

**NCDSB APPOINTS KAREN ROWE AS  
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

Chair of the Board Colleen Landers (left) and Trustee Martin Drainville (right) congratulate Karen Rowe on her appointment.

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Rowe to the position of Assistant to the Director of Education. As part of her duties, she will work collaboratively with all schools within the Board to manage day-to-day operations, program, instruction, assessment and planning so as to ensure excellence in the overall learning environment.

Chair of the Board Colleen Landers welcomed Rowe to the table at the public Board meeting in February. "We look forward to working with Mrs. Rowe in her new capacity with our Board as Assistant to the Director of Education," stated Landers. "Through the rigorous selection process, she demonstrated her thorough understanding of the needs of our students balanced alongside the expectations of the Ministry of Education. She has

a clear vision of the directions that we must take to enhance achievement for each of our students. She is a practical visionary who knows what makes student learning more effective and understands how to facilitate transitions. She is familiar with the latest education research and brings this knowledge to the table to ensure that practices proven to be effective are implemented. We are confident that she will work collaboratively with our senior administrative team to foster continual system improvement in a manner which speaks to our distinct mission as a Catholic system."

Well into the first weeks of her new mandate, Mrs. Rowe reflects on her philosophy of Catholic education, which focuses on the recognition that students deserve the most authentic opportunity to develop and nurture their spiritual, academic and emotional potential. "I believe that the goals of Catholic education are achieved when team members work collaboratively in the best interest of the student," explained Rowe. "That means that a team approach must manifest itself on many different levels, through effective modeling and ongoing reflection of student and system needs, and the ways in which the same can be met. For myself, that means participating in the move toward greater literacy for our students rather than merely presiding over it. Our students must remain the focus of our work and we must be dedicated to their full development of their potential as children of God."

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P. Toffanello, Director of Education  
C. Landers, Chair of the Board

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Rowe mentored, advised and supported Principals as Program Principal for Curriculum responsible for a family of schools. Alongside her colleagues, she was also responsible for conducting Principal meetings and planning effective professional learning for Principals and Teachers for sustained growth. She has participated in the development of action plans which have generated funding for Board initiatives. She has also served as principal of several schools in the District of Timiskaming, and as a Teacher at several grade levels.

Through her leadership capacity, she represented the Board's interests with the Best Start Network Committee, the Office of the Secretariat for Literacy and Numeracy, EOAO, and the Staff Development Council of Ontario. Within our system, she has taken on several portfolios, most notably the Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA) initiative, the Healthy Active Schools initiative, the Bereavement/Tragic Events Committee, and the Balanced Literacy Framework. She is responsible for initiating the adoption of lead educators within the Board to foster leadership sustainability and mechanisms for succession planning.

Rowe is a practicing Catholic and a member of the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish. As an instructor of the Children's Liturgy Program, she extended her participation in the spiritual development of children to her parish community.

She holds a Master of Education from Nipissing University, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Western Ontario, and completed the Teacher Education Program at McGill University. Throughout her teaching career, she has acquired several specialist designations including Special Education and Religious Education and completed the Principals' Certification. Most recently, she has successfully completed four modules of the Supervisory Officers Qualification Program.

Martin Drainville, Trustee in the Haileybury/New Liskeard/Cobalt area, is confident that Rowe measures up to the expectations of this more demanding role within the NCDSB. "Her sense of genuine concern for the students within our system drives her to constantly seek to improve instructional approaches in our classrooms," stated Drainville. "She is a dedicated professional who is committed to the betterment of Catholic education, both in terms of academics and faith development."

It is with great honour that Mrs. Rowe takes on this new and exciting phase of our professional life. "I have been blessed with a number of leadership opportunities within our Board and I have been rewarded with positive, rich relationships with children of different ages and stages," noted Rowe. "Working as a School Principal in three different communities has given me the opportunity to function within varied circumstances, providing me with a range of experiences which will continue to serve me in the work that I am presently undertaking. I believe strongly in a team approach to leadership and I have had the benefit of functioning as a key team member within our Board. I am most grateful for the opportunities that continue to be presented to me – both within our Catholic School Board and in the wider educational community."

**For more information, please contact  
Mélanie Bidal-Mainville, Community Relations Officer**

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