

Education Matters School Boards Matter

On October 22, voters will head to the polls to decide who they will entrust to shape and direct local education for the next four years. That's an important decision, because **school boards matter** to everyone.

Parents know the importance of voting in school board elections because they realize that **school boards matter** to students. Research shows that the decisions made in the boardroom impact what happens in the classroom. School boards decide how many teachers and educational assistants will be hired, how much and what kind of professional development will be offered, and what supports will be provided for kids who may be struggling. Those decisions can have a profound impact on student achievement.

But school boards matter to more than parents; **school boards matter** to communities. Talk to a realtor; one of the questions frequently asked by families relocating is "How are the schools?" Talk to a business owner and you will discover that one of the considerations for moving to (or staying in) a certain location is the availability of an educated and capable workforce. Talk to your neighbours about the services they use and enjoy on a daily basis, and you will be reminded about just how essential our education system is.

Work that is done by the trustees is very important. School board policies and decisions have a tremendous impact on the local community and individual residents – whether they have children in school or not. Decisions affect local school aged children, hundreds of local employees, contractors and suppliers, and millions of taxpayers' dollars. Anyone with an interest in children and a vision for local education should – for the good of the children and the community – consider running for office.

Beautiful Plains School Division has 7 trustees on our board, four in the Neepawa and Area Ward and three in Carberry and Area Ward. Nomination papers can be picked up at the division office and can be filed September 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16th with the deadline being September 16th at 4:30 pm. If you have any questions please contact any of your school board trustees, the BPSD office, or visit our website at www.beautifulplainsd.ca.

Our mandate is to create and maintain a public education system that best serves all the children of our community and school board trusteeship is an interesting and fulfilling commitment. A strong school board makes our education system stronger, and a strong, well-run education system adds to the vitality of our communities. Please get out and cast your vote on October 22nd, because **school boards matter**.

Board of Trustees

September 2014