



For immediate release (January 28, 2019)

Mike Paonessa appointed new Superintendent of Evergreen Catholic Schools

Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2 Board of Trustees is pleased to announce Mike Paonessa as the new Superintendent of Schools effective August 1, 2019. Mike Paonessa joined Evergreen Catholic Schools in 2012 as Deputy Superintendent. He earned both a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education Policy Studies from the University of Alberta. Mike has served as a teacher and administrator in Edmonton Catholic Schools and Evergreen Catholic Schools for more than thirty years.

“The Evergreen Catholic Schools Board of Trustees has chosen an educational leader who has extensive experience and demonstrated exceptional performance in two Catholic school divisions. He has proven himself to be a key leader and valued employee, and the board looks forward to working with Mike more closely in a new role, that of chief superintendent,” said Board Chair Ron McKay.



Retiring superintendent, Dr. Cindi Vaselenak, said, “I am thrilled the Board has appointed Mike Paonessa as the next superintendent. Mike has had a tremendous influence on the division and on me personally as my deputy, my teammate and my friend. His commitment to providing the best education for students in our care is at the forefront of his decision making. I have worked side by side with Mike for the past seven years and I have learned a great deal from him. Without question the division will continue to grow and thrive under Mike’s leadership.”

Mike Paonessa is the 2018 recipient of the Newman Theological College Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award. At the award presentation in October, Newman President Jason West said, “We are proud to recognize Mike Paonessa’s impressive record of Christian leadership. As an educator, administrator, and volunteer leader he has made a marked impact on the Catholic community and beyond.”

Upon receiving the appointment, Mike Paonessa stated, “Evergreen Catholic is a wonderful example of excellence. We have amazing staff and students, and great support from our parents and stakeholders. We are truly blessed with the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta and I feel very privileged to be a member of a faith community which promotes the home, school, and parish working collaboratively to support the growth and formation of our students. I appreciate the support of the Board and, recognizing that I have big shoes to fill, I am grateful and honored for this call to build on the great work already taking place, foster positive relationships, and serve the ECSRD community.”

Mike and his wife Rosie have three adult children, all of whom are teachers.