

Vrooman back as HDSB chair

By DOMINIK KUREK
Metroland Media Group

Oakville Wards 1 and 2 Trustee Don Vrooman is staying on for a second term as the chair of the Halton District School Board, and he admits that challenges await.

The votes for chair and vice-chair positions at the board were made at last Wednesday's meeting. The positions are elected by secret ballot for a one-year term.

Joining Vrooman at the head of the table is Burlington Ward 5 Trustee Amy Collard, who beat out incumbent hopeful Oakville Trustee Kelly Amos for the vice-chair's position.

After the meeting, Vrooman said the upcoming year should be a good one for the board, compared to the last. In 2011, the board had to deal with several changes, including a new board of trustees and a new director of education. By this time, he said, all those individuals understand their roles much better and are ready to move forward.

However, there are a number of challenges facing the board, he said, with the issue of growth being key among them.

"Our biggest challenge, from almost any perspective, is the growth of the board," he said.

Aside from growth, there are other upcoming concerns for the school board.

This includes the board having to negotiate with a number of employee groups, respond to the Ministry of Education's requirements for student success, keep moving towards a 21st century-style of classroom and learning while dealing with 75 schools that are between 20 and 100 years old, deal with bullying concerns, face Halton's disparity in the distribution of wealth, serve the special education students, deal with mental health in children and youth, be proactive in terms equity and inclusion as the diversity of the community increases, among other issues.

Vrooman was up against fellow Oakville Trustees Amos and Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead for the chair's position.

LeMay returns to lead Catholic board

Veteran Oakville Trustee Alice Anne LeMay has been returned as chair of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

Trustees elected its leadership at last

Tuesday's meeting.

Milton Trustee Diane Rabenda will serve as vice-chair.

The term of office is for one year.

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