

Evening everyone – great to see so many of you here tonight. For those that don't know me – my names Joel, I have been a part of the Tommy More Community since 2013. My daughter went right through primary school here, and my son is currently in Year 3. This is my second time on the School Board, and my first year as Chair.

This year the school board saw some structural changes – and we've moved from being a Board, to an advisory council. As a group, during this year we have worked on and implemented the new Terms of Reference. The model has changed, and now sees our group as being more of a support/advisory to the principal, rather than a decision-making body.

It's been my great pleasure this year to work alongside my fellow committee members, and also Russell and Nicolle and all the staff. I'd like to thank Kim McGuire for her role as secretary, and Janelle Cordi for her work as treasurer. Amber Fairbrass, Maureen Harrison, Gail Warren, Iwo Jakimowicz and Father Matt have been valued members of the committee.

As a group we've worked extremely hard to remove the school's deficit and we've increased enrolments and continue to work at increasing our numbers. We have had minimal fee increases and have been able to lower some levies.

As an Advisory Council we have worked with Russell and Andy to implement a maintenance program which was started earlier this year and continues to be rolled out.

The beginning of 2021 also saw Blue Bird Childcare come on board to provide before school, after school and vacation care. This was seen to be a valuable addition to our community – we felt it was a good service to be able to offer our own parents and provide the potential to attract new families to our school.

The budget for this year allowed us to execute a much-needed upgrade on our PA System. This was a priority for safety and communication reasons, and we're delighted with the final outcome.

In conclusion I would like to thank some of my fellow advisory council members for their efforts over the year. I'd like to thank Cam O'Beirne for his contribution. To Amber Fairbrass and Maureen Harrison whose term has come to an end. Their dedication and commitment over the last 6 years has been well noted and very much appreciated. We wish them all the very best.

Thanks to Russell and Nicolle for everything that you do for our school, for your leadership and for your commitment to making our school a great place for our kids. I look forward to working with you and the Advisory Council next year.