



## PETER KOTYK Ward 4 Trustee

When Peter Kotyk speaks to students, the veteran trustee likes to encourage them to “soar with the eagles.”

First elected in 1995, Peter has been working hard for over two decades to give students that chance to excel by pushing them to be the best they can be, and by making sure the education they receive will help them get there.

A dad who volunteered at his kids’ schools and community club when they were young, he has always seen himself as a champion of education and youth. When neighbours urged him to run for school board, he decided he had the dedication and interest needed for the job. Those two things have never waned.

Being a trustee means making yourself available to listen to constituents’ concerns and being their voice at the board table, Peter says. Decisions must always be made with their needs in mind, to make sure they are getting value for the taxes they pay, he adds.

To do his job, he strives to be as knowledgeable as he can be about the issues before him. Doing your homework and arriving at board meetings prepared is important. If trustees aren’t as informed as they can be, they can’t make good decisions, he says.

He isn’t afraid to ask the hard questions at the board table, or to be the lone dissenting opinion on occasion. His toughness, he says, is connected to his desire to see the division, like its students, push itself beyond what it might think capable; to never settle for good enough.

Participating in robust discussions at the board table and hearing the different points of view presented is something Peter appreciates about the job. As someone who worked in sales most of his life, working with and for people is something he enjoys.

He knows change can sometimes take time, and he’s prepared for occasional uphill battles. But, he says, it’s all part of the job of making sure children get the very best chance to soar with the eagles.