



APRIL 2019 STORIES TO SHARE – School Board Trustee Shirley Caputo, Hinton

Trustee Shirley Caputo has proudly served for the last 17 years as one of two school board trustees elected in the Hinton Ward, for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division. Over her six-terms, Ms. Caputo has embodied the criteria established for this position in every way: her natural willingness to mentor others with integrity, the genuine respect she receives from both her peers and the community-at-large, and her passionate dedication to the value of public education and the students it serves. With almost half of the current board positions elected with new trustees in 2017, her wisdom and experience in matters of governance and jurisdictional memory are often sought and respected at the board table.

Although she grew up in Vegreville, Ms. Caputo has lived in the Town of Hinton for over 30 years, and raised her son, Matthew, through the public school system, where he graduated from Harry Collinge High School in 2007. She has a certificate in early child development, although she worked in the financial banking industry for most of her working career years. Ms. Caputo ran as a public school board trustee for the first time in 2001, with the encouragement of her husband, Gino, and the current retiring trustees. Over the last seventeen years, she has served as the chair and vice-chair of almost every board committee; motivated to help others succeed, and to seek every opportunity to ensure students achieve their learning goals. Actively making a difference for kids and her community, Ms. Caputo has passionately dedicated many hours of her time and energy through her membership on the GYPSD board and her involvement with provincial school board associations, as well as volunteering on many community boards and organizations. Emphasizing the importance of citizenship, she encourages youth to volunteer in their local community, and is a great role model with her own endeavours. She has been actively involved with the local food bank, library board, 'Share Shop', Rotary Club of Hinton, Relay for Life, is the current chair of the Hinton Adult Learning Society, and is a proud non-presiding Justice of the Peace in the Town of Hinton for over twenty-five years.

Ms. Caputo is a frequent and welcome visitor to local school, community and charity events. She takes her role as a school trustee with great tenacity and by adhering to high ethical standards when making decisions; ensuring that her fellow board members develop policies, allocate the division's resources, and work collectively to offer effective and efficient public education programming. Shirley meticulously monitors and evaluates board policies and procedures to ensure alignment with current legislative requirements, provincial policy, and contractual agreements. She regularly attends school council meetings, community groups, municipal council sessions, meetings with other government stakeholders and with other community agencies, to facilitate communication between the school board and its stakeholders. Her passion and singular focus on the promotion of student achievement and well-being so all students reach their full potential, make Ms. Caputo a true champion of public education, where she *inspires* to ... always seek opportunities to make connections with her community because *'if it's important to you, it's important to me.'*

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