

Address to the Board
Quarterly Verbal report
Mario Pascucci/Anna Abbruscato
February 24, 2009

M. Pascucci

I would like to establish a new protocol that differs from our past practice, where the chair addressed the board at the end of the year. I would like to report to the board on a quarterly verbal basis regarding some of the activities we have undertaken and accomplished. This is the first such report.

I will briefly list some of the accomplishments, events and activities germane to our board that I believe should be noted. This is by no means a complete list, but it does hit on some key areas.

- ▶ Earlier this Fall, trustees and senior staff met with some of our local MPPs; a meeting in which we put forward some of our concerns about various issues. **The briefing document we put forward is posted on the board website.**
- ▶ Recently, vice chair Abbruscato and I met privately with Minister Wynne; a session in which we further outlined some of our concerns.
- ▶ Trustee Abbruscato and I will also look to delegate our local municipal councils to let them know that we are their corporate neighbours and that Catholic education is alive and well in their neighbourhood.
- ▶ Looking back to December, trustee Hobin and I had the opportunity to attend the Veterans Breakfast at Iona Catholic Secondary School.
- ▶ We are now in our 40th year as a consolidated Catholic school board and look forward to events and activities throughout the year where we can highlight 40 years of excellence in Catholic education in our communities.
- ▶ We concluded a provincially mandated Pupil Accommodation Review process in three areas within our board and while the process was a painful and exhaustive one, our decisions were undertaken with a thorough understanding of our responsibilities to our communities, our entire system and to the province. On that note, the Ministry has received two, possible three appeal requests from representatives of the affected communities. This is something the board may have to deal with. We await the Ministry decision on this matter. **There is extensive information about the Pupil Accommodation Review process on the board website.**
- ▶ We have started our annual budget process and will be engaging in consultation with our key stakeholders in the near future.
- ▶ I would point out that the province has begun a consultation process on school governance in Ontario, requesting feedback from boards and other stakeholders. The plan is to create a revised governance model with implementation scheduled for September 2009. We will be keeping an eye on that process and are involved through OCSTA.
- ▶ Trustees have sought a legal opinion regarding the registration of elementary students from the same family in two school systems.

- ▶ Chairs and directors of education from the Toronto-area Catholic school boards met recently with Archbishop Collins, the Toronto Bishops and other ranking representatives from the diocese to review initiatives and practices related to the maintenance and promotion of Catholic education. One of the items that was stressed is that we must continue to celebrate the good news of our catholic schools. We must continue to tell our story.

A. Abbruscato

In all that we do, we, as trustees, must continue on a path that is illuminated by the trust placed upon us as stewards of Catholic education and we must never lose sight of our responsibilities to our students and their families.

Trustees will be attending an upcoming retreat that will focus on our role in celebrating the Human Face of God. We will have the opportunity to reflect and be challenged to step up to what is at the heart of our mission.

This annual retreat serves to both energize us and confirm the ongoing support for our role as Catholic trustees.

In terms of additional upcoming events, Dufferin-Peel will host the OCSTA Annual General Meeting from May 7-9. We look forward to connecting with our colleagues from around the province and to sharing our warm Dufferin-Peel hospitality as we explore and discuss relevant issues in Catholic education.

Thank you.