



Celebration of the Eucharist
Celebrant: The Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau
Board Chapel

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board
Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

Regrets: Trustee E. O'Toole, Other Board Business

- A Opening Prayer and Call to Order by the Secretary of the Board
- J. B. Kostoff

At 7:00 p.m. the Director of Education and Secretary to the Board, J. B. Kostoff, called the meeting to order and led the Opening Prayer.

- B Approval of Agenda – J. B. Kostoff

Motion 341 (09-12-01) by T. Thomas

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

- C Welcoming of Guests and Opening Remarks – J. B. Kostoff

Good evening:

Bishop Boissonneau, trustees, supervisory officers, honoured guests, association and union presidents and friends of Dufferin-Peel. Welcome.

This past week, we began the season of advent in our Catholic churches as well as many Christian churches in this region. The advent readings spoke to being watchful or being alert; to reading the signs of the times.

This evening, I wish to briefly identify how this board has been watchful and has recognized the signs of the times.

As a part of our commitment to access and accountability this past year, our trustees conducted an extensive review of our partnerships within Catholic education, reviewing our strengths, our challenges and asking for recommendations in order to build our strategic plan for the next five years. The findings gathered, primarily, from parents/guardians, school councils, our unions and associations and pastors, enabled your board to set out in a better informed manner, the journey for shaping our future.

We are especially proud to note that there is an overwhelming consensus that our Catholic schools are viewed as distinctively Catholic, safe, healthy, clean and educationally sound places for children to learn and to grow. We are grateful for the confidence you have shown in us and we will continue to strive to maintain it.

This year, we also celebrated our 40th anniversary of serving the community in Dufferin-Peel. We honoured two outstanding individuals, former Premier William Davis and former director of Dufferin-Peel, also a former trustee, Joe Hugel. Both men made a profound impact on this board and on Catholic education in this Province. As well this year, trustees recognized the contribution of Rabbi Lawrence Englander and the Solel Synagogue, for their on-going relationship with this board in the area of staff development and encouraging students to go to the Synagogue to gain an appreciation of their roots.

A number of events and activities took place in our schools to honour this milestone. In May 2010, as our celebration comes to a close, we will reactivate one of our past practices of holding a board-wide dance. We will invite existing and past board employees, as well as friends of Dufferin-Peel to join us in celebration of what we believe is an important milestone for this Board. The two beneficiaries that will benefit from this event will be our scholarship program at the secondary level and our breakfast clubs at the elementary level.

Recognizing how organized and proactive this board is, please mark in your calendars, 2019 when our board will celebrate 50 years of serving the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community. I know this event will be both a historical and celebratory event, as it should be, and I look forward to receiving my invitation to come back and join in the festivities.

Catholicity

Catholicity is the cornerstone of this board and one of the things we pride ourselves on. This has been demonstrated this year by decisions made by the trustees with regard to budget and staff development. This year many activities took place to support the Catholic nature of our system, whether it was in the purchase of resources for our schools, the in-servicing of Grade 4 teachers and all secondary teachers in Religious Education and Family Life. At the secondary level, we promoted the Catholic graduate expectations and we partnered with the Region of Peel Health Department to produce resources on parenting for secondary school students. As well this year, our pastors, senior administration and principals gathered to review the new sacramental norms issued by Archbishop Collins.

There has been much that has gone on in the area of Religious education. I will share one story with you. We had a number of teachers come from England this year that we spent two weeks with. On the last day, one of the teachers said to me and those that had gathered, "I'm Catholic and have had the opportunity to be in four boards and I have to tell you that you don't know what you have here". I said, "I think I do." And he said, "This makes me proud as a Catholic and something I wish we had in our system back home. Please protect it and maintain it". That comment is a tribute to all who work in Catholic education. Sometimes it takes people from outside our board to remind us of how special we are as a system.

Serving Growth Communities

Last year Dufferin-Peel educated 87,484 students, one of the largest boards or the largest Catholic board in the Province. Fifty three thousand were elementary students and 34,000 were secondary students. Of those, 15,200 students were identified as English Language Learners, making us one of the largest boards in the Province, and in the country, to work with ELL students. Our adult and continuing education programs, on a yearly basis, serve more than 50,000 adult and secondary students. Fifty thousand students come into our schools in the evening, during the summer and through our literacy camps.

Despite the challenges this year, we were able to open St. Joseph Bakhita Catholic Elementary School, St. Roch Catholic Secondary School and Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School, all in Brampton. We were also able to support the new Loyola Catholic Secondary School and we look forward to its completion. Next fall, we will open St. Michael's Catholic Secondary School in the vibrant community of Bolton,

Our community use of schools initiative supports the access to school space outside school hours for community groups. It has more than taken off in our community. Last year, 145 Dufferin-Peel schools participated and issued 1,500 permits to non-profit groups. Our schools were opened for 437 hours for community groups who did not have to pay for the use of our facilities. That speaks to how important our schools are to the community.

Student Achievement

In the area of student achievement, this Province has clearly identified expectations for school boards, trustees and staff, so that students will continue to improve. This past year our students have increased their EQAO results in all areas. That result can be attributed to our teachers, support staff, administrators and trustees.

At the secondary level, 76% of all Dufferin-Peel students achieved the provincial standard in Grade 9 academic Mathematics, a gain of over 2%, which is higher than the provincial average. In the area of Grade 9 applied mathematics, we saw a gain of 3%. But, we must do better than that.

Safe, Caring, Healthy, Inclusive Schools

In the area of caring and inclusive schools, there has been much talk around this table about how to make our schools more open to our communities. Parents need to know that when they put their students on the bus, they will be safe and will arrive at school where they will be safe. Much has been done this year by the Board, such as:

- The new Catholic code of conduct,
- Prevention programs of progressive discipline policies and procedures,
- Distribution of new safe schools policy and procedures binder,
- Training and resources to support local safe schools and initiatives,
- Virtues formations,
- Positive school,
- Classroom climate,
- Restorative justice, progressive discipline and culture proficiency,

- Youth and crime conference,
- Workshop on examination of mental health issues,
- Ongoing to review our lock-down procedures.
- We addressed cyber bullying,
- We developed programs for students on long-term suspensions and expulsions,
- We revised our police/school protocols and instituted our safe arrival program,
- We continue to develop programs and policies to reflect progressive discipline, mitigating circumstances and our own Catholic perspective on students in crisis,
- We supported our community with the creation of Best Start programs, and Success by Six initiatives,

You are well aware of our recent decision regarding the full-day Early Learning program and a host of other activities, including parent and family literacy centres that support students.

In the area of Junior Kindergarten, our trustees have much to be proud of. This board has a long rich history of recognizing the importance of early learning, and 15 years ago, began to offer JK programs. I believe we were leaders of the Province in that area and I believe we will be again in the area of full day early learning. This year we also developed a greater selection of specialist high school majors. Trustees also approved the opening of French Immersion sites in 2008, at St. Margaret of Scotland Elementary School in Mississauga and St. Joachim Elementary School in Brampton. In 2009, trustees approved the expansion of programs at St. Gertrude Elementary School and Our Lady of Providence Elementary School.

Aligned with all this work, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the work of Special Education Support Services. They work daily with our most vulnerable students. The department consists of teachers, support personnel, psychologists, speech and language specialists, social workers, child and youth workers, plus a host of community groups that support those students and their families. The theme of that department is *Students Called by Name*.

Commitment to Diversity and Equity

In terms of diversity and equity, our region has been identified as the largest in Canada in terms of new Canadians. We have much to be proud of in the area of diversity in terms of our programs:

- We saw the development of an inclusive curriculum network, which engaged students in different ways and aligns various cultures;
- We supported libraries to purchase resources that reflect the reality of diversity in our community;
- We supported leadership candidates among faculty and staff, from diverse backgrounds;
- We continue to work with our diversity teams at the family and school levels;
- We developed family of schools equity and diversity committees, oversaw workshops/seminars and conferences, and in conjunction with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation offered not once, but twice, a six-part training series on diversity, tolerance and human rights to interested members of our community;

- We supported family diversity conferences and trained student leaders in equity and diversity through the Harmony Movement. We continued our monthly professional development and we have been involved in the anti-racist multiculturalism education network of Ontario among a host of other community groups.

Catholic School Councils

Finally, I would like to highlight the role of our Catholic School Councils. This group of parents assists our board in making decisions and gathering information in finding and keeping the pulse of our school community. Our Catholic school councils assist our board to promote our vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices. They consist of people who work all day long and then come back and commit their time and energy during the evening. They are the hallmark of Dufferin-Peel and I thank them.

In 2008, they facilitated an opportunity for school council executives to attend training sessions so that they could be more effective in their roles.

In February 2009, they hosted the yearly presentation by a social worker to enrich their parent community and at the annual inservice and marketplace that was held on April 4th at St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Secondary School. I was privileged and honoured to be the keynote speaker on the theme of, *'Keeping Catholic Education Alive, What You Can Do'*.

Budget

In the area of budget, the board approved a balanced budget of \$730,000,000. That is a tribute to the stewardship around this table and to the people who work so hard to make so little go so far.

I want to acknowledge this evening my Executive Council, Ralph Borrelli and John Hrajnik, Associate Directors, for their hard work, wisdom and commitment to Catholic education. I also want to acknowledge the Supervisory Officers for their constant willingness to go the extra mile. To the General Managers, Managers, classroom teachers, secretaries, custodians, school councils and all other staff who work tirelessly to keep this board watchful and alert. This past year, we have had a practice of ensuring that this community is one to be proud of.

Finally, I would like to thank our student trustees. Over the years we have watched the evolution of the role of student trustees and we have been gifted in Dufferin-Peel to have talented students who have expressed their concerns and who have been advocates for the community.

I want to thank the students of Dufferin-Peel, who make us proud in so many ways. I also want to thank their parents, who continue to support Catholic education and who, each day, send their students to our schools. We will not let you down.

To our pastors and Bishop Boissonneau, I thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you.

Motion 342 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by B. Iannicca

THAT THE OPENING REMARKS OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD BE RECEIVED AND READ INTO THE MINUTES.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D Election of Chair of the Board In Accordance with Bylaws

Elections were conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Board Bylaws.

Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, J. Hrajnik,
Associate Director of Instructional Services, R. Borrelli and Superintendent of Special
Education and Services, S. McWatters were appointed scrutineers.

Nominations for Chair of the Board were opened by Secretary to the Board
J. B. Kostoff.

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas
Trustee A. Abbruscato was nominated by Trustee T. da Silva

Trustee M. Pascucci declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Secretary of the Board, J. B. Kostoff, requested
further nominations.

Motion 343 (09-12-01) by T. Thomas

Seconded by L. Zanella

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

There being no other nominees, Trustee A. Abbruscato was declared Chair of the Board.

Motion 344 (09-12-01) by S. Hobin

Seconded by B. Iannicca

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair A. Abbruscato assumed the chair in order to conduct the remainder of the
proceedings. Chair A. Abbruscato thanked the Board for their support and for allowing
her the privilege of serving the Board.

E Election of Vice-Chair of the Board In Accordance with Bylaws

Chair A. Abbruscato called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee M. Pascucci
Trustee S. Hobin was nominated by Trustee L. del Rosario
Trustee L. Zanella was nominated by Trustee J. Anderson

Trustee T. Thomas declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 345 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

Ballots were counted and Trustee S. Hobin was elected by a clear majority on the first ballot.

Vice-Chair S. Hobin took the seat next to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.
Vice-Chair S. Hobin thanked her fellow trustees for their support and the opportunity to serve the Board in this new capacity.

Motion 346 (09-12-01) by T. Thomas Seconded by B. Iannicca

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

F Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees

1 Administration and Finance Committee

Chair A. Abbruscato opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

Trustee L. del Rosario was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin
Trustee J. Anderson was nominated by Trustee T. da Silva
Trustee F. Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee L. Zanella

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 347 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

The scrutineers reported that no nominee received a clear majority. According to Board By-law 2.5 f) the member receiving the smallest number of votes shall be dropped. Therefore, Trustee J. Anderson's name was removed.

A second ballot took place with nominees being Trustees L. del Rosario and F. Di Cosola. Following the second ballot, the scrutineers reported that there was a tie vote.

A third ballot took place that resulted in a second tie vote. Board By-law 2.5 g) states that in the case of equality of votes, the candidates shall draw lots to fill the position. Trustees L. del Rosario and F. Di Cosola drew straws. Trustee F. Di Cosola was successful.

Motion 348 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair A. Abbruscato then called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

Trustee L. del Rosario was nominated by Trustee M. Pascucci
Trustee J. Anderson was nominated by Trustee T. da Silva

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 349 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee L. del Rosario was elected Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

Motion 350 (09-12-01) by L. del Rosario Seconded by S. Hobin

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

2 Faith and Program Committee

Chair A. Abbruscato opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

Trustee T. da Silva was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin
Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee M. Pascucci

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 351 (09-12-01) by S. Hobin Seconded by L. del Rosario

THOSE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee T. da Silva was elected Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

Motion 352 (09-12-01) by T. Thomas Seconded by S. Hobin

 THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair A. Abbruscato then called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee T. da Silva

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 353 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by L. Zanella

 THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee T. Thomas was declared Vice-Chair of the Program and Faith Committee.

Motion 354 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by L. del Rosario

 THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

3 By-Law/Policy Review Committee

Chair A. Abbruscato opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the By-Law/Policy Review Committee.

Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee M. Pascucci
Trustee J. Anderson was nominated by Trustee L. del Rosario

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 355 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by S. Hobin

 THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee J. Anderson was elected Chair of the By-Law/Policy Review Committee.

Motion 356 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca Seconded by S. Hobin

 THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair A. Abbruscato then called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the By-Law/Policy Review Committee.

Trustee L. Zanella was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin
Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee S. Zanella

Trustee L. Zanella declined the nomination

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 357 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca Seconded by F. Di Cosola

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee T. Thomas was declared Vice-Chair of the By-Law/Policy Review Committee.

Motion 358 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

4 Contract Negotiations Committee

Chair A. Abbruscato opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Contract Negotiations Committee.

Trustee E. O'Toole was nominated by Trustee M. Pascucci
Trustee F. Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee B. Iannicca

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 359 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee E. O'Toole was elected Chair of the Contract Negotiations Committee.

Motion 360 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair A. Abbruscato then called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Contract Negotiations Committee.

Trustee F. Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 361 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

There being no other nominations, F. Di Cosola was declared Vice-Chair of the Contract Negotiations Committee.

Motion 362 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

5 Audit Committee

Chair A. Abbruscato opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Audit Committee.

Trustee L. del Rosario was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin

Trustee M. Pascucci declined the nomination

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 363 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee L. del Rosario was declared Chair of the Audit Committee.

Motion 364 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by F. Di Cosola

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair A. Abbruscato then called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas

Trustee B. Iannicca was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin

Trustee B. Iannicca declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 365 (09-12-01) by J. Anderson

Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

There being no other nominations, Trustee M. Pascucci was declared Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

The Board required a third member for the Audit Committee, therefore:

Trustee J. Anderson was nominated by M. Pascucci

Trustee J. Anderson accepted the nomination.

6 Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) Member

Chair A. Abbruscato opened the floor for nominations for the position of Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) Member.

Trustee L. Zanella was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations.

Motion 366 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by F. Di Cosola

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee L. Zanella was declared the Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) Member.

Motion 367 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by T. da Silva

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

G Appointment of Auditors and Board Legal Counsel for 2009- J. B. Kostoff

Motion 368 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by T. Thomas

1. THAT THIS REPORT ENTITLED "APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS AND LEGAL COUNSEL" DECEMBER 1, 2009 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Motion 369 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by T. Thomas

2. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPOINT DELOITTE & TOUCHE, L.L.P., CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE BOARD FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010, INCLUDING THE 2009-20010 FISCAL YEAR.

CARRIED

Motion 370 (09-12-01) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by T. Thomas

3. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPOINT THE FOLLOWING LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE BOARD FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010:

- a) BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS, LLP
- b) KEEL COTTRELLE, LLP
- c) McCARTHY TETRAULT, LLP
- d) FILION, WAKELY THORUP ANGELETTI, LLP.
- e) MILLER THOMSON, LLP
- f) HICKS MORLEY HAMILTON STEWARD STORIE, LLP

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H Temporary Borrowing By-Law #122 – G. P. Robinson

Motion 371 (09-12-01) by T. Thomas

Seconded by L. del Rosario

1. THAT THIS REPORT ENTITLED "TEMPORARY BORROWING BY-LAW #122" BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Motion 372 (09-12-01) by T. Thomas

Seconded by L. del Rosario

2. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE ATTACHED TEMPORARY BORROWING BY-LAW #122, DATED DECEMBER 1, 2009.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I Remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Board

Thank you to my fellow trustees for electing me your Vice Chair. I have always been so proud of this board. I was proud when, as Chair of CCCSC I would sit and watch the meetings much like Ehretia O’Hearn is this evening and I remember how many times you had to make difficult decisions on behalf of students. So thank you for that. And now I am here with you!

I was reading the words to the Recessional Hymn this evening and I was thinking that it should be our theme song. In the hymn “Find Us Ready Lord” it reads, “Find us ready Lord, not standing still. Find us working and loving and doing your will. Find us ready Lord, faithful is love, building the kingdom that’s here and the kingdom above”.

That is this board. We are ready and we are not standing still. We are moving along with our strategic plans and to continue to deliver quality Catholic education to our students. We are ready to defend and protect Catholic education whenever and wherever we have to. While we represent our wards, we also have to work has a cohesive team and we do.

I would like to thank John Kostoff, John Hrajnik and Ralph Borrelli for their constant leadership. I will miss Faith and Program for it has my heart. I know that Tony da Silva will do a great job. I would also like to thank Mario Pascucci who has been an excellent Chairperson. He has done a remarkable job. And finally, I would like to thank my family who are always my constant support and cheerleaders. May God bless all of you always. Thank you.

J Remarks from the Chair of the Board

Your Excellency, thank you sincerely for showing support for Catholic education by joining us this evening and for celebrating the Eucharist with us. We are honoured by your presence.

Thank you to Trustee Da Silva for nominating me.

I thank my fellow Trustees for placing your confidence in me and electing me as Chair. I will work hard to earn your trust and respect.

This Board has been together since 2006, and since its inception has been a cohesive group that works harmoniously and puts into practice the Catholic virtue of respect. I know that it is the intent of this group to work together in the coming year with the same spirit of cooperation and teamwork.

I thank our past Chair, Mario Pascucci, for leading the Board over the past year, and for being a mentor and a friend to all of us. I intend to continue with the open relationship, the quarterly reports and the school visits that he has established, and will aim to be present at all board events and Catholic celebrations. I welcome advice and suggestions from all constituents in the Dufferin-Peel community.

One of the reasons I became a Trustee is the Preservation of Catholic Education. As stewards, we must continue to defend our constitutional right to educate our children in our Catholic faith. Every day, we witness the dedication and commitment that our teachers and administrators have for the success of our Catholic schools. I once asked a Dufferin Peel graduate what made his education different and he answered, "Catholic schools are blessed because they are Christ centered and they have Chaplains who are available to students in good times and especially when they are having difficult times by bringing faith into their lives and reinforcing Christ's teachings." His answer has reinforced my belief that we are on the right track. We must not be complacent; we must remain vigilant to ensure the survival of Catholic education for future generations.

As a Board, we will continue to protect the spiritual and academic interests of the students who are in our care. We will advocate for Catholic education and, when necessary lobby on behalf of students, their families and our dedicated Dufferin-Peel employees.

Dufferin Peel is looked upon as a leader in Catholic education. As Trustees, we have a responsibility to maintain our standing in the greater community. I am thankful for your support, and look forward to working with everyone over the next year.

K Adjournment

Motion 373 (09-12-01) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by B. Iannicca

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. (8:00 p.m.)

CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chairperson