



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***JOHN VAN HECK ACCLAIMED CHAIR OF THE BOARD; MICHELLE PARKS ACCLAIMED VICE CHAIR***

At tonight's Initial Meeting of the Board of Trustees, John Van Heck was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board for a second straight term. Trustee Michelle Parks was acclaimed Vice Chair, a position she has previously held for the past two years.

Mr. Van Heck has been a Catholic trustee since 2006. In accepting the position of Chair, he thanked his fellow trustees for their support and for always working together as a team.

"Together, we have a common interest in that we always put our students' and parents' wellbeing first and that we also hold in high regard the wellbeing of our employees," says Mr. Van Heck.

In looking to the future, he says completing the work of the Pupil Accommodation Review in Chatham is an important milestone that lies ahead.

"Completing a new and comprehensive plan for our Chatham elementary schools will put Catholic education on solid ground for a bright future in the second largest city of our district," he says.

Michelle Parks is now in her eleventh year as a Catholic trustee. In her remarks to the Board tonight, she expressed support for her colleagues and for members of the senior administration, as they strive to meet the Board's three strategic priorities of living our faith; promoting educational achievement and innovation; and fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice.

"To Dan Parr and our entire senior team, your dedication, commitment and love of St. Clair Catholic is evident in both your words and your actions," says Mrs. Parks.

Elections for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair are held annually at the Board's December meeting. The term of office for both positions expires at the end of November 2017.

The evening began with Mass, which was celebrated in the chapel of the Ursuline Boardroom. Father Chris Gillespie was celebrant, assisted by Steve Eckert, a Seminarian currently serving the Holy Redeemer Parish Cluster.