

2022 Questionnaire

Ontario Catholic School Trustees

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, district and ward, and preferred contact information:

Candidate’s name:

School District: Halton Catholic District School Board

Ward: 1, 2, & 3

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YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS A TRUSTEE

Adapted from OCSTA’s “Becoming a Catholic School 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 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 makes the human person 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 care about the environment my daughters are being raised in, and their education. I believe the Catholic Church needs to better engage with younger generations and believe the school boards have a leveraged position to reignite the relevance between the church and the rest of the Catholic community.

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

-Listen to and advocate for all Catholics with all different points of view. Work to find common ground between views. Accentuating the Catholic values that everyone agrees upon as a base to work from.

-Focus on influencing policies that help students catch up what was lost through the pandemic, but that also position HCDSB in the upper echelons of education quality

-Re-establish a culture of professionalism, efficiency, openness, trust, and respect to the trustee board.

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

First and foremost, I am a Catholic parent, and I want the best for the families, staff and students that I will support.

I bring many capabilities that I have honed through my business career in mediation, persuasion, problem solving, and critical thinking that I think would be well applied to a trustee group that has documented issues in professionalism, finding common ground, and moving issues forward.

I am professional, I listen to all stakeholders, and I get things done.

I don't bias my decision-making by a pre-determined view towards one direction or another. I aim to move things forward for what is best for the larger group – not one side or another.

I am pragmatic and am committed to deriving outcomes that are in the best interest of all students and staff of HCDSB - as a whole.

[we invite you 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 the below strong values in every-day living:

Community

Family

Charity

Kindness

Acceptance
Love
Discipline

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 try to live my life as the best Catholic Parent I can. I believe frequent self reflection is the most effective way to monitor and optimize that. I usually use Church on Sunday as a reminder for that self reflection.

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?

Good communication, feedback and monitoring with both the School board, Church and Catholic families. Engaging catholic families in a way that is relevant to them, from both the church and board, are key to ensure they are demanding it of their schools and board. If they are demanding it then that is the best way to ensure it maintains a priority.

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 all their studies, covering the full range of provincial educational curricula. How do you see yourself assisting in that process?

Working with the board, and ensuring there are goals, plans, milestones and metrics in place to monitor getting the standard of education we aspire for in our region.

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?

I think monthly or quarterly check-ins (which can take various forms: face to face, virtual, townhalls, written communications, etc...) are what are necessary to keep communication fresh and consistent.

Q.9. Some have proposed that separate Catholic schools be abolished. In what ways do you envision yourself advocating for the continuing rights of Catholics to educate their children in separate Catholic public schools?

Working with the board, and church to ensure they are employing and thinking of tactics that will better engage with younger generations and reignite a stronger relevance in the lives of those younger generations. The Catholic faith has a lot of value to offer families, the world is better off having the option for children to learn through the lens of Catholic faith.

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?

Generally I try to be a fairly well-informed person, that comes through many avenues, whether it just be news outlets, TV, Google, etc.. But generally I think the best way to stay informed is through the communications and 'staying in touch' methods I mentioned in Q8.

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?

Again, I think if not quarterly, then annually holding open town Halls or Q&As with any interested parties to go over the state of the Regional School Board, try and be as transparent as possible, solicit feedback, and answer questions in these sessions to ensure everyone leaves getting as many answers as they need to hear.

Q.12. It is a [statutory requirement that candidates](#) for the office of Catholic public school trustee be Catholic. Please attach a copy of a letter of reference from your pastor confirming your Catholicity, or other evidence, if available.

[attach letter of reference]

Pressing SUBMIT will cause a copy of this document to be returned to Catholic Conscience, for posting on our website for use by voters in choosing trustees. Should you wish later to revise or withdraw your responses, please contact us at info@CatholicConscience.org.

Thank you for helping to improve our electoral process and our schools!