

Potential Questions & Answers

Q. What does the school board do?

- A. We help shape our communities by governing education, one of the most important activities that any community undertakes. In partnership with parents and the community at large, we ensure that children are provided the best possible education so that they can become the future citizens the community wishes them to be.

Q. How does your board govern education?

- A. Our board develops three-year education plans and annual budgets that:
- reflect community wishes, available resources, and sound educational practice,
 - identify goals and priorities for the jurisdiction, and the results that should be achieved, and
 - ensure education stays in step with today's world.

Q. How do you ensure that three-year education plans and annual budgets reflect community wishes?

- A. Trustees spend a lot of time discussing with stakeholders public education issues that are of interest and concern to the community. This ensures that the Board understands, and reflects in its decision-making, the community's opinion regarding public education matters. School boards are then responsible for ensuring that their decisions are appropriately communicated to the community at large.

Q. How do you ensure that the school jurisdiction achieves the results that have been identified?

- A. Our board creates policies that the superintendent is responsible for implementing. We regularly evaluate the superintendent's progress and the system as a whole, making adjustments where necessary.

Q. What if I'm not satisfied with a policy, or the way a policy is implemented by administration or staff?

- A. Anyone may appeal to the school board if they are dissatisfied with the way a policy, decision or procedure affects them AND school staff or district administration have been unable to help. In these instances, the School Board, or a committee of trustees delegated by the Board, will hear the concern and decide what changes may be necessary.

Q. Who are trustees accountable to?

- A. Trustees are responsible to voters in the communities they serve. This accountability includes ensuring that the public is aware of what the board does, the jurisdiction's accomplishments in education, and that good public education is crucial to the economic and social health of a community.

Q. Trustees are elected but they don't have any real power like municipal officials do they?

- A. Actually, both municipal councillors (aldermen) and trustees are local government. They are given their mandate by the provincial government. We are elected politicians who are engaged everyday in the business of local government. Our school board doesn't have the power to tax local communities but we do decide within certain parameters how the money gets spent. We also make decisions on the direction and quality of local education independent of the provincial government.

Q. But doesn't the provincial government tell you what to do, and when and where you can do?

- A. No. There are core provincial educational standards and funding formulas common to all school boards but our board decides how we can best meet local education needs. It's also our responsibility to lobby the province and others who need to know about our community's educational interests and concerns.