Fall General & Regional Meetings

November 26 - 27, Delta Hotel, Winnipeg

MANITOBA School Boards ASSOCIATION

2026 Executive By-Election Candidate Profiles

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