

Quarterly Verbal Report to the Board – Mario Pascucci
Board Meeting of November 24, 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, staff, fellow trustees back in January, I had indicated that I wished to provide a quarterly verbal report outlining some of the accomplishments, events and activities in which our board was involved. Its hard to fathom just how quickly the year has passed but this is my fourth such report. Similar to my previous reports, it is by no means a complete list. It does, however, encompass some key areas in which we have been involved over the past three months and I would like to share these with you for the next few minutes. But before I do that, I would like to remind you of a few facts. We are a large board and we are a major player in this region.

- ▶ Our jurisdiction covers four municipalities, the Region of Peel and County of Dufferin ... a geographic area of 2,640 square kms.
- ▶ We operate 1,140 buses each day.
- ▶ We have 38 parishes in our jurisdiction.
- ▶ We are one of the largest employers in the region with approximately 10,000 employees.
- ▶ We have an annual budget this year of \$800 million.
- ▶ We represent 261,645 Roman Catholic electors.

We opened two new secondary schools in September, as we continue to experience growth in areas of our jurisdiction. St. Roch and Cardinal Ambrozic are up and running and thriving, giving us a strong, visible Catholic presence in the developing areas of Brampton.

Our enrolment has exceeded projections for the Fall and this benefited students by lessening the need for reorganization in our schools.

We continue to meet and exceed provincial standards in EQAO assessments.

We met with the Minister of Education on two occasions, the most recently, right here in this boardroom as part of our annual briefing session with local MPPs, where we had the opportunity to share our concerns on a number of issues of importance to our communities. These issues included Continued Support for Catholic Education, Bill 177, Special Education Funding Framework, Full Day Implementation of Early Learning, Transportation and Primary Class Cap.

We submitted a brief to the province on Bill 177 and appeared at the hearings in Queen's Park to further express our views on this important piece of legislation that addresses school board governance.

I had the opportunity recently to appear on Rogers Cable TV's Goldhawk Live show for a discussion on declining enrolment.

I recently met with Archbishop Collins to discuss issues related to Catholic education.

I and other trustees have appeared at local council meetings and community events to help promote the Dufferin-Peel profile and "tell our story" to our corporate and civic neighbours.

In closing, I would like to pick up where I began ... with our tradition of excellence in Catholic education I say to you all ...the tradition continues.

Let's keep it up. Let's continue to spread the good news of Catholic education and of the wonderful things that take place daily in our Catholic schools.

Thank you to my trustee colleagues, faculty and staff for all you do to make Dufferin-Peel a leading school board on Ontario.