

## 2024 Trustees Election Questionnaire Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

**The Catholic Church** considers that elected democratic office is a position of immense responsibility, to be held in high trust and exercised with great humility, wisdom, and responsibility, in the interest of the common good.

*This is particularly true with respect to those who seek to govern publicly-funded Catholic Schools. Education is of first importance for the future of our society, and Catholic education, properly conducted, can be of unique importance in passing our faith to future generations. Few endeavors offer comparable opportunities to integrate faith into the entire range of personal and social values for future generations.*

*The Church teaches that the ultimate purpose of this life is to seek the truth, which is God. “God is the ultimate end of his creatures and for no reason may the common good be deprived of its transcendent dimension.” This truth is most effectively communicated to our children by their families, parishes, and schools.*

*Please confirm your name and GSCS region, and preferred contact information:*

**Candidate’s name:**

*Region (circle one) Saskatoon / Humboldt / Biggar / Martensville-Warman*

*E-mail:*

*Phone:*

*Social Media Handle(s):*

### YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS A TRUSTEE

Catholic schools are not alternate public schools. In addition to the curriculum presented by secular schools, Catholic schools provide religious instruction, impart Gospel values and display religious symbols, and serve as a critical part of the Church’s mission to evangelize youth. Catholic and non-Catholic parents freely choose to send their children to Catholic schools with the full expectation that they will be socialized into a faith community in which the person and message of Jesus is central to instruction in all subject areas.

The distinctiveness of Catholic schools arises from their teaching students to incorporate the person and the message of Jesus Christ in all aspects of their lives, while our secular society looks to the individual human being as the measure of all things. Catholic schools provide the spiritual and transcendent dimension which says that God is ultimately the measure and meaning of life.

**Q. 1. What draws you to the vocation of service as a Catholic school trustee?**

I want to ensure our Catholic schools continue to maintain strong Catholic values while providing a solid education for our children.

**Q. 2. What do you hope to accomplish as a Catholic school trustee?**

I would focus on fiscal stability and responsibility. I will ensure the resources entrusted to us by the provincial government will be allocated to create the best opportunities for our students.

**Q. 3. What experience do you have that qualifies you to serve as a Catholic school trustee?**

I have attended Holy Family parish my entire life. My parents were both teachers in the GSCS. I am a former City Councilor and MLA representing the people of Saskatoon. I am a successful executive at a major Canadian trucking company, and I sit on many non-profit boards. I am an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

[you are invited to attach a copy of your resume]

*Catholic school trustees are called to express their personal faith in full communion with and participation in the faith life of the Catholic Church.*

**Q.4. In your view, what are the most important contributions Catholic education can make to the lives of children, and the communities they will become part of?**

Catholic education instills values and morals into each child's being. Understanding faith and participating in the Church strengthens and deepens a sense of belonging and service to community. Catholic education provides a moral compass that children will strengthen throughout their lives.

**Q. 5. Please describe the nature of your devotion to Christ and the Catholic Church, including ways in which you witness to your faith in your daily life.**

My faith is an intensely personal journey. We attend mass weekly, our children have and continue to attend Catholic school and I am an active member of our Knights of Columbus Council. Without my faith and the journey I have embarked on, I would not be where I am today. I am thankful every day for the strength Jesus lends me.

**Q.6. As a trustee, how do you propose to ensure that the sacramental needs of Catholic students are supported by the Catholic school system?**

I will ensure that every decision and enacted policy follows the Catholic teaching. Students will be involved in all aspects of the blessed sacraments and outreach to those families who are struggling with decisions will be a part of our mandate.

**Q.7. In addition to ensuring that students are taught the Catholic notion of incorporating faith into all aspects of our lives, trustees are responsible for ensuring that students are encouraged to do their very best in taking in the full range of provincial educational curricula. How do you see yourself assisting in that process?**

I will ensure that the provincial curricula fits within the Catholic Church teachings. If it falls outside of those teachings, I will fight to ensure the provincial government understands our position, find solutions and be a fierce advocate for our position.

**Q.8. In order to ensure that Catholic schools and the communities they teach in remain true to the Catholic faith, it is important that Catholic school boards and individual trustees remain in contact with their local parishes and bishops. What is your plan for remaining in touch?**

While a member of Council and the provincial government I had many meetings with the Bishop and priests in our diocese. I have and continue to attend the Cathedral of the Holy Family. I am an active member of the parish and our Knights of Columbus Council. I will continue with this and keep Bishop Hagemon informed of what is happening in our schools.

**Q.9. In what ways do you envision yourself advocating for the continuing rights of Catholics to educate their children in publicly-funded Catholic schools?**

I will fight in whatever way possible to ensure that this right is never taken away. I was a part of the provincial government after the Theodore decision where we enacted the notwithstanding clause. I will continue to support that decision and the government to find ways to make sure this decision is never enacted in legislation.

**Q.10. Trustees are responsible to students and parents for ensuring that the fullness of Catholic values, beliefs and teachings are passed on to our children, and for helping to ensure that our children carry those values and teachings into the broader community. How do you propose to ensure that you yourself are aware of the full range of matter you will be expected to impart to students?**

I am accessible to everyone and I listen very well. I am an active member of the Catholic community in Saskatoon and I am sure that I will be able to be informed of all the issues.

**Q.11. As elected public officials, trustees are accountable to their constituents for prudent, wise, and equitable use of resources, in an open and accountable fashion. In what specific ways do you propose to discharge that duty?**

Anyone who has an opinion or wishes to speak to me, can call or email anytime. I'm available for all our constituents. In my provincial role, I attended over 400 meetings, events and forums each year. As a City Councilor the number was similar. We might not always agree, but I'm always willing to have the discussion. I will ensure that my constituents have access to all public discussion and decisions- there will be transparency on all fronts. I will also ensure the budget that is approved is able to be understood by the people we represent.

*[It is a requirement that candidates for the office of Catholic separate school trustee be Catholic. Many voters, including particularly parents of school children, seek assurance that trustees they elect are active, dedicated Catholics. If you have a letter of reference from your pastor, or other documentary assurance, we invite you to attach it. Please note, however, that this is not a requirement for posting of your response.]*