

We asked questions of each Trustee candidate. Below are the questions we asked, and the response received from the **acclaimed Welland candidate, Paul Turner**.

1. Why are you running for Trustee?
2. A survey of Niagara Catholic District School Board employees represented by OECTA Niagara Elementary, Secondary and Occasional Teachers and CUPE was conducted between April 20 and April 29, 2018. The results of the survey are attached. Please provide your thoughts about the results of the survey and what changes you would make as Trustee.
3. It's our understanding that Senior Administration got raises of 5% each year for three years, yet finances seem to be an ongoing concern in our Board. For example, over the last several years, there have been:
 - teacher and support staff layoffs
 - cuts to programs and services for students
 - a lack of resources in many classrooms
 - the failure to replace Teachers, Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, etc. when they are absent.
 - triple grade splits planned for some classrooms
 - the collapsing and combining of department heads in secondary
 - cuts to Educational Assistants, Communicative Disorder Assistants, Library Technicians, Custodians, English as a Second Language teachers, Education Resource Teachers, Child and Youth Workers, etc.As Trustee, what will you do to address this?
4. Elementary teachers were locked out during bargaining as they stood up for their right to speak to Trustees. What are your thoughts on this and will you meet with employees to hear their concerns and ideas?
5. If you are able to vote on the issue, are you in favour of extending the Director's contract beyond its current term (believed to be 2020)?
6. Is there anything else teachers and support staff should know about you before they vote?

Response:

I have already been acclaimed. I expect to have an open relationship with all involved with the school community. Catholic Education and our system is very important to me. I am well aware of the survey and find it credible. If there is injustice involved at the expense of our students I plan to play an active role. I can honestly say I have no ulterior motives in being a trustee. I plan on meeting with employees as I know morale seems to be a concern with our board. Please feel free to contact me if you would like.