

TOP 5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES.

Content taken from *Hosting a School Board Trustee All Candidates Meeting: A Student's Guide*

1

They set the strategic direction for the board and monitor its progress.

Trustees talk to the board's administrators, students, teachers, parents, and broader community to develop and create a multi-year strategic plan. This plan sets out priorities and goals for the board over the coming years.

2

They set school policies and assess their effectiveness.

Trustees set policies for the board and hold the director of education accountable for implementing those policies and assessing how well they are working. If a policy isn't working well or needs to be updated, the board of trustees will be involved in the process to ensure policies do what they set out to do.

3

They decide how to distribute funds.

A trustee's job includes promoting publicly funded education that is accessible to all. The board of trustees is responsible for developing a balanced annual budget that reflects the board's vision and reflects the needs of the board's community. This can affect:

- The location of schools
- The number of students in a classroom
- Funding for afterschool programs and equipment

4

They provide you with the support you need to achieve your educational goals

Students' education should be a trustee's top priority. Their job is to make sure students always have the support they need to achieve their academic goals.

What does this look like in real life?

- Ensuring that there are sufficient and updated textbooks and other learning materials in classrooms so that each student has an equal opportunity to learn
- Ensuring that technology is available to facilitate learning
- Ensuring a safe space to learn without bullying or discrimination based on things

5

They get the community involved in the classroom and are receptive to the needs of students, parents, and community members

Trustees are always working towards continuous improvement inside and outside of school. This means responding to local concerns specific to student life through telephone calls, emails, meeting requests and queries. If they don't know the answer or can't help, they should direct you to someone who can.

A trustee's job doesn't end at the school doors. A trustee is responsible for making the school system accessible to students, parents and other community members. They ensure everyone has access to relevant information regarding educational policies, opportunities, programs, and services, and create opportunities for the community to tell the trustee about their concerns. Trustees promote community involvement by creating opportunities to engage at spaces like parks, libraries, religious institutions, and through community associations/groups and public service providers, like hospitals, police, and fire services.