



## **Chair's Monthly Report**

### **February and March 2023**

#### **Highlights from February-March include:**

- Attended the Toronto Catholic community marking of the beginning of Lent, with Ash Wednesday Mass live streamed from the Catholic Education Centre. Brought greetings from the Board of Trustees to our Staff and Students on the season of Lent, an opportunity to respond to God's call "Come let us return to the Lord". Hosea 6:1
- Met with the Chair of the Board of the Education Quality and Assessment Ontario (EQAO), Dr. Cameron Montgomery, who presented how EQAO has been transformed through modernization and digitalization. He elaborated on the increased capacity of the revised assessments, joint research possibilities with Boards and greater engagement of parents. Dr. Montgomery is willing to give a presentation to our Board.
- Welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to St. Demetrius Catholic Elementary School, on the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, along with Director Browne, Communications Chief Vlahos, Superintendent Bria and Principal Hordienko. The Honourable Prime Minister spent considerable time with a group of students around the table in the library listening to their experiences and describing what Canada is doing to support Ukraine.
- Attended the Centro Scuola Italy-amo 2023 Gala Dinner, along with Associate Director Della Mora, Staff and Trustees. TCDSB teacher, Cosmo Femia, was awarded the Father Vito Marziliano Award.
- Dropped the puck for the Angel Foundation at the Marlies School Day Game at the Coca-Cola Coliseum along with Vice Chair D'Amico, Trustee de Domenico, and Trustee Morrison. Over 8,000 students from Toronto Catholic elementary schools attended, which enabled the raising of over \$21,000 for the Angel Foundation.
- Attended the Ordinandi Youth Event and the Ordinandi Dinner. TCDSB Nurturing our Catholic Community Staff designed and facilitated the Youth Event which helps secondary students discern their vocation in life. In addition to an Ordinandi (a Deacon soon to be ordained to the Priesthood) and a Religious Sister, Cardinal Collins also spoke to the Students about his vocation calling.

- Attending the **Mass of Installation of His Grace, Archbishop Francis (Frank) Leo** as Archbishop of Toronto by His Excellency, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič Apostolic Nuncio to Canada at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica.
- Continuing to participate in bi-weekly conversation meetings with **Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education** at which he introduces new developments and initiatives in education to all Board Chairs throughout the province. Recent topics include: negotiated increase from 50 to 95 days of work that retired teachers and principals can do until the end of June 2023; improving access to skilled trades training for students; French teacher recruitment; strengthening provincial policy to improve capital building processes.
- Attending Board Committees in the role of Ex-Officio including the Safe Schools Advisory Committee, Special Board Race Relations Advisory Committee and the Governance and Policy Committee.