

## NIAGARA CATHOLIC TRUSTEES ELECT 2017 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Niagara Catholic District School Board held its Annual Organizational Meeting at the Catholic Education Centre on December 6, 2016, before the December Meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

During the meeting, Father Paul MacNeil was elected Chair for 2017, and Kathy Burtnik was elected as Vice-Chair.

During his remarks at the closing of the Annual Organizational Meeting, Chair MacNeil remarked on what he has learned over his terms as a Trustee and Board Chair.

*"I have learned first-hand of the value of a board of trustees working together to guide and protect our Board," he said. "Now, more so than ever, we are a group of eight individuals with strong and passionate ideals, but we come together as one body, sharing a deep concern for the spiritual well-being of our children. Scott Peck, in his book "The Road Less Travelled," had a name for this care for the spiritual well-being of another: He called it love. It is the foundation of our organization."*

Mrs. Burtnik's comments focused on the incredible commitment to Catholic education by staff throughout the system, and challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the coming year, the Diocese and Catholic school supporters count on Niagara Catholic leaders to keep the gift of Catholic education alive and students who "count on us to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ."

*"We have a remarkable, dedicated staff, who constantly bring the light and life of Christ to our classrooms, our hallways, our offices, our communities," she said. "This coming year ... will be marked with challenges and opportunities, and we will only be able to meet those challenges and take the opportunities if we are committed as trustees, not to our own motives, but the collective mission of Catholic education here in Niagara."*

Director of Education John Crocco congratulated both Chair MacNeil and Vice-Chair Burtnik on their election. *“I am confident that Chair MacNeil and Vice-Chair Burtnik will continue to be strong and vocal advocates for Niagara Catholic, and for Catholic education in Ontario, throughout the coming year, and I offer each my continued gratitude and heartfelt congratulations on their election,”* said Director Crocco. *“I also extend my gratitude to Bishop Gerard Bergie, Honourary Chair of the Board, who opened the Annual Organizational Meeting with a dedicated prayer and inspirational marks for all those who attended, and to the Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Jazz Choir for their beautiful Advent songs.”*

The full texts of the Chair and Vice-Chair’s statements are attached. You may also watch [Chair MacNeil](#) and [Vice-Chair Burtnik](#) deliver their remarks.

**Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 24,000 students throughout Niagara; from Early Learning Kindergarten through graduation.**

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