

# Take **5**

## Choose Involvement

Vote in your school board election

**October 27, 2010**

As a start, **take 5 minutes** to consider:

- **5 reasons to care about public schools**
- **5 reasons school boards matter**
- **5 qualities to look for in a candidate**

### **5 reasons to care about public schools**

*Everyone—not just parents—has a stake in the success of public schools. When schools are strong and students succeed, everyone benefits.*

1. Public schools give all kids access to a first-class education.
2. Public schools exemplify diversity and teach tolerance.
3. Strong public schools develop strong citizens.
4. Public schools play a role in building a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.
5. Good public schools are good for business and the local economy.

### **5 reasons school boards matter**

*The decisions made by a school board affect virtually every important aspect of local schools, from curriculum to busing to athletics to field trips.*

1. Your school board sets goals for student achievement, and evaluates progress towards those goals.
2. Your school board adopts the budget that reflects community priorities for kids and schools.
3. Your school board determines which optional courses and programs are offered.
4. Your school board hires the administrators who manage operations and provide educational leadership.
5. Your school board is an advocate for your schools and community.

### **5 qualities to look for in a candidate**

*School trustees - the individuals that make up your school board - need certain qualities and attitudes to be effective! Here are some points to consider before you cast your vote.*

1. A strong candidate is committed to strengthening public schools.
2. A strong candidate focuses on the full range of school division issues and concerns, not a single issue.
3. A strong candidate understands that the school board sets direction and provides oversight for the division, not day-to-day management.
4. A strong candidate is committed to doing what is right for all kids.
5. A strong candidate works cooperatively with others to reach common goals.

**Need more reasons to vote in your school board election? How about the well-being and future of every child enrolled in your local public schools? The overall quality of those schools, both now and in the future, rests with decisions made by the school board. You want school board members who are capable, committed and caring, and your vote can make that happen!**

To learn more, contact your local school board office or  
The Manitoba School Boards Association  
ph: 204.233.1595 or 1.800.262.8836 Visit: [www.mbschoolboards.ca](http://www.mbschoolboards.ca)  
[www.schoolboardswork.ca](http://www.schoolboardswork.ca)

