

## **Political Engagement Fact Sheet: Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees**

### **What's the purpose of a public school board?**

Alberta school boards help shape the future of local communities by governing the education of young people. The provincial government, through the minister of education, grants school boards the authority to make decisions regarding the direction and quality of local public education. Accountability to the public is entrenched through the election of local school board trustees every four years (from epsb.ca).

### **What's their function?**

Trustees make decisions that directly impact the working lives of teachers. These include:

- Hiring a superintendent
- Setting a yearly calendar
- Approving the annual budget
- Establishing board policies that guide the creation of administrative regulations
- Advocating to provincial government about funding, infrastructure, and education policy

### **Did you know**

- All Board meetings, along with materials and reports, are recorded and viewable online
- Members of the public can register to speak at monthly board meetings
- 4 of 9 trustees have resigned prior to the conclusion of their term
- The political engagement committee is organizing resources to better highlight the discussions and decisions made by the trustees
- Bill 51 will remove the ability for trustees to be removed from for breach of conduct

### **Why should I care?**

- Many trustee races are uncontested; some wards in the last election had no candidates
- Turnout for school board trustees is historically low
- The far right has publicly stated that they are organizing with the intention of winning school board elections
- A new board of trustees will be elected on **October 20, 2025**.

### **What message should I share with my staff?**

- Get to know your current trustee and other candidates running in your ward
- Follow the trustee meetings to find out how they are voting on issues that matter
- Get involved in the campaign of a trustee-candidate that reflects your values
- Talk to everyone in your networks about the importance of voting for a trustee