



*A Message from Trustee Terry Harris*

*Ward 71*

**January 2018**

Happy New Year everyone! May God bless you and your family in 2018.

It is exciting to start the New Year with the newly elected Board of Trustees. We are committed to serving you and your family through the provision of excellent Christ-centred education and have been working hard as a new Board to prepare ourselves for the important work you have entrusted us with. In addition, I am honoured to serve in the capacity of Board Chair for 2017-2018 and am deeply committed to serving this role with integrity and to do what is best for our students.

Many initiatives are in progress. The Board is currently developing strategies to advocate for educational and transportation needs as well as the continuation of publicly funded Catholic education. Our budget process for 2018-2019 is well under way. To set the stage for 2018, the Board has begun the New Year with Strategic Planning Sessions with our Senior Administration. Another initiative is the Student Senate comprised of students from each of our high schools who were selected by their schools to serve the Board in an advisory capacity.

Parent engagement is important to this Board and we are planning a District-Wide School Council Meeting in April of 2018. More information will follow in the next few weeks.

Two other parent engagement opportunities scheduled for the New Year that may be of interest to you are:

February 21, 2018: Parent Evening Series – Mental Health ‘Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety’ a Step by Step Approach (K-12), and

April 18, 2018: Parent Evening Series – Mental Health, Supporting Your Child’s Mental Health Go to Educator/Program Transition.

For further information on the time and location, please go to our website: [www.ecsd.net](http://www.ecsd.net).

I would be happy to attend one of your school council meetings to update you on these and other Board initiatives and to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

As I enter my first term as an Edmonton Catholic School Trustee representing Ward 71, I want to thank you for your support. It is my hope to meet with every one of the 13 School Councils in Ward 71 so that we can get to know each other. I encourage open communication and welcome your input on educational matters. You can reach me by e-mail at [terence.harris@ecsd.net](mailto:terence.harris@ecsd.net) or by phone at 780 937-8268.