Fall General & Regional Meetings

November 26 - 27, Delta Hotel, Winnipeg

MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026 Nominations for Provincial Executive By-Election

(in order received)

Position to be elected in November 2026:

President ..... Leah Klassen, Garden Valley S.D.

Director Region 4 ..... Tim Davis, Flin Flon S.D.

Provisional Nominations:

*Vice-President (greater than 6,000 students) ..... No nominations to date

*Vice-President (fewer than 6,000 students) ..... Ashley Lachance, Prairie Rose S.D.
*Vice-President (fewer than 6,000 students) ..... Paul Magnan, Sunrise S.D.

*Director Region 1 ..... No nominations to date

*Director Region 2 ..... Heather Poirier, Red River Valley S.D.

*Director Region 3 ..... No nominations to date

*Director Region 5 ..... No nominations to date
(two positions)

*Director Region 6 ..... TBA
(appointed)

* Nominations for the above positions will remain provisional only and no by-election shall be held for these positions unless one of the current incumbents is elected during the Presidential By-Election. The successful candidate elected or acclaimed in this by-election will hold office until the close of the 2027 Annual Convention in March. Candidates who wish to continue serving on the provincial executive beyond that term must be nominated to run for office in the elections held in conjunction with the 2027 Annual Convention, as outlined in the Call for Nominations.

The information that follows was provided by candidates running for the Provincial Executive office by-election.

mbschoolboards.ca/about/fall-general-meeting-2/

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MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026 Executive By-Election Candidate Profile

President

Leah Klassen, Garden Valley School Division



Leah Klassen

Hello, fellow school board members,

A warm welcome to newly elected trustees, and welcome back to returning trustees!

Welcoming our new trustees reminds me of finding my own footing after I was elected to the Garden Valley School Division board in 2010. At my first Fall General meeting, I did not yet understand MSBA or the many other educational acronyms being used. Over time, I came to understand public education and how MSBA fits into the bigger picture.

That journey eventually led me to run for Region 2 Director eight years ago. I served four years as regional director, through COVID and Bill 64, followed by four years as Vice President for boards with fewer than 6,000 students. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the MSBA Provincial Executive and for the relationships we have built along the way—relationships I never imagined when I first ran. Getting to know dedicated people across the province who work tirelessly for public education has been the greatest gift of trusteeship.

Since June, I have served as your Interim President. Although I have spent eight years on the executive, including four as a table officer, I only recently considered the presidency—a role I never envisioned in my first year as regional director. At the heart of this responsibility is our shared commitment to ensuring that all students have access to quality education and supports.

Every conversation with a board reminds me that, despite differences in our processes and systems, students remain our top priority. Representing that commitment means bringing a provincial perspective on education to every radio, television or print interview and ensuring that meetings with ministers reflect our collective interests rather than those of a single board or region. The provincial executive's relationships and structure make this work possible: regional directors gather insight into local issues and share it at our meetings, helping us advocate effectively for you. I also value being available by phone, email or in person to understand each board's unique challenges and successes.

It has been an honor to tell your story over the past few months, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue this chapter.

Leah Klassen

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MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026 Executive By-Election Candidate Profile

Director, Region 4

Timothy Davis, Flin Flon School Division



Timothy Davis

Hi

My name is Timothy Davis I would like to welcome back all the returning trustees and welcome to all the new trustees. Congratulations to all.

A little about me for those who don't know me. I'm retired. I worked at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting for 39 1/2 years as an industrial mechanic hourly supervisor in the machine shop.

My wife and I have been together for 42 years. I have enjoyed living in the north.
All but one of my children was educated in the Flin Flon School Division (FFSD) and one of my grandchildren is presently being educated in the FFSD and others have graduated and have moved on to university and other aspirations.

I've been on the Flin Flon School Board for 24 years as a trustee and served as vice chair a couple of times.
I have served on the MSBA MUST Fund for a number of years and I have had the opportunity to serve as MSBA Region 4 Director for 2 years in the past .

I am committed to working with the other member boards to improve our schools. Safety, accessibility, inclusion, reconciliation, addressing the individual needs of each school board, and mental wellness are a few of the important issues, and I believe we need a voice in the north.

There are always ways to improve and we must be diligent in keeping that in mind as we strive to do our best to progress. We need to continue to learn, grow and help to make life's challenges easier. I believe in local voices and local choices. I will try and do my best to help.

Thank you,

Timothy A.O. Davis

Flin Flon School Division

1-204-687-0189

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MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026 Executive By-Election Candidate Profile*

Vice-President (<6,000 students)

Ashley Lachance, Prairie Rose School Division


Ashley Lachance

Education has been a significant part of my life and career. With more than 20 years of experience in Early Childhood Education, I have developed a deep appreciation for the role education plays in shaping individuals, strengthening communities, and contributing to society. I believe every student deserves access to a high-quality education that allows them to discover who they are, recognize their potential, and ultimately contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

I am currently serving my third term as a trustee and have been fortunate to serve my board as Vice-Chair and Chair. At the provincial level, I am currently serving in my fourth year as the Region 2 Regional Director on the MSBA Executive. These experiences have given me an appreciation for the responsibilities of governance, the diversity of our member boards, and the importance of ensuring that every board has a meaningful voice.

Throughout my time as Regional Director, I have made connection a priority. I made a point of attending an in-person meeting with each member board in region 2 to better understand their perspectives, priorities, and experiences. I also initiated opportunities for Region 2 Board Chairs to connect, share perspectives, and discuss issues affecting their boards by hosting Region 2 Board Chair calls. I have sought opportunities to learn from other regions and have used feedback from member surveys and conversations to continually reflect on and strengthen how I approach the role.

My philosophy, both as a trustee and as a Regional Director, is that connection must form the foundation of the work we do. When we come together, create space for open dialogue, and genuinely listen to one another, we deepen our understanding and broaden our perspectives. Our boards may have different experiences and challenges, but there is tremendous value in learning from one another.

As Vice President, I would be committed to supporting the President in serving our members, strengthening connections across the Association, and ensuring that the perspectives of boards with fewer than 6,000 students are heard and considered. I would also prioritize supporting and mentoring both new and returning Regional Directors so that they feel supported, informed and confident in representing their boards so that they are effective liaisons between their member boards and the Executive.

I would bring to this role a strong commitment to education, a collaborative approach, and a genuine belief that our Association is strongest when we work together, learn from one another, and ensure every member has a place at the table.

*Provisional nomination

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MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026 Executive By-Election Candidate Profile*

Director, Region 2

Heather Poirier, Red River Valley School Division



Heather Poirier

Heather Poirier is an experienced governance leader, elected school board Trustee, and federal public servant with a strong commitment to public education and accountable public leadership. She served as Chair of the Red River Valley School Division Board of Trustees for four years and currently serves as Vice-Chair. Through these leadership roles, she has helped shape decisions that impact students, families, staff, and communities throughout the division.

Through her experience in board leadership, Heather has developed a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing public education. She values collaborative governance and believes that effective leadership requires listening and making informed decisions in the best interests of students and communities. She is a strong advocate for transparent governance, responsible stewardship, and ensuring that local community perspectives are represented in broader educational discussions.

Heather currently serves as a Senior Briefing & Correspondence Officer with the Canada Water Agency, where she supports the Deputy Head and senior leadership on parliamentary and ministerial matters, executive briefings, and strategic communications. Her previous experience with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada included progressively senior roles as Immigration Officer, Supervisor and Program Advisor. Throughout her federal public service career, she has gained valuable insight into public policy, legislative processes, organizational leadership, and the complexities of government decision-making.

Heather's commitment to leadership and advocacy extends beyond her professional career. Through her experience as a school board chair, union local president, and community volunteer, she has developed a deep appreciation for representation, constructive dialogue, and the importance of strong public institutions. These experiences have shaped her ability to bring diverse perspectives together while remaining focused on shared goals and outcomes.

As a bilingual leader committed to the future of public education in Manitoba, Heather is eager to bring her experience and perspective to the Manitoba School Boards Association Executive Committee as the representative for Region 2. She sees this as an opportunity to broaden her contribution to public education by bringing local perspectives to provincial conversations and strengthening collaboration among school divisions. She believes that thoughtful advocacy, strong relationships, and effective governance are essential to advancing public education and ensuring that the priorities of Manitoba's school communities are heard and represented.

*Provisional nomination

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