

Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools

Board of Education Trustee Candidate Information

2020



Believe...Belong...Become

Introduction

Elected trustees are an integral part of education in Saskatchewan. Trustees have the responsibility to ensure that primary and secondary education put the needs of students first, making our schools, communities and our province stronger.

As elected officials, they are called to represent the views and beliefs of their constituents. In a Catholic school division, trustees safeguard the integrity of Catholic education, ensuring Gospel values are upheld in their decision-making and in our classrooms, breathing life into all we do. To do that, it is essential that trustees witness their own faith in their families, parishes and communities.

Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools' Board of Education trustees act as stewards of Catholic education, fostering home-school-parish connections to bring out the God-given gifts and talents of our students, parents, teachers and staff.

This package has been assembled to help you learn about Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools and to provide you with information regarding the role you can play as a Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools' Board of Education trustee.

Included in this package:

1. About Catholic Education
2. About Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools
3. The Role of Board of Education Trustees
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About Catholic Education

Catholic Education in Saskatchewan is as old as the province itself—even older. The right for minority denomination religious education (commonly referred to as separate schools) was included in the *Canadian Constitution* in 1867. When we officially became a province in 1905, the *Saskatchewan Act* reaffirmed the status of separate schools (usually Catholic in Saskatchewan) ensuring they would be funded in the same manner as public schools.

Within our Catholic schools, we believe the spiritual aspect of students—and all people—needs growth and development, just like the intellectual, physical and emotional dimensions of the person. We do this by fostering the God-given gifts and talents of our students and encouraging a relationship with God.

To understand what Catholic education is, we also need to understand what it is not.

- It is not competition, a parallel school system or a duplicate system. We believe parents are the primary educators of their children and that parents should be given the choice to receive support in developing a spiritual dimension in their child’s growth and development.
- We are not just for Catholics. Our doors are open to anyone who seeks Catholic faith-based education for their children. We see the dignity of each and every person, created in the image and likeness of God. We recognize faith is a personal journey, and we will walk with our students no matter where they are in their journey. And that includes investigation and questioning of what our Catholic faith is.
- Religion is not just another class we teach. Yes, we have formal religious instruction, but that’s just part of it. Our faith is part of who we are; it’s not a thing we do.

Being a Catholic school board trustee means you have a special responsibility to witness your own faith and support publicly-funded Catholic education in Saskatchewan.



Learn more about the unique attributes of Catholic education at <http://www.scsba.ca/about-us/faq/>

About Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools

Our official name is Christ the Teacher Roman Catholic Separate School Division No.212.

Currently, the Division operates nine (9) schools with over 1850 students (2019-20) and provides Catholic education from Prekindergarten to Grade 12 as follows:

- Dreambuilders High School, Yorkton (Grades 9 – 12)
- Sacred Heart High School, Yorkton (Grades 9 – 12; Dual-Track French Immersion)
- St. Alphonsus School, Yorkton (Grades PreK – Grade 8)
- St. Henry's Jr. School, Melville (Grades PreK – Grade 4; Dual-Track French Immersion)
- St. Henry's Sr. School, Melville (Grades 5 – 9; Dual-Track French Immersion)
- St. Paul's School, Yorkton (Grades K – 8)
- St. Mary's School, Yorkton (Grades PreK – 8)
- St. Michael's School, Yorkton (Grades K – 8; Dual-Track French Immersion)
- St. Theodore School, Theodore (Grades K – 8)

The Division employs approximately 240 full and part-time employees.

The Division Office is located at 45A Palliser Way in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Board of Education

For the 2020 election, Christ the Teacher RCSSD No.212 will elect eight (8) trustees as follows:

- 2 Trustees - Melville – City at Large
- 1 Trustee - Sub-division No. 1 (Theodore & surrounding rural area)
- 1 Trustee - Sub-division No. 2 (Geographic area surrounding Melville)
- 1 Trustee - Sub-division No. 3 (Rural area surrounding Yorkton)
- 3 Trustees - Yorkton – City at Large

Our Mission

As a Christ-centred learning community, we

Engage and challenge all learners,

Model and form character,

Know Christ and make Him known.

Our Core Values

We believe that success in Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools can only be achieved by an unconditional commitment to our core values.

Christ is our greatest teacher and the values He taught us in His gospels must permeate all aspects of daily life in the schools of the Division.

Therefore, our core values provide direction, foster understanding, and define expectations for relationships, interactions, and behaviours within the Division.

Faith

We develop a relationship with Christ, following his example by loving and serving others.

Respect

We value all people and treat one another with dignity and compassion.

Learning

We continually grow in our expertise and proficiency to support the learning of all students.

Integrity

We adhere to moral principles in our words and actions.

Stewardship

We use the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do.



Learn more by reading the Board Policy Manual at:

<https://www.christtheteacher.ca/cttcs/governance-policy-manual/>

The Role of Board of Education Trustees

The work of a trustee can be highly variable. Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools' Board of Education trustees act as stewards of Catholic education, fostering home-school-parish connections to bring out the God-given gifts and talents of our students, parents, teachers and staff.

It is anticipated that trustees will grow in understanding, confidence and ability over the course of the four-year term. Some of that work is done in the following ways:

Represent Constituents

As elected officials, trustees are called to represent the views and beliefs of their constituents. In a Catholic school division, trustees safeguard the integrity of Catholic education, ensuring Gospel values are upheld in their decision-making and in our classrooms, breathing life into all we do. To do that, it is essential that trustees witness their own faith in their families, parishes and communities.

Board Meetings

Trustees are expected to attend all Board of Education meetings. There are three general types of board meetings:

- Planning Meetings: closed-session meetings once per month; usually held in the evening, prior to the regular board meeting;
- Regular Meetings: public meetings once per month; usually held in the evening, after the planning meetings
 - Also includes closed sessions of the committee of the whole; and
- Organizational Meeting: once per year, at which time the Board Chairperson and Board Vice-chairperson and committee representation is determined.

Other meetings may include, but are not limited to, meetings with the representatives from the Ministry of Education and MLAs from the Government of Saskatchewan. There may be other ad hoc meetings with community groups and partners.

Trustees also participate in other planning sessions as scheduled by the Board (i.e., afternoon, evening, or weekend).

Trustees while on the performance of their duties shall be entitled to indemnity and expense reimbursement as noted in **Section 11** of Board Policy 7:

<https://www.christtheteacher.ca/cttcs/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/BP7-BoardOperations-Jan-2019.pdf>

Committee Membership and Board Representatives

Trustees have the opportunity to represent the board on committees or as appointed representatives:

- Melville Comprehensive High School – Governance Authority
- City of Melville Recreation and Advisory Committee
- City of Yorkton Planning and Infrastructure Commission
- Student Suspension Committee

The Board of Education also has trustee representation on the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and the Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association (SCSBA).

Catholic School Community Council Meetings and Liaison

Trustees may be assigned to represent the board as a liaison with School Community Councils (SCCs). Attending school events and SCC meetings are examples of activities that trustees participate in to help foster home-school-parish connections and relationships.

Trustees normally meet with SCC representatives annually in a forum that provides a networking opportunity for stakeholders within the Division.

Event Attendance

Attending events is a great opportunity to build relationships with your constituents and partners. Events may include school events such as liturgies, student led conferences, pancake breakfasts, and graduations.

Trustees also have the opportunity to attend conferences for professional development and to build relationships with key stakeholder groups.

Political Advocacy

Advocating for education—specifically Catholic education—requires that you both know and understand what is important to your constituents and build relationships that help you navigate various systems to be effective in your role as a trustee.

As elected officials, it is important to build relationships with other elected representatives at various levels of governance. Some examples include: trustees from school divisions; federal, provincial and municipal representatives; Ministry of Education officials; Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and Christ the Teacher Teachers' Association; Saskatchewan School Boards Association and Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association.

Qualification of Candidates

Who is eligible to become a Catholic board trustee?

A person is eligible to be nominated as a candidate for and to hold office as a Board member if they:

- will be eighteen (18) years of age or older on Election Day;
- are a Canadian citizen at the time of submitting nomination papers;
- are a voter of the school division on the day of the election;
- have resided in the school division for at least three consecutive months immediately preceding the date on which nominations papers are submitted;
- have resided in Saskatchewan for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the date on which nomination papers are submitted;
- are Catholic (any Catholic rite, such as Roman, Ukrainian, Chaldean, etc., that recognizes the pope as leader of the church);
- have all people signing the nomination paper be Catholic.

Section 43(3) of The Local Government Election Act, 2015 acknowledges that an employee of the Board of Education may seek nomination and election to the Board if the employee has first obtained a leave of absence in accordance with Section 2-54(2)(a) of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. If that employee is elected to be a Board trustee, s. 43(4) of *The Local Government Elections Act* deems the employee to have resigned from the position of employment on the day before the day on which they are declared elected unless for any reason the results of the election are overturned.

Nomination Papers

Candidates must be nominated by an eligible Catholic elector of the school division; candidates cannot nominate themselves. The nomination paper must be signed by exactly 10 electors. An elector may sign the nomination papers of more than one person.

The nomination paper must state the name and address of the person nominated, as well as the name and address of each nominator. Nominations are not valid unless the candidate's nomination statement is signed by the candidate and witnessed by two people.

Pursuant to the Board's August 17, 2020 resolution:

- Candidates will be required to submit a Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Check completed within the past 3 months of the date the nomination papers are submitted.
- Candidates will be required to provide their occupation. If retired, candidates can state retired along with the occupation retired from.

Obtaining Forms

Nomination forms to run for any of the eight (8) trustee positions at the Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools Board of Education will be available at the Board's Division Office at 45A Palliser Way Yorkton, SK.

Nomination Forms will be available online www.christtheteacher.ca

Forms will also be available at the following Municipal Offices:

City of Melville (City Hall) – 430 Main Street, Melville SK

City of Yorkton (City Hall) – 37 Third Avenue North, Yorkton SK

Village of Theodore (Village Office) – 102 Main Street, Theodore SK

Campaigning

Candidates are asked to honour the following guidelines with respect to election campaigning and the distribution of campaign material.

Board property is private property, and as a result:

1. No candidate shall be permitted to post or distribute any campaign literature on, or in, any building or property (including school grounds and parking lots) owned by the division.
2. No candidate shall enter, or be invited into, buildings owned by the board for the purpose of addressing division staff or students on matters related to their election platform.

Campaign guidelines at Parishes:

1. In order to respect the wishes of parishioners, candidates are asked to refrain from placing flyers on cars during Mass or Divine Liturgy.
2. Parishes ask that candidates do not place election signs on church property.

Current board trustees who are campaigning as candidates for re-election are prohibited from using school division assets that are required for work as a trustee (such as a @cttcs.ca email address) for election and campaign purposes.

Candidate Profiles

In order to assist voters in the election process, all candidates are welcome to voluntarily submit candidate profile information during the nomination period. The profiles include a statement of up to 150 words, a recent head-and-shoulders photograph of the candidate and contact information. Because candidates are campaigning for a role in public service, candidates may wish to include a variety of personal contact information to engage the electorate, including but not limited to, phone number, email address and social media contacts.

Appendix 1: Saskatchewan School Boards Association Election Package

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association Elections Package contains information on:

- Important dates:
 - **Nominations open no later than September 22, 2020 and close October 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**
 - **Election day: Monday, November 9, 2020**
- Role of a school board member
- Running for election
- Designation of taxes
- Voting in school board elections



<https://saskschoolboards.ca/wp-content/uploads/elections-2020-full.pdf>

A hard copy can be requested from Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools by calling (306) 783-8787.

Appendix 2: Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools 2018-19 Annual Report

Learn more about the division in our annual report to the Ministry of Education:



Learn more by reading the Annual Report at:

<https://www.christtheteacher.ca/cttcs/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CTTCS-Board-of-Education-2018-19-Annual-Report-and-Audited-Financial-Statements.pdf>