

## *September message from your Brantford Trustees...*

### **September Message from Brantford School Board Trustee Rick Petrella and Trustee Bill Chopp**

It is our pleasure to welcome all of you back to another school year and offer our sincerest best wishes to all students, staff, parents and Catholic school supporters. As we settle into the start of a new school year, we understand that things can be hectic with beginning of the year school activities, preparations, and events.

These times; however, are excellent opportunities for us to celebrate the many things that make our school communities distinct and special. It is a time to celebrate our successes and showcase the talents of the young people in our schools. All of the trustees and staff are committed to student achievement and are laser focused on ensuring that all of our students are successful in our district.

We have already begun working on our new 2018-2022 multi-year strategic plan. The Board is in the process of implementing the approved budget for 2018-19, with total increases in the Board's operational budget over the 2017-18 revised budget of approximately \$4,552,000 or 3.5%.

This year's budget is in line with the Board's ongoing commitment to provide a fiscally-responsible budget, while maintaining effective, efficient, and equitable programs and services, and putting dollars back into our schools. We are excited about the opening of the new St. John's field in September and the implementation of the new 1.4 km walking distance eligibility transportation policy for our elementary children. Our facilities' staff have been busy over the summer with upgrades and new infrastructure projects throughout our school system; they continue to make our schools the pride of our Board.

Our school communities continue our traditions of gathering to worship throughout the year for liturgical celebrations, school events, meetings, and for reflection and solace. Our staff, in partnership with parents and parishes, helps to guide and inspire our students to become mature, caring and responsible citizens who exemplify the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. We are grateful for your involvement and commitment to our Board. We acknowledge the ongoing support of our staff and all Catholic stakeholders for their positive impact on Catholic education. We would like to thank each one of you for your dedication and support of our publicly-funded Catholic schools.

As your Brantford trustees, we are committed to you, the ratepayer, and will always advocate on your behalf and are willing to assist with concerns, especially those pertaining to Board policy. We look forward to working with each one of you and meeting you in person at the many school events that take place.

In closing, we wish all of our new and returning students, staff and parents a very sincere welcome back and wish all of you much success in the school year ahead, fulfilling our mission of transforming the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Sincerely,

Chair, Rick Petrella & Trustee, Bill Chop



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