



# The Role of the Catholic School Trustee



Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.



Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

## Dufferin-Peel CDSB Trustees

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is, as all publically funded Catholic school boards in Ontario, governed by a board of trustees. Our trustees are elected by Catholic school ratepayers every four (4) years during municipal elections. The current 11 trustees have been elected to serve from December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2018. Two (2) student trustees, elected by their peers annually, also sit with the board in a non-voting capacity.

Trustees serve as system leaders of publically funded education in their communities and province. They work collaboratively with their community to shape a vision for the board that is reflective of the input of parents, students and community members. Together, the Board of Trustees advocates for excellence in education and engenders confidence in publicly funded Catholic education. In addition, our Catholic school trustees act as stewards and guardians of Catholic education.

School board trustees, as individuals, do not have authority to make decisions or take action on behalf of the board. They are members of the board and it is the board as a whole that exercises authority and makes decisions and does so in the interests of all students of the board. Individual trustees have no independent decision-making authority over the board, schools or its employees. The *Education Act* requires school board trustees to entrust the day-to-day management of the board to its staff through the Director of Education.

Trustees play a key leadership role in ensuring that school boards operate within the standards established by the province, and that programs and services remain responsive to the communities they serve while ensuring a balanced budget under the *Education Act* and meeting the province's regulatory requirements for financial reporting and accountability.

The Board of Trustees, through board policies, has an established process in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board for addressing concerns raised by ratepayers. Trustees facilitate the concerns of ratepayers by directing them to relevant Board staff that address questions and deal directly with ratepayers' concerns.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that all the duties of the board and its staff, as established in the *Education Act*, are carried out through the Director of Education.

Together, the Board of Trustees collaborates with all levels of government in the best interest of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board community.

## Duties and Powers of Schools Boards

The *Education Act* (section 169.1) stipulates that every school board shall:

- (a) promote student achievement and well-being;
- (b) ensure effective stewardship of the board's resources;
- (c) deliver effective and appropriate education programs to its pupils;
- (d) develop and maintain policies and organizational structures that,
  - (i) promote the goals referred to in clauses (a) to (c), and
  - (ii) encourage pupils to pursue their educational goals;
- (e) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of policies developed by the board under clause (d) in achieving the board's goals and the efficiency of the implementation of those policies;
- (f) develop a multi-year plan aimed at achieving the goals referred to in clauses (a) to (c);
- (g) annually review the plan referred to in clause (f) with the board's director of education or the supervisory officer acting as the board's director of education; and
- (h) monitor and evaluate the performance of the board's director of education, or the supervisory officer acting as the board's director of education, in meeting,
  - (i) his or her duties under this Act or any policy, guideline or regulation made under this Act, including duties under the plan referred to in clause (f), and
  - (ii) any other duties assigned by the board. 2009, c. 25, s. 15.

## Duties of Board Members

The *Education Act* (section 218.1) stipulates that a member of the board shall:

- (a) carry out his or her responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under this Act, the regulations and the guidelines issued under this Act, including but not limited to the board's duties under section 169.1;
- (b) attend and participate in meetings of the board, including meetings of board committees of which he or she is a member;
- (c) consult with parents, students and supporters of the board on the board's multi-year plan under clause 169.1 (1) (f);
- (d) bring concerns of parents, students and supporters of the board to the attention of the board;
- (e) uphold the implementation of any board resolution after it is passed by the board;
- (f) entrust the day to day management of the board to its staff through the board's director of education;
- (g) maintain focus on student achievement and well-being; and
- (h) comply with the board's code of conduct. 2009, c. 25, s. 25.