

TRUSTEES SELECTE NIAGARA CATHOLIC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2018

The Niagara Catholic District School Board held its Annual Organizational Meeting at the Catholic Education Centre on December 5, 2017, before the December Meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

During the meeting, Father Paul MacNeil was acclaimed Chair of the Board for 2018, and Pat Vernal was selected as Vice-Chair.

During his remarks at the closing of the Annual Organizational Meeting, Chair MacNeil shared Aristotle's thoughts on the structure of change. He remarked that the most important aspect of change is not what is past or what we create, but what remains the same, and spoke of the constants within Niagara Catholic.

"These things that remain the same throughout a change are the things that define us as human beings, and as an organization," said Chair MacNeil. "Allow me to point out some things that haven't changed: Our core mission to be the best board we can be by focusing on student achievement for all. Our dedication to the value of Catholic education here in Niagara. Our commitment to faith in Jesus Christ and His love and His mercy; and our own ability as a Board of Trustees, the eight of us, to work together to learn from the past, to hope for the future, and to celebrate with renewed faith and energy, this moment of promise."

Vice-Chair Vernal's comments acknowledged the challenges of early 2017, while looking to the future.

"With God's help and guidance and all of your support we can build a better future and system for our students," she said. "I feel confident that the next year will prove to be successful and rewarding for us all."

Director of Education John Crocco congratulated both Chair MacNeil and Vice-Chair Vernal. *“I am confident that Chair MacNeil and Vice-Chair Vernal 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 congratulations,”* said Director Crocco. *“I extend my gratitude to Trustee Kathy Burtnik, who has worked tirelessly as a member of Executive Council for many years, focused on fulfilling the Board’s Mission, Vision and Values for the students we serve in Catholic education. On behalf of the Board and Senior Staff, I would also like to thank the Lakeshore Catholic High School Choir, which includes our Student Trustee Hannah Tummillo, for their beautiful Advent songs at the opening of our Annual Organizational Meeting.”*

The full texts of the Chair and Vice-Chair’s statements are attached.

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

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