



Information Sessions

The Role of Public School Board Trustees and the Municipal Election Process

August 12, 2020

Inspire Learning!

Welcome and Introductions



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Board Chair

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Welcome and Introductions



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Objectives

The purpose of this Information Session is to provide an opportunity for potential candidates, registered candidates and members of the public to:

- learn about the role of trustees,
- deepen their knowledge on the expectations and time commitments involved in becoming a locally-elected representative of the community, and
- understand how to register and expectations around running a municipal election campaign.

Asking Questions

Email: trustee.services@yrdsb.ca

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on the YRDSB website at:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Trustees/Pages/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>



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What is a School Board Trustee?

Locally-elected (or appointed) representatives of the public who represent the voices of their communities and as a collective, are responsible for overseeing and advocating for public education in York Region.

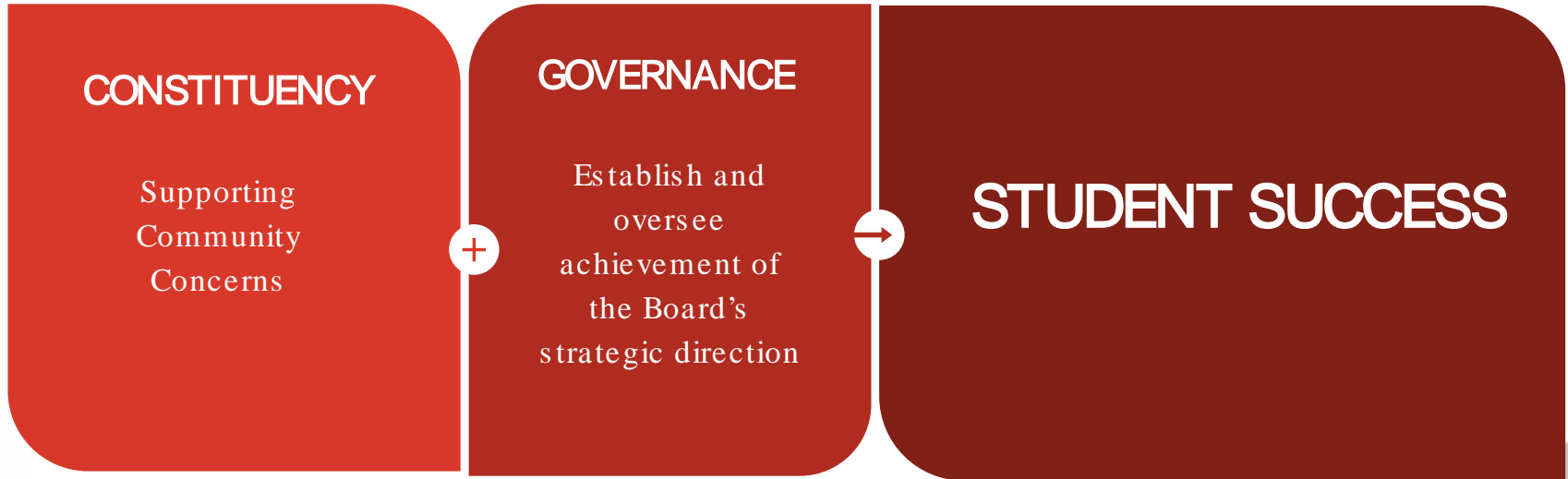
At the York Region District School Board there are:

- 12 locally-elected Trustees;
- one Indigenous Trustee; and
- three Student Trustees.



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What does a School Board Trustee do?



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Governance: Legislative Context

- [Education Act](#)
- [Bill 177, Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009](#)
- [Trustee Code of Conduct](#)

The Board of Trustees (as a collective) is responsible for student achievement and well-being and effective stewardship of resources. (Section 169.1, Education Act)



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Governance: Strategic Planning

Develop and approve a multi-year strategic plan that;

- (a) promotes student achievement and well-being;
 - (a.1) promotes a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all pupils, including pupils of any race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability;
 - (a.2) promotes the prevention of bullying;
- (b) ensures effective stewardship of the board's resources;
- (c) delivers effective and appropriate education programs to its pupils;



Governance: Multi-Year Strategic Plan



Learn More at:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/AboutUs/BoardPlans/Pages/default.aspx>



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Governance: Monitoring of the Strategic Plan

- Regular and Ongoing Monitoring Reports
- Annual Review of the MYSP (Education Act Section 169.1(g))
- Board of Trustees' Assessment (Annual)
- Director of Education Performance Review (Annual)
- Connection of all reports and decisions to Board priorities
- Policy Review and Development



Governance: Policy Development and Monitoring

“Trustees are responsible for approving, reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of the [policies and by-laws](#) which govern the Board’s operation. Policies are developed in conjunction with staff to address program, student, staff, property, Board and administration requirements.”

[OESC Module 7: Exercising Authentic Governance – The School Board’s Role as Policymaker](#)



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Governance: Policy Development and Monitoring

- Guides the operations of the board
- By giving final approval to all policies, trustees ensure that decisions reflect board values and strategic priorities
- At its highest level, policy helps to translate the vision and the intention of the school board into actions for its students
- Incorporates formal and informal feedback from students, families, community members and staff
- Reviewed regularly



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Governance: Stewardship of Board Resources

- Reviewing and approving a Balanced Budget
- Ensuring the Budget is connected to and supporting Board priorities
- Communication of the Budget
- Quarterly Reports
- Audit Committee - Review of Audited Financial Statements



Governance: Employment Function

- Director of Education
- Hiring
- Performance Review
- Compliance with Legislation and Board Policy
- Approval of Collective Agreements



Governance: Meetings and Time Commitment

- Committee Membership
- Meeting Schedules
- Meeting Preparation

At meetings, trustees are able to bring forward concerns raised by families for consideration as part of the deliberation.



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Governance: Board Committees

Information on Board Committees and Optional Committees can be found on the board website.

- [Trustee Appointments to Board Committees, 2020](#) and;
- [Committee Descriptions](#)



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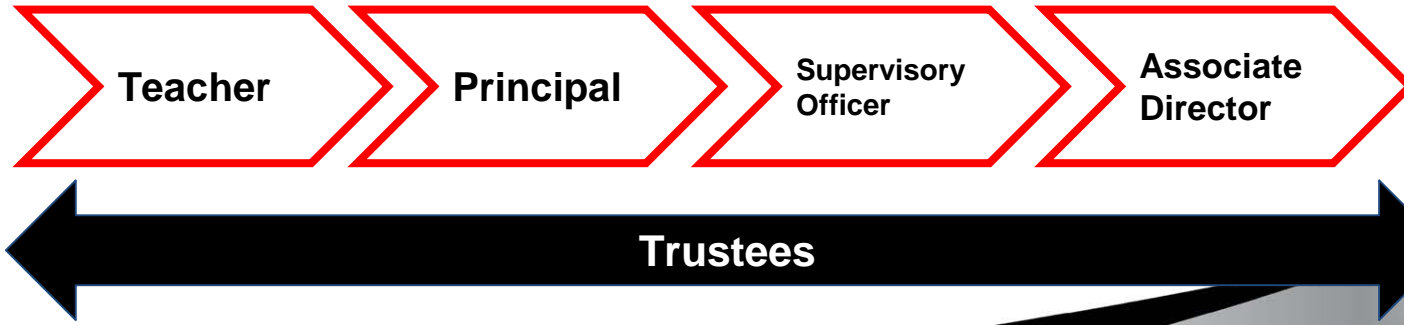
Governance: Collective Decision-Making Power

- One vote
- Make decisions that support **all** students
- Required to uphold a decision of the Board
- Individual trustees have no decision-making power.



Constituency Role

- Elected Officials
- Listen to the Public
- Build relationships



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Constituency Role: Supporting Community Concerns (Examples)

- Student Transportation Requests
- Classroom Placement Requests
- School Transfer Request
- Concerns about Student Behaviour



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Advocacy: Where the Governance and Constituency Roles Come Together

“By speaking out and advocating for the interests of school board within the publicly funded education system, trustees can influence government decisions.” ([OESC Module 10: Advocacy – Engaging the Public](#))

Examples:

- Mathematics Curriculum (2020)
- Autism Support Structure (2019)
- Trustee Code of Conduct (2018 and 2019)



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Where to go to learn more about the role

- [YRDSB Municipal By-Election Page](#)
- [OPSBA Guide to Good Governance](#)
- OESC [Trustee Professional Development Program](#)

Corporate Secretariat and Trustee Services

trustee.services@yrdsb.ca

905-727-0022 ext. 2217

Board Chair or Trustees

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Trustees/Pages/default.aspx>



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Eligibility and Compensation

- resident in the area of jurisdiction of the Board;
- Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old;
- eligible to be an elector (public school elector) of the Board for which the person is a candidate; and
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding office

Trustee Honorarium ([Ontario Regulation 357/06](#))

Chair \$34,038.09 Vice-Chair \$29,038.09 Trustees \$24,038.09



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Interested in Running: What you need to know!

- Nominations must be filed in person with Richmond Hill's Office of the Clerk before **2 p.m.** on Nomination Day (**September 4, 2020**).
 - Candidates require the following to file a nomination:
 - Completed Nomination Form (Form 1)
 - Completed Declaration of Qualification (must be signed in front of the City Clerk or designate)
 - \$100 Nomination Filing Fee (Debit Card or Credit Card preferred)
 - Identification (driver's licence or other government issued photo identification showing name, qualifying address and signature)
 - Candidates cannot raise any funds or spend any money on their campaign until they have filed a nomination!
- trustee.services@yrdsb.ca



Interested in Running: COVID-19

To keep our community and City Staff safe and healthy, emergency policies are in-place for the 2020 By-election

- An appointment to file a nomination is required
 - The nomination period cannot be extended
 - Do not wait until Nomination Day to make an appointment!
- If a potential Candidate has COVID-19, is quarantined or in mandatory self-isolation, or has any COVID-19 symptoms, they will not be allowed to file a nomination in person
- Alternatively, any potential Candidate can appoint an agent to file their nomination if they are not allowed to attend in person



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Interested in Running: What to do next!

- Visit Richmond Hill's election website for nomination forms and other important information:
 - Richmondhill.ca/RHvotes
- To ask any questions or make an appointment, contact the Office of the Clerk:
 - Email: candidates@richmondhill.ca
 - Phone: 905-747-6541



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YRDSB Campaign Resources

- [Partisan Activities and Campaigning policy and procedure](#)
- [Municipal, Provincial and Federal Elections Guideline](#)



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THANK
YOU