



November 22, 2022

Inaugural Address

Reverend Father, Board Administration, Trustees and Guests, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to you this evening as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The 2022 Inauguration of the Board of Trustees is the culmination of 4 years of unprecedented challenge for all involved in the task of educating our children.

I wish to welcome to the Trustee Executive Brian Evoy, to the position of Vice-Chair, and Tom Dall, to the position of Chair of the Finance & Operations Committee.

Since 2018, we have thrived, endured, compensated for and overcome many challenges. Standard operating procedure became a distant memory. This inauguration is an opportunity to look forward to new challenges and to reflect on the accomplishments of the outgoing Board of Trustees.

In the past 4 years, this Board has learned how to Pivot, to be present virtually, how to learn and be tested without being present in the classroom and vaccinations becoming the new ticket for admission.

Remote Learning is becoming a pillar of future learning. New Trustees will have a steep learning curve when it comes to familiarizing yourselves with remote learning and the challenges our Board faces in providing similar learning opportunities for all students.

This is difficult for many reasons, access to high speed internet, up to date technology in households and no technology in some households are just a few of the challenges to providing fair and equitable virtual learning for all families.

Further to this, we have maintained a foundation of cooperation between Home, Church and Schools spearheaded by our Senior Administration team who Trustees rely on to keep us apprised of any challenges our Board must overcome.

Catholic Schools have adopted the lead role in faith formation of our children. Preparation for the sacraments, attendance at Mass and living the faith are all part of the Catholic School experience. In support of these realities, Trustees must be examples of our faith in action by living our faith.

In March of this year, a child lost their life while leaving school. This tragedy triggered much discussion about safety, but it also has become a catalyst for discussions regarding school boundaries and the role schools play in policing neighborhoods for safety sake. Our relationship with municipalities related to safety issues has revealed some unique safety

challenges at every school. During the next term, Trustees will be expected to actively engage in discussions about safety and the review school boundaries. A new culture of safe schools is evolving but there is much more Trustees can do to assure every school zone is made safer for our children.

This year has been an exciting year for new construction and while we were delighted to hear of the approval of funding for new schools in the term just ending, their completion in the upcoming term will be a time for great celebration for this Board. The new elementary school in West Kingston will bring much needed relief to our only ESL school in Kingston, Ecole' Cathedral will get some much needed enrolment relief and the new school will also help reduce numbers at AOS and Mother Theresa Elementary school.

In addition to Kingston West, the Board is seeing new builds and renovations for Our Lady of Mount Carmel, J.J. O'Neill, St. Joseph and a brand new school in Picton to replace St. Gregory's. The latter project is long overdue and will provide students with a much more functional and enriching learning environment. Although this project was difficult, the eventual solution and funding framework is a vast improvement over our original strategy. We are grateful to the Director and Bryan Davies for their work in overcoming many obstacles to this project.

Every member of the outgoing Board of Trustees, especially those who are not returning can rest assured that their work in support of Senior Administration, Teachers and support staff has made this Board stronger. This new term for the Board of Trustees Board sees the departure of Trustee Duggan, Trustee Speagle, Trustee Wright and Trustee Murphy. Each brought a unique perspective but a common desire to provide a faith filled, resource rich and inclusive learning environment for all our students. Their contributions and their commitment to Catholic education has helped to provide a solid foundation for this new Board to build on. We thank them for their important contribution to Catholic education.

Looking forward, our Board is in year 3 of our Multi Year Strategic Plan. The MYSP has proven to be an effective roadmap for all members of staff. This plan has all members of the team pulling in the same direction with clear indicators and assessment tools. The MYSP keeps our Board on a successful path to a renewed strategy in 2 years.

As this new term of office begins, I ask that each one of us affirm our commitment to serve with high energy and with our faith as our beacon. Our Board is blessed with a highly skilled team of administrators, educators and support staff who with our assistance, will ensure the success and faith development of all who attend our schools.

The Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB has established a high standard of performance and high expectations for our students, as Trustees it's our job to be a link to the communities we serve and a sounding Board for administration through committees and Board activities. The work starts now and I am grateful for your commitment to Catholic education.

Thank you,

Terry Shea
Chair of the Board
Kingston and Frontenac Islands