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**CHAIR OF THE BOARD
2023 ADDRESS
Trustee Organizational Meeting, November 21, 2023**

Good evening,

Welcome to year 2 of our 4-year term as elected Trustees of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

Let me begin by congratulating Mary DiMenna on her re-election as Vice Chair of the Board.

I am fortunate to have had the honour and privilege to serve as this board's Chair during the past year and I want to thank you my fellow trustees for your support and for the trust you have placed in me by re-electing me as your Chair.

This is an exciting time for our Board and there is much to celebrate:

- Increasing enrolment – this year we have an additional 1168 students to bring a total of nearly 22,000 students entrusted in our care on a daily basis;
- Our new high school in the city core has been opened and we are now putting the finishing touches on the school and its sports field; and
- Academic Achievement - our students again exceeded the provincial average in all 9 EQAO categories.

Our success to date does not just happen by chance. It is the result of the commitment, the dedication and the hard work of our teaching, support staff and administration.

It is the result of the combined efforts of 9 elected Trustees with the guidance and input of Fr. Larry and our administration under the leadership of our Director, Emelda Byrne.

And, when we talk of administration let's not forget our Board executive assistant who always makes sure we are pointing in the right direction.

As a Board it is important that we continue to be strategic, that we be disciplined and focused and that we be united in our goals.

In closing, I re-affirm my commitment to working together with you as we move forward to meet the challenges ahead and ensuring our faith-based education continues to thrive.

Together we will succeed.