

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: Kolla, Richard

Region: Saskatoon @Large (Incumbent)

E-mail: rkgscs@pm.me

Phone: (306) 912-9255

Social Media Handle(s): <https://www.kollakorner.com/>

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?

With my background on different boards, my faith in Jesus Christ and the experiences of myself and my children in GSCS, I feel that it is my duty to serve.

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

Changing our funding model, adapting to more specialized schools vs one size fits all, & fight for our Lord and His Church through this Constitutionally guaranteed institution.

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

Am a practicing Catholic who spent two years as a missionary to serve and discover my vocation. Have sat on many boards throughout the years dealing with budgets, policy/procedure and personnel matters. Not to mention my management experience and owning my own small business.

[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?

Teaching and re-enforcing our traditional and apostolic teachings. The church did not begin 60 years ago, it began 2000 years ago. I work towards my children not having to hear constant rejections and divergent teachings about our faith that I experienced as a child.

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.

I pray the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the morning, night prayers with my wife and children, not to mention daily mass when I can and attending every Sunday Mass.

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?

Working with our local Bishop and those in the parishes who handle sacramental prep to see how we can better equip our students. Also noting that yes all those baptized Catholic children should receive First Confession but not First Communion if they do not attend Mass regularly with their parents/guardians.

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?

By focusing on faith, virtue and academics. Also nurturing the relationship with parents, who are the primary educators of their children, and the teachers who help these kids along the way.

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?

Open door policy and regular meetings with our Bishop based on his busy schedule.

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?

By regaining the ability for our System to set our own mill rate rather than beg the provincial government for enough money to educate and support our students.

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?

By trying to be humble and open to my role as trustee. Someone who is to listen, learn and then act.

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?

By recognizing that money doesn't solve all problems. Get to the root of the issue and go from there.

[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.]