

# **MEDIA RELEASE:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

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**Chair of the Board** John Van Heck 519-627-5746

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#### LONG-SERVING TRUSTEES ATTEND FINAL BOARD MEETING

Two long-serving members of the St. Clair Catholic Board of Trustees have attended their final Board meeting. Anita Mallette-Snobelen and Michelle Parks did not seek re-election in the October 2018 municipal election.

"Anita and Michelle represent a combined total of nearly 40 years' experience at the Board table," says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. "They step down with our best wishes. We will miss their tremendous knowledge and guidance, along with their friendship."

"Anita and Michelle have been tremendous assets to our Board throughout their long tenures as Trustees," says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. "They have been thoughtful and wise, always bringing their best as they served our students and families and the mission of Catholic education. We give them our thanks and pray God's blessings for them and their families."

Trustee Mallette-Snobelen has represented the Catholic ratepayers of Chatham for 27 years, having been first elected to the former Kent County Roman Catholic Separate School Board in 1991. She served as the very first Vice Chair of the newly amalgamated St. Clair Catholic District School Board in 1998, along with two additional terms as Vice Chair in 2005 and 2011. Ms. Mallette-Snobelen also served four consecutive terms as Chair of the Board in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Trustee Parks was first elected by the Catholic ratepayers of Sarnia and Point Edward 12 years ago. She has served four consecutive terms as Vice Chair of the Board in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Ms. Mallette-Snobelen and Ms. Parks were formally thanked by their colleagues on the Board of Trustees and senior administration, for their many contributions at the final meeting of the 2014-2018 term this evening. They were presented tokens of appreciation by Student Trustees Zach McGlynn and Arianna Kennedy.

The new Board of Trustees, which will serve St. Clair Catholic for the 2018-2022 term will be sworn in at the Board's Inaugural Meeting next Tuesday, December 4, 2018. The Inaugural Meeting follows a Special Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Ursuline Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 420 Creek Street, Wallaceburg.

Members of the media are welcome.



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#### STUDENT NEWS TEAM TO REPORT ON PROGRESS OF NEW NORTH CHATHAM CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Three students have been selected to form a news team that will provide regular updates on the progress of construction of the new north Chatham Catholic elementary school on McNaughton Avenue, West.

"We are excited by this innovative communications initiative, which will not only deliver regular updates on the project to the community, but also provides a tremendous experiential learning opportunity for three of our students."

The students, from St. Agnes, St. Vincent and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic schools, were selected by their principals because they expressed a strong desire to participate in the project and because they are interested in possibly pursuing a career in journalism.

Every four to six weeks, the students will visit the site and interview Board officials and project managers, then produce a news story that will be posted to the Board website.

The first story, which was produced by Emma Vilaranda, Brielle Malone and Ewan Niven was presented to Trustees at tonight's Board meeting and is now posted to the Board website at <u>www.st-clair.net</u>

"We look forward to having the students attend a Board meeting sometime later in the spring, to provide a report to Trustees on what they have learned as part of this initiative," says Mrs. Crawford.