

Piovesan to step down

MELANIE CUMMINGS
Special to The IFP

Lou Piovesan, Director of the Halton Catholic District School Board, is retiring.

The man who sat at the helm for the past seven years through controversy, adulation, funding cuts and countless debates, choked up while reading his formal letter of resignation at Tuesday's regular board meeting.

"This is harder than I thought," said Piovesan.

He became especially tearful when expressing his indebtedness and gratitude to his wife, Peggy and children, "for their steadfast support and patience over these many years."

Piovesan received a standing ovation after his announcement from trustees, senior staff and a full gallery of parents gathered in the chambers.

By the time a long line of staff and trustees finished offering their personal goodbyes, Piovesan had more than two dozen carnations in his grasp, one from each well-wisher.

His retirement notice, which takes effect Aug. 31, was received and accepted with regret by the board.

"I am truly grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to work collaboratively within a Catholic learning community of trustees, staff, students, parents, and pastors who are committed to the mission in Catholic education," said Piovesan.

This year marks 41 years in education for Piovesan— 34 of them in a leadership role with

the Halton board.

He joined the school board in September 1974, as an elementary school principal.

He subsequently moved on to other senior positions including: school supervision services (French and English), human resources, curriculum services, adult learning and continuing education services, policy development, French language services and special education services for the French language section of the board.



LOU PIOVESAN

His legacy includes a long list of accomplishments in planning and establishing the board's Junior Kindergarten program in 1989, the elementary French immersion program and secondary extended French program, the computer education and drug education programs and the establishment of the continuing education/adult learning centres.

Piovesan is also credited with guiding the development of board policies dealing with first aid, risk management in interschool sports, safe schools and school closures.

He also invited student trustees to sit at the board table and revived the previously defunct board staff choir.

Board chair, Alice Anne LeMay, who has known Piovesan for 27 years, described him as an outstanding advocate of Catholic education and respected community leader.

Trustees approved beginning a search for Piovesan's successor, who will be the fifth director of the board, which was formed in 1969, after the four municipal school boards in Halton amalgamated.

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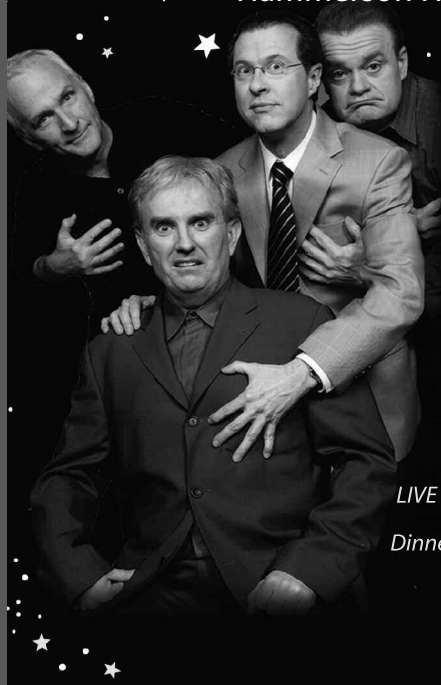
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