

The work of school boards & the importance of community involvement

*Insert XYZ
School Board
logo here*

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About XYZ School Board

- ❖ Govern a district (*division*) that includes ___ students in ___ schools located in ___ communities (*or neighbourhoods*)
 - ✓ ___ high schools (*or K-12*)
 - ✓ ___ junior high schools (*or K-9*)
 - ✓ ___ elementary
- ❖ ___ teachers, ___ support staff.
- ❖ Budget of \$___ million
- ❖ ___ trustees

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About XYZ School Board

- ❖ Cover City of _____ (or area stretching from ___ to the west to ___ in the east, ___ in the north to ___ in the south)
- ❖ Special program features
 - ✓ Bilingual program in French, etc.
 - ✓ Learning disabled & gifted children
 - ✓ Vocational training
 - ✓ Business community partnerships
 - ✓ (List any other special features)

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School Board Responsibilities

Key Role: Ensure all children receive a quality education.

Key Responsibilities:

- ❖ Communicate, inform and involve stakeholders
- ❖ Adopt annual budget
- ❖ Set goals and priorities
- ❖ Make and enforce policies
- ❖ Lobby other governments on education issues
- ❖ Adjudicate policy or decision appeals
- ❖ Hire superintendent, evaluate performance

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The Role of Trustees

Key Responsibility:

Understand and reflect local community values and priorities for public schools in decision-making.

Trustees wear many hats:

- ❖ Communicator
- ❖ Planner
- ❖ Policy maker
- ❖ Advocate
- ❖ Educator
- ❖ Adjudicator
- ❖ Lobbyist
- ❖ Legislator
- ❖ Politician

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School Board Impacts

- ❖ Decisions are made independent of Alberta Learning that impact the direction and quality of public education.
- ❖ Public education issues are addressed that are of local importance to the community.
- ❖ The community is given a say in what children learn.
- ❖ We develop tomorrow's citizens.
- ❖ We keep the public in public education through consultation and the democratic election process.
- ❖ We contribute to the economic and social strength of local communities.

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School Board Impacts

For business:

- ❖ Major employer
- ❖ Major vendor
- ❖ Develop future young workers with practical skills in key areas like:
 - ✓ Computer technology
 - ✓ Analyzing problems & finding solutions
 - ✓ Vocational training & work experience
- ❖ Partnership and input opportunities at school and district (*division*) levels.

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School Board Impacts

For people without children in school:

- ❖ Produce tomorrow's caregivers, leaders, tradespeople, etc.
- ❖ Contribute to a community's reputation.
- ❖ Attract people and stimulate economic development. More development means more services for all.
- ❖ Do more than teach the 3Rs:
 - ✓ Life skills
 - ✓ Proper behaviour in a social context
 - ✓ Quality character traits

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School Board Accountability

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

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School Board Effectiveness

To be effective, the Board needs the community:

- ❖ To be aware
- ❖ To get involved
- ❖ To provide input and feedback

Our commitment to help this process:

- ❖ Address public education issues openly.
- ❖ Communicate actions and decisions broadly.
- ❖ Be visible and accessible to those with concerns, ideas and suggestions.

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Benefits of Public Involvement

Outcomes that match community expectations in key areas such as:

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

The end result: A better public education system.

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What Can You Do?

- ❖ Ask and answer:
 1. What do you expect public education to do for you or your community?
 2. What can you do to help public education meet your expectations?
- ❖ Take an interest in what the school board does.
- ❖ Tell us if your information needs are not being met.
- ❖ Participate in issue discussions.
- ❖ Vote at election time.
- ❖ Consider running as a trustee candidate.

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