



Frequently Asked Questions for Trustee Candidates

When are school board elections being held?

The next general School Trustee Election will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Candidate registration opens on June 30, 2026. Candidates who wish to seek election as a School Trustee must submit a Candidate Registration Form before accepting contributions, incurring campaign expenses, or borrowing money for their campaign.

Nomination papers will be accepted by the Senior Election Official during the nomination period from September 16 to September 22, 2026. Nomination papers will be available on the Park West School Division website or by contacting the Senior Election Official at dmckinnon@pwsd.ca.

Nomination papers must include the signatures of at least 25 eligible voters whose names appear on the Voters List for the ward in which the candidate is seeking election. The deadline to file nomination papers is September 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

What are the qualifications of a school trustee?

Public school trustees come from all walks of life. They are retirees, homemakers, professionals, trades people, university students—the list goes on. What these people do have in common, however, is a sincere interest in children and education, and a desire to serve their communities.

Required qualifications for the school trustees are listed under the *Public School Act* and are as follows: Section 22:

“A person is qualified to be nominated for and elected as a trustee of a school board, if the person:

- (a) is a Canadian citizen;
- (b) is of the full age of 18 years, or will be of the full age of 18 years, at the date of the election;
- (c) is an actual resident in the school division or school district, and will have been so for a period of at least six months at the date of the election; and
- (d) is not disqualified under any of the provision of this Act or under any other Act, and is not otherwise by law prohibited, from being a trustee or from voting at elections in the school division or school district.”

Employee elected as trustee Section 22(3):

“An employee of the same school board, school division or school district is disqualified from serving as a trustee unless he or she takes a leave of absence under subsection 48.”

Park West School Division also requires that successful candidates undergo a Criminal Record and Child Abuse Records Check.

My spouse teaches in the school division in which we live. Can I still run for school trustee?

An individual whose spouse works for a school division may still be a trustee in that same division. There are, however, some matters which come before the board where that trustee would be



considered to have a conflict of interest. In those situations (such as salary negotiations), that trustee would not involve him or herself in the debate or voting on that specific matter. There are a number of other situations where a trustee could have a potential conflict of interest. Legislation requires that situations such as these be declared when a trustee takes office.

I am a public school teacher. Does that disqualify me from running for school trustee?

A teacher or other school division employee may serve as a school trustee. If you work in the same school division in which you live, you will be required to take a leave of absence from your job in order to serve.

What are the ward boundaries and trustee representatives?

Park West School Division has ten wards, with one trustee elected per ward. Although elected on a ward basis, all ten trustees have the responsibility of making decisions in the best interest of the Division as a whole, not only their own ward. The ward information can be found on our website.

A candidate does not have to live in the specific ward in which he or she runs, as long as they do reside in the division. However, nomination papers must be signed by electors who do live in the ward in which the candidate will be running. A list of eligible voters can be obtained from the Park West School Division Office in accordance with the election timeline.

I live in one school division, but own property in a neighbouring one. Can I run for school trustee in either of the two divisions?

No. The Public Schools Act requires that a candidate be "an actual resident in the school division," and that he or she has been so for a period of at least six months at the date of the election.

How many Board meetings are there?

Typically, meetings are held in the evenings of the second Thursdays at 6:00 pm each month except for the month of August. There are no meetings in July.

Do I need to be available during the day?

In addition to Board meetings there are standing committees of the Board which meet on an as-needed basis. The meetings are scheduled prior to regular Board meetings to be both time and cost effective.

When do successful candidates take office?

Successful candidates take office following the 2026 School Trustee Election. The first meeting of the newly elected Board of Trustees is scheduled for **Thursday, November 12, 2026**.

Do trustees get paid?

Trustees receive an annual indemnity established by Park West School Division Board By-Law. Current trustee remuneration is outlined in the Trustee Remuneration By-Law, which is available on the Park West School Division website under the Board of Trustees By-Laws.



Can I campaign at the school and school events?

No. Requests made by individual candidates to visit schools are not considered to be appropriate during an election campaign. These visits would include classroom visits, and meetings with parent council, or administrators.

Concerts, open houses and other school-related events are intended for students and their families, and are not for candidates to use for campaigning purposes. If a candidate is a parent in a school, they are certainly welcome to attend, in the role of parent. If a school function is held around election time, and the candidate would normally attend, they may continue to do so, but may not address the audience, or speak with school community members about the upcoming election.

Can I advertise through the school?

Campaign materials are not to be distributed or circulated via schools. This includes any campaign materials distributed indirectly (for example through a parent council) to students and/or parents. Any election signage cannot be placed within 50 metres of a voting place (the Elections Act, Manitoba).

Schools should not accept sponsorship or donations from candidates.

Can student/parent councils endorse a candidate?

It is not appropriate for councils to endorse a specific candidate or to campaign (in their role as a council member) on behalf of a specific candidate. If desired, the council may host an all-candidates meeting to help the parents in learning more about the community candidates, or the election process. The council may not, however, distribute any information on behalf or about a specific candidate.

Should a council member choose to run for elected office, they may do so and may continue in their role for the remainder of the current school year. It must be noted however, that they may not use their position in any way to promote their campaign while serving as a member of council.

I am a member of my Municipal Council. Can I still run for school trustee?

No, a person can hold and be nominated for only one office at any one time.

