

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: Tanya Clarke

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

E-mail: tanyapatriciaclarke@gmail.com

Phone: 306.281.3329

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 believe I have a responsibility to use the experiences of our family in navigating the education system to journey with and support other families. I spent 10 years serving the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in financial administration and my life is fuller when I use it in service of others.

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

It is a goal of mine that the division would conduct a thorough review of the specialized programs we have to support our students that do not thrive in a typical school setting. What are the outcomes we are hoping to achieve? Are these outcomes being met? What metrics are being used? Can we do things in a different way that would allow for more efficiencies or that better align with the values we hold as a Catholic school division?

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

I have 10 years of experience in financial and general administration with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, working with a board and multiple subcommittees. On a personal level, our family has had to navigate the education system with neurodivergent kiddos and have gained a wealth knowledge through both positive and less than positive experiences.

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?

To surround our children with the knowledge that they are created and known by a God who loves them. To teach them to “see Jesus in others” and to “be Jesus to others.”

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.

While my relationship with Christ is a deeply personal one, I seek always to share His love with those I encounter. To love without judgement and to be a conduit of His mercy. Our Lady has become a source of comfort in my faith life. Our family has a long history of service and ministry within the Catholic Church and I deeply value the blessings I have received.

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?

It's important to support and encourage the relationship between our schools and their connected parishes. Presence in the school by the parish personnel is key and so it is necessary that our schools extend these invitations and provide opportunities for the students to receive the Sacraments.

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 working with senior administration of the division to evaluate current offerings and to ensure new opportunities are available to students, representative of the full educational curricula.

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?

Having worked within the Diocese of Saskatoon for many years, I have come to know many of our clergy members, parishes and the current Bishop. I am comfortable reaching out if and when the situation requires.

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 continuing to support that which makes our division unique and advocating for adequate funding in general.

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 a curious person by nature and know the importance of seeking first to understand. I will always be open to listening to what is important to our families.

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 encouraging public participation in open meetings and by keeping open lines of communication with those who have questions or have feedback to offer.

[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.]