

Candidate Information Session

Q & A Summary

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: How do we find out who our School Election Officials (SEOs) are?

A: Check your school division's website or contact the division office.

Q: Is there a limit to how long a trustee can serve?

A: No. Trustees may serve multiple terms.

Q: How long is a trustee term?

A: Each term is four years, and trustees may run again.

Q: Are elections conducted online or in person?

A: Elections are held at in-person polling stations.

NOMINATION & CAMPAIGN PROCESS

Q: When can a candidate ask for a copy of the voters list?

A: During the election period, which is 42 days before election day to 90 days after election day, a candidate is eligible to request a copy of the voters list from the SEO.

Q: When can nomination papers be submitted?

A: This has to be done as per the instructions provided by the SEO from September 16 to September 22, 2026.

Q: Do nomination signatories need to provide contact information?

A: They must provide their address to verify eligibility in the ward.

Q: When can campaign spending begin?

A: As soon as you are registered, on or after June 30 through to September 22, 2026.

**Election Day is Wednesday,
October 28, 2026.**

Q: What happens to contributions if elected by acclamation?

A: All contributions and expenses must still be recorded and reported.

Q: Can campaign materials be reused?

A: Yes, but their value must be reported as an expense or contribution.

Q: How do I report my campaign financing?

A: You are welcome to use the reporting template. Click the links for [English](#) or [French](#)

ELIGIBILITY & ETHICS

Q: Does having a spouse in the division disqualify a candidate?

A: No, but real or perceived conflict of interest must be considered.

Q: Can a trustee belong to a political party?

A: Yes, but boards are non-partisan and transparency is important.

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Q: How much time does the role require?

A: Typically 2–3 evening meetings monthly, plus there is additional time for meeting preparation, committee work, budget planning, and community involvement.

Q: Do trustees make operational decisions?

A: No. Trustees focus on governance, while administration manages operations.

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ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES *(continued)*

Q: What is the trustee role in governance?

A: Trustees set direction and policy, and rely on administration for execution.

Q: Are trustees politicians or board members?

A: They are elected (political) but serve in a governance role.

Q: Do trustees act individually or collectively?

A: Decisions are made collectively, and boards move forward as one.

Q: Do trustees represent personal views or their community?

A: They represent the interests and perspectives of their community.

COMMITTEES & COMPENSATION

Q: How are committee assignments decided?

A: At the start of the school year during the inaugural board meeting, based on interest or selection.

Q: How much do trustees get paid?

A: Approximately \$8,000–\$23,000 annually depending on the division, with possible allowances.

COMMUNICATION & ADVICE

Q: How do trustees communicate with the public?

A: Through websites, reports, meetings, community outreach, and other channels. Generally the Board Chair is the only spokesperson unless they delegate this responsibility to another trustee for a specific matter.

Q: What advice is given to potential candidates?

A: Research the role, attend public board meetings, connect with trustees. Learn as much as you can about the role, the responsibilities and possible challenges.

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