

ECSD TRUSTEE

QUESTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES

The Catholic Bishops of Alberta address the lay faithful in a letter calling for them to be informed and responsible voters in the upcoming municipal election.

The following are some considerations to make when considering a potential candidate for ECSD Trustee:

The red section includes quotes from the letter and accompanying clarifications.

The yellow section has questions to see how candidates intend to advocate for our faith in schools.

Edmonton Municipal Election Date

October 20

**VOTE
HERE**



“Therefore, the fidelity of our Catholic school trustees, who are entrusted with the governance of our schools in collaboration with the Alberta Bishops, is of paramount importance.”

It means: Fidelity is defined as faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support. Each Trustee is expected to uphold every teaching of the Catholic Church in its doctrinal purity as held and taught by the Magisterium (the Pope, Bishops, Priests, Deacons). Whatever is within the Catechism is to be followed first, without interpretation or deviation.

“Trustees who give an authentic witness of the Faith and who love Christ and His Church will ensure that our schools are places where Jesus is encountered, the Gospel is proclaimed, and children are formed in truth and virtue.”

It means: As stated above, each Trustee follows exactly the teaching of the Catechism, fiercely defending against secular positions/values from encroaching or creeping into our Schools and the minds of our Children, Families, Staff, and Administration. Whatever the Church does and believes is exactly what a Trustee should espouse and promote.

“As Catholics we are called to support and advocate for our Catholic school system and to ensure that our elected Catholic trustees are faithful leaders in the Church’s mission to ‘make disciples of all nations’ (Matthew 28:19-20).”

It means: Our Catholic children who attend are the primary focus for Catholic Education: they are expected to attend Mass, follow the moral teachings of the Church, and grow in their Catholic Faith as loyal sons and daughters of God. When we do this as Catholics we become the best witnesses to evangelize. Whereas, when Catholics attend Mass only sporadically or not at all, do not avail themselves of the Sacraments for their children, and dissent from the moral teachings of the Church, they are not in communion with the Church, give a poor witness to those around us, and weaken our Catholic School System.

“Identify those men and women who seek to promote the common good of society, who respect the dignity of all human life, uphold marriage and the family, care for the most vulnerable, and who authentically strive to be virtuous in their call to serve.”

It means: The ‘common good of society’ bears in mind the development of all people according to specific moral positions that view people as equal, worthy of dignity, and who seek to help each other. Upholding Marriage means the composition of a nuclear family of 1 man and 1 woman for life who are open to children naturally without contraception to prevent a child or artificial means to create a child. Caring for the most vulnerable means the destitute poor, the gravely sick, and those near death. And, in being virtuous, it means exercising the Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, Love), and the Cardinal Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude); knowing the virtues is what helps every individual to form an error-free conscience in order to make the correct decision.

If Trustees are not following the above, or do not understand or intend to follow as articulated, it raises serious issues and doubt as to their sincerity. Is this individual seeking the position for the correct reasons? Or for oneself and popularity? The correct answer by each Candidate should always answer: To follow the Catholic Church clearly and faithfully and advocate for what so many have worked to build: to provide the highest moral education possible to help our children become the best citizens for the future.

“Research candidates in your local Catholic school division, reach out to them and ask how their commitment to the Catholic Faith will guide their role as trustee so as to ensure the catholicity of our schools.”

It means: Ask questions of Candidates; suggestions are attached. You may also inquire with those employees of the local Parish their personal experience and what they know of our Catholic Schools and the Candidates, where are deficiencies and what needs to be addressed and corrected. Most importantly: do ask any Parish Priest if he is satisfied with how our Schools and Catholic School system are operating. The answers will be enlightening and most helpful to you and so to us all.

Casinos: Are Casinos in any way connected to our Catholic Schools?

Casinos should not be associated in any way with our Catholic Schools as they draw monies from individuals and families with children who can least afford it. The ends do not justify the means as we are to teach our children within our Homes, Parishes, and Catholic Schools. If monies are necessary for School programs/events/etc., the role of a Trustee is to advocate and lobby the Government. Casinos sidestep a Trustee's responsibility and place the work on parents and families.

Policies: Are Trustees following the Policies of the local Diocese/Archdiocese when forming their own Division policies?

Regarding positions of belief and matters that connect to this, a Division is to seek out the protocol of the local Diocese.

Policies: What is the Policy for those Staff and Administrators who choose not to follow the teachings of the Catholic Church? Most importantly, is that Policy enacted and enforced by their Division?

Staff and Administrators come of their own volition to teach within a Catholic School; that states clearly they want to and will teach as the Church teaches. When these individuals choose not to follow Church teaching, it discredits us as an institution and reflects poorly on Catholic Schools within the public eye.

Collaboration: Is there a cooperation and respect toward the local Parish and the Priests of the Archdiocese? Can Priests access the Catholic Schools for which they are responsible? How do Candidates understand this?

Several Priests are experiencing the inability to attend Schools to celebrate Mass and find opposition when needing to share the positions of the Catholic Church with Students and Staff. Such practices only further jeopardize the future of Catholic Schools.

Catholic Faith: Are Teachers Catholic and practicing their Faith per their contract? Are we hiring non-Catholics for positions? If so, why do we continue to build new Catholic Schools?

Lowering standards and not ensuring compliance will adversely affect our intended outcome which is to keep our Schools Catholic. This needs to be addressed.

Mass: Is Mass given pride of place and celebrated monthly within a School or in connection to the Parish? If not, why not?

A Liturgy of the Word is a celebration that can be offered by School Staff. Mass is to hold the utmost of importance and children need to be taught its purpose and value. Mass offered only 1 or 2 times per year is insufficient. Schools would never give only 2 homework assignments per year because doing so would be ineffective; therefore, Mass should also hold equal weight and importance as homework in a Catholic School.

Moral Teachings: Do student groups within the Schools reflect and honour the correct moral positions of the Catholic Church?

These groups are to follow positions that are in accord with ProLife, ProMarriage, ProFamily positions. To be clear: we as Catholics do not believe in the false positions of so-called 'women's rights, different forms of marriage, or gender ideology'. These latter should not be taught within our Catholic Schools, or, these Schools are no longer Catholic in belief.