

A warm welcome to you all for the 2015-2016 school year! I look forward to serving you; the parents, students, staff and ratepayers of our thriving school board.

Parent engagement is one of the keys to a successful education so I encourage you to participate at all levels in your child's learning. Please avail yourselves to the many and diverse school social/fundraising events, special speaker presentations, Family Math Nights, etc...happening across Halton Catholic schools throughout the year.

I'd like to bring to your attention that there is an "Open Question Period" at our bi-monthly board meetings. Questions are submitted in writing just prior to the board meeting using the available form as you enter the board room.

The procedure is as follows:

- Each questioner is allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- The Chair will attempt to provide a response or direct the question to another Trustee or The Director of Education. If no immediate response can be given, a response will be communicated to the questioner at the earliest possible date. Copies of any written responses to the question will be provided to trustees and added to the minutes of a subsequent meeting.
- Questions concerning the character or performance of named individuals or positions identified as such (students, teachers, staff, citizens or trustees) shall be ruled out of order by the Chair.

- Employees of the Board or representatives of employee groups shall not utilize the Open Question Period to express their views relative to their employment or professional interests.

The first of the resources from the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) to supplement the Health and Physical Education curriculum will be available in October. All teachers will be directed to use these resources and it is always best to have an open dialogue with your child's teacher about the curriculum and content that they will teach. A letter will be sent home prior to lessons being taught and you will have the option to request that your child not attend that class. You should have received a pamphlet from ICE in the first few weeks of school.

We are continuing to get feedback about our strategic multi-year plan. Your input is very valuable: help us identify strengths and areas of improvement. Tell us what we should focus on in the long term. You can email stratplan2015@hcdsb.org. There will also be another Town Hall meeting on Wed October 7th at 7pm at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School in Milton at 1145 Bronte Street South.

I always value your input so please continue to reach out to me with your concerns, suggestions and needs and I will endeavour to serve you.