



# Board Meeting Highlights

From the Regular Board Meeting of  
Tuesday, January 19, 2010



**2010**

## CHAIR'S REPORT

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### *New Education Minister*

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, noted that we now have a new education minister. Leona Dombrowsky, former agriculture minister, was appointed to the education ministry yesterday (Jan. 18). An MPP since 1999, Leona was a trustee and later chair on the Hastings and Prince Edward Catholic School Board from 1991-1996.

Leona Dombrowsky later became the first chair of the newly amalgamated Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. She also served as a director on the OCSTA, and she was a member of the provincial EQAO advisory committee.

Chair Crowe noted that it is beneficial for us to have someone who has experience with our Catholic school system at the helm, and we look forward to working with Leona and her new administration.

Chair Crowe noted that she will send a letter on behalf of the Board welcoming the Minister to her new portfolio, and offering her our support and assistance.

### *OCSTA Chairs, Vice-Chairs Seminar*

Last Friday, Chair Crowe noted that she and Vice-Chair Micheal Carnovale had an opportunity to attend OCSTA's Seminar for Chairs & Vice Chairs.

Chair Crowe noted that Father Norm Roberts, as the keynote speaker, was extremely inspirational. Father Roberts spoke about the important role that Catholic school board leaders play in managing, protecting, and promoting Catholic education in Ontario.

The rest of the sessions were also very informative, added Crowe, including an address by Jim Grieve, who provided an overview on Ontario's Early Learning Program; and a provincial update was also provided by Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne.

### *Breakfast Meeting with MPPs*

Chair Crowe reported to Trustees that we are in the process of arranging to host a breakfast meeting with our local MPPs. The OCSTA has asked that boards consider hosting a breakfast meeting with local MPPs immediately following OCSTA's next planned lobby day at Queen's Park (scheduled to take place on April 12th). MPPs are scheduled to be in the legislature from Mondays to Thursdays, and in their local constituencies on Fridays. Chair Crowe noted that we are therefore suggesting that we host a breakfast meeting on Friday, April 16th, or on Friday, April 23rd. Or, it has also been suggested that this meeting would make a greater impact if we scheduled it to take place during Catholic Education Week – in which case, we would be looking at

hosting the meeting on Friday, May 7th. Trustees will be contacted to determine the most convenient date.

### *New Toronto Archbishops Ordained*

Chair Crowe announced that the Toronto Archdiocese has ordained two new Auxiliary Bishops this month. They are:

Father Vincent Nguyen, who was ordained on January 11th. Bishop Nguyen is Canada's first Roman Catholic bishop of Asian descent and at 43 years of age, he is also the youngest bishop currently serving the Church in Canada.

And Father William McGrattan was also ordained on January 12th. Bishop McGrattan is a native of London, Ontario. Before joining the priesthood, Bishop McGrattan earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Western Ontario and he also worked as a chemical engineer for Polysar Limited in Sarnia for a number of years.

Chair Crowe noted that we look forward to working with both Bishop Nguyen and McGrattan in their new roles as Auxiliary Bishops for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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### *Full Day – Every Day Kindergarten*

Director of Education, Susan LaRosa, reported that on Monday, we began kindergarten registration throughout our Board, including registration into our new full day – every day kindergarten classes. The Ministry has approved 14 of our school sites to offer full day kindergarten, starting in September. Registration is progressing smoothly, and we also have a procedure in place to register out of boundary students in schools that may have extra space available, noted Director LaRosa.

Director LaRosa also noted that last Friday, Vaughan Trustee Dino Giuliani hosted MPP Greg Sorbara at St. Clement CES, where Greg provided a local angle to this announcement – in one of St. Clement's kindergarten classes. Congratulations were offered to Trustee Giuliani. The event went very smoothly; it was well attended and covered by the media.

### *New Ministry Food & Beverage Policy*

Director LaRosa noted that the Ministry recently announced a new School Food and Beverage Policy. All food and beverages sold in both elementary and secondary schools will have to meet nutrition standards set out in the Policy by September 2011.

It covers food and beverages that are sold in cafeterias and in vending machines on a daily basis, as well as at school events.

Over the past several years, schools in our Board have been active in this area, noted Director LaRosa -- and today, 90% of York Catholic schools are certified by the Ministry through the "Healthy Schools Recognition Program" which affirms our own focus on healthy growth and development.

The Ministry is holding an information session for school board personnel on February 17th, and we are sending down a team of representatives from both our elementary and secondary panels.

#### *Thursday is Loonie-Toonie Day in support of Haiti*

Director LaRosa announced that this Thursday has been designated as Loonie Toonie Day throughout our Board in support of the victims of the Haiti earthquake. All money raised will go directly to ShareLife's international relief body, Caritas Internationalis. The Caritas office in Haiti is in dire need of financial resources to re-establish its damaged medical clinics in the country. Funds will also be used to provide food, shelter, clean water and supplies so that survivors can rebuild their lives in the days and weeks ahead.

Director LaRosa also noted that two of our high schools have already raised over \$4,000 each. Director LaRosa will report back at a future meeting to indicate how much money was sent to ShareLife.

#### *Annual CEO Conference*

Director LaRosa informed trustees that the Annual CEO Conference of Directors and Associate Directors takes place beginning tomorrow – Wednesday, January 20th to Friday, January 22nd. All 72 school boards from throughout Ontario will be represented.

#### *School Year Calendar*

Director LaRosa reported that she is currently working on our new School Year Calendar and trying to ascertain whether many boards are planning to alter the next Christmas break. Schools are currently scheduled to dismiss on December 17th – the break will therefore begin 8 days before Christmas, and extend one day after January 1st. Any modified calendar needs to have Board approval by March 1st.

#### *St. Augustine Seminary Workshop*

Director LaRosa also noted that she will be co-presenting with Hugh Kelly of Miller Thompson on the role of Trustees and Directors of Education this Saturday, during a workshop at the St. Augustine Seminary.

*St. Joan of Arc CHS*

Director LaRosa noted that she was extremely impressed with St. Joan of Arc CHS students during Monday's funeral procession for a 17 year-old student, who passed away on Jan. 12th in a tragic pedestrian accident.

***STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT***

Student Trustee, Cassandra Curcio, reported that students have been working hard to assist those impacted in the disastrous earthquake that recently shook Haiti.

Additionally, the York Secondary Catholic President's Council (YSCPC) walked the streets of downtown Toronto on Dec. 21st, with food and warm clothing hand out to the homeless.

The YSCPC will also be hosting their conference, Leadership Links, on Feb. 18. The conference is expected to attract over 800 students from throughout our schools.

Both Student Trustees Cassandra Curcio and Olivia Suppa will be attending the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) conference in Ottawa in February where they will be running a workshop, listening to guest speakers (such as James Bartleman) and volunteering at local homeless shelters.

The OSTA is also working to facilitate the success of the Healthy Schools Recognition Program, by encouraging students and staff to engage in activities that help create healthy school environments. Over the last three years, 3,000 schools pledged to undertake more than 6,500 health-promoting activities. Each school received a certificate signed by the Premier and the Ministers of Education and Health Promotion.

The OSTA will also be meeting with the Ontario Catholic Trustees' Association on Feb. 12; as well as attending a Public Education Symposium on Jan. 21.

Student Trustees Curcio and Suppa also offered their congratulations to Education Minister, Kathleen Wynne, as she undertakes her new role as Ontario's Minister of Transportation.

### ***RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT***

#### ***Marian Pawliszko***

Director of Education, Susan LaRosa, noted that this evening, we are pleased to recognize the outstanding achievement of one of our own York Catholic District School Board staff members.

Director LaRosa said that she was honoured and proud to recognize Mr. Marian Pawliszko, Head Custodian at Sacred Heart CHS, who was recently conferred the Degree of Masters of Religious Education from the St. Augustine Seminary in Toronto.

Marian and his family immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1990, and Marian began working as night custodian at Sacred Heart CHS in August 1990. He was Head Custodian at St. Paul CES before returning to Sacred Heart last year, as their Head Custodian.

Marian began his studies at St. Augustine's Seminary in 1991, and he has since been ordained as a Deacon at St. Michael's Cathedral, he is Deacon at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Newmarket, as well as Chaplain at several long-term care facilities in Newmarket.

Director LaRosa said that Marian's recent achievement is the result of many years of dedication to his studies, as well as support from his wife, Maria, and their two sons.

Director LaRosa noted that we are extremely proud and honoured to congratulate Marian.

Marian Pawliszko was presented with a certificate of recognition from the Board.

### ***JOINT BOARD CONSORTIUM***

YCDSB Trustee, Carol Cotton, and YRDSB Trustee P. Luchowski were elected Co-Chairs for the year 2010.

### ***DIRECTOR LAROSA TO CO-CHAIR PLANNING BOARD***

The Board supported the appointment of Director of Education, Susan LaRosa, as Co-Chair to the Human Services Planning Board of York Region, effective immediately, and extending to November 30, 2014. The Planning Board represents York Region's commitment to a strategic and collaborative approach to addressing the growing demands and pressures that our Human Services sector continues to face. York Region has been historically underfunded across the broader human services spectrum, hindering our ability to fully service the needs of our residents.

In his appointment letter to Director LaRosa, York Region Chair & CEO, Bill Fisch, noted that Susan is “an experienced and respected leader within the York Region community” and that her “leadership is important to successfully advance the collaborative efforts of the community, helping to create solutions to issues that are responsive to local needs.”

### ***PERSONNEL***

The Board approved the following elementary vice-principal transfers, effective Feb. 1, 2010:

- Angela Rotundo-Vergura (from Administrator, Centro Scuola) to Our Lady of Fatima CES
- Corinne Santianni (from Our Lady of Fatima CES) to St. Justin Martyr CES
- Janis Scully (from St. Justin Martyr CES) to San Lorenzo CES (.5)/ Fr. Frederick McGinn CES (.5)

The Board received the following retirement:

- Antonia Muhar, effective March 5, 2010

### ***FEBRUARY & MARCH MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR***

Feb.3	<b>Joint Board Consortium</b>
Feb.8	<b>YPIC Meeting</b>
Feb.9	<b>Regular Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.</b>
Feb.15	<b>Family Day – Schools Closed</b>
Feb.17	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
Feb.23	<b>Accommodation Committee Meeting @ 7 p.m.</b>
Feb.24	<b>S.E.A.C.</b>
Feb.25	<b>S.A.L.E.P.</b>
Mar.9	<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>
Mar.15 - 19	<b>March Break</b>
Mar.25	<b>S.A.L.E.P.</b>
Mar.31	<b>S.E.A.C.</b>