

Focus preparing students for work world

New school board chairman outlines his priorities

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NIAGARA FALLS – Kevin Maves plans to stay the course during his term as chairman of the District School Board of Niagara.

"I'd like to continue to expand partnerships for apprenticeships and other school-to-work programs,"

Maves said Wednesday, one day after replacing St. Catharines

trustee Dalton Clark as the new board chairman. "Whatever dovetails with education, I'd like to see us continue on that path."

Maves was elected as a Niagara Falls trustee for the public board in 2000,

shortly after his son was born. He



Maves

was vice-chairman prior to his election as chairman Tuesday evening.

In addition to being a new parent, who was concerned about the future education of his child, Maves said he has plenty of kids in the family enrolled in elementary schools whose education he wanted to help improve.

"That's why I wanted to run five years ago," he said.

"People have complaints about education, but nobody acts on them."

Being an insider, Maves said, has given him insight into the steps the board has taken to improve the

quality of education for Niagara's public school students.

"Our job as educators is to make sure they have employable skills," said Maves. "We have been working on that for the past several years and over time there is going to be more of that."

In elementary schools, the focus will be to continue on literacy and numeracy skills, so kids are better equipped when they make their way into the intermediate grades and high school.

At the secondary school level, the focus will shift to preparing students for life outside the shelters of high

school, whether it's by getting them ready for university or helping them find apprenticeship programs.

"We have been working on (literacy and numeracy) for the last several years and over time there will be more of that," Maves said.

"When it comes to literacy and numeracy, everyone's on the same page. But I also want to continue to expand our partnerships for apprenticeships to help our older students who aren't continuing in a classroom. As long as we continue being forward thinking, that will be good for our kids' educations in the future."