

## Trustee Candidate Questions

School councils play a vital role in engaging parents in the upcoming school trustee elections. We encourage councils to support their parent communities in asking thoughtful and informed questions when speaking with candidates—whether at the door or through direct outreach. A strong trustee must understand that they work as part of a team, making decisions collaboratively rather than acting alone. Candidates should focus on how they will contribute to productive discussions and advocate effectively, rather than making promises to change specific issues, as this suggests an oversimplified view of a complex education system.

To support this, we have provided sample questions that parents can use when speaking with candidates. These questions are intended as a resource to encourage open discussion and informed decision-making, they are not meant to be asked during school council meetings with trustees. Our goal is to equip parents with the tools to engage meaningfully in the election process and help elect trustees who are informed, collaborative, and committed to student success.

### **2017 Election Questions** *(Created by Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione and Krista Scott)*

1. How do you plan to engage parents?
2. What are the top educational issues or challenges you see? How do you see these impacting Elk Island Public Schools? How do you plan on addressing them?
3. What do you consider the role of the Board? What are some unique considerations for the EIPS Board?
4. The Board is accountable to the electorate, but also to the government. How would you balance those factors?
5. Trustees come from many backgrounds. What perspectives do you feel bring balance to a board? How would you contribute to creating a balanced board perspective?
6. What is the average amount of time that a trustee spends on board business? Do you have the ability to perform necessary board tasks and make yourself available for questions and conversations with parents and community members?

# Trustee Candidate Questions

## 2021 Election Questions *(Created by Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione and Krista Scott)*

1. What are the most important educational issues or challenges you see facing public education? How do you feel they will impact Elk Island Public Schools? How do you plan on addressing them?
2. What experience do you have which prepares you for the role of the trustee? What research have you done to ensure you understand the role and expectations?
3. What do you believe the average time commitment to be? Do you have the time and ability to meet the demands of this position, including making yourself available for questions and conversations with parents and community members. How do you plan to balance this role with competing demands?
4. What strengths do you feel you would bring to the Board of Trustees?
5. What do you see as the role of parents and school councils? How do you plan to engage parents, stakeholders and the greater community?
6. Sherwood Heights has been on the top of the Elk Island Public Schools Capital Plan for the past several years. Would you advocate for this project? If yes, how? If no, what do you believe the highest capital priority to be?
7. What goals in the District Education Plan do you feel are important to keep? Which new goals would you like to see included?
8. The Board can find itself stuck between competing accountabilities as it is accountable to the electorate, but also to the government. How would you balance those groups?