

## ***Brochure text***

### **Title: XYZ School Board, children and you**

#### **Shaping communities**

XYZ School Board helps shape local communities (*community*) by making sure public education is of a high quality and meets local needs. The independent authority to make decisions regarding the direction and quality of local public education is granted to our school board by Alberta's Minister of Learning.

The Board has a responsibility to be in touch with the public's concerns, to make people aware of what XYZ School Board does and why, and to give citizens every opportunity to have a say in what our children learn. More importantly, we believe public involvement is needed if we expect our young people to emerge from our schools as well-educated and well-rounded citizens.

#### **What we do affects you**

XYZ School Board has a real impact on you and your community. Board policies and decisions affect:

- The direction and quality of local education.
- How local concerns and needs are resolved.
- The behaviour standards and core values set for students.
- To what degree the public has a voice in public education.

In addition, the Board is a major economic driver in the community as an employer and user of local goods and services.

#### **Accountability**

As elected officials, school board trustees are accountable to local citizens for their actions. This accountability includes:

- To parents and community as people entrusted with the care and education of children.
- To teachers and support staff as employers.
- To taxpayers as stewards of public funds.

Public accountability is entrenched through the election of trustees every three years. The next election is October 18, 2004.

## **Our commitment to you**

The board is committed to making every effort to inform and involve the public so that citizens have a say in what our children learn. This commitment includes addressing public education issues openly, communicating actions and decisions broadly, and being visible and accessible to those with concerns, ideas and suggestions.

By staying in touch, school board trustees believe they will be in a better position to understand and reflect in their decision-making what all citizens value and want from their local schools.

## **Your commitment to us**

Communication is a two-way street. To be effective, XYZ School Board needs you to be aware, get involved and provide input and feedback on board or public education issues. In return, you can expect to see school board and public education policies that more closely match your expectations in key areas like:

- Board actions
- Staff performance
- Student achievement
- Behaviour and operational standards
- Community development
- Helping young people become good, productive citizens.

## **Five Ways to Get Involved**

1. Take an interest in what we do as a school board.
2. Tell us if you're not being heard or your information needs are not being met.
3. Participate in issue discussions.
4. Vote at election time
5. Consider running as a voter candidate.

Want to find out more? Call us at 000-0000 or log on to our website at \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Allow space to add XYZ School Board logo)*

## ***Sidebar panel***

### ***School board responsibilities***

It's the school board's job to ensure that all children in the division (*district*) receive a quality education. Specifically, the board's responsibilities include:

- Communicating, informing and involving parents, staff, and the community-at-large in school board decisions and activities.
- Adopting an annual budget that achieves division (*district*) priorities.
- Setting goals and priorities for the jurisdiction that achieve provincial education standards, meet the needs of students and reflect the community's wishes.
- Making and enforcing policies that set out standards and expectations regarding the actions of administration, teachers, and students.
- Lobbying the municipal and provincial governments on education issues of importance to the jurisdiction.
- Adjudicating policy or decision appeals.
- Hiring and evaluating the superintendent.