help from our parishes and for Iona we have the awesome support from Father Scott at St. Christopher parish. We have a strong relationship between parish, home and school and are very thankful to Father Scott and his team for their leadership as our students and staff practice their Catholic faith. I am only one of 11 trustees on the Board of Trustees for a school board with an \$830 million dollar operating budget as well as a capital budget which takes us to almost a billion dollars. We serve 413,000 Roman Catholic electors and that is why it is so important for you to make sure that your tax dollars are being sent to support Catholic education as opposed to the public board (default) as the government is always looking to see where the support for Catholic education is in terms of numbers of electors.

As your trustee I am always happy to take your calls. You may contact me at (905)301-1210 or you may email me at [sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org](mailto:sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org). May the good Lord always hold you in the hollow of His hands.