SCHOOL TRUSTEES INFORMATION PACKAGE

The following information has been provided for candidates wishing to serve as school trustees.

(1) What do Trustees do?
(2) Qualifications for a successful trustee.
(3) General information to candidates.
(4) Electoral Subdivisions and map of the jurisdiction.
(5) Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance Form.

Information material, applicable sections of the Local Authorities Election Act and nomination forms for school trustees may be picked up at

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Administration Office
5515 – 47A Avenue, Wetaskiwin, Alberta

Should there be any further inquiries or information required, please contact Sherri Senger, Returning Office at (780) 352-6018.

Completed nomination forms must be returned to Sherri Senger, Returning Officer at:

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Administration Office
5515-47A Avenue, Wetaskiwin, Alberta

Monday, September 20, 2010 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

The Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools has no deposit requirement for School Trustee candidates. Any person may hand in completed nomination papers. It is not necessary that candidates present them in person. Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools requires seven (7) trustees as follows:

Electoral Subdivision #1 - one trustee
Electoral Subdivision #2 - one trustee
Electoral Subdivision #3 - one trustee
Electoral Subdivision #4 - one trustee
City of Wetaskiwin - three trustees
“What do Trustees do?”

Effective School Boards are essential to the success of the education system. School Boards govern their school system, maintaining standards set by provincial legislation. Trustees are elected to serve the community, share control and create self-reliance and trust on the part of all that are touched by the local education system. On October 18, 2010 voters will decide who will sit at the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools board table for the next three years. Given the crucial role of schools in our community, it is important to have a strong group of trustees who are committed to public education.

The Board of Trustees of Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools (WRPS) shape today’s students’ into tomorrow’s citizens. They control the direction and quality of local public education and make decisions that impact the economic, social and cultural life of a community. School boards make decisions about how education is delivered locally. Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Policies and Guidelines directly impact the development of the children in the community. In short, the decisions WRPS Trustees make affect all residents, whether they have children in school or not. It is vital to have good candidates running for the school board, WRPS encourages people with an interest in children and a vision for public education to consider running for the office of trustee in the upcoming election.

The Board’s roles include:

- planning for the jurisdiction, setting priorities for the system in light of community wishes, available resources and sound educational practice
- setting goals for the jurisdiction, ensuring education stays in step with today’s world
- evaluating the chief executive officer, the Superintendent of Schools
- adopting an annual budget for the school system
- developing policy to guide the administration and employees toward division goals
- communicating with the community and staff on behalf of the jurisdiction
- educating others, with a goal of ensuring education is given a high priority by the public and to keep the community aware of the jurisdiction’s achievements
- gathering information in order to make sound decisions
- adjudicating in policy disputes
- lobbying all levels of government on behalf of education
“What are the qualifications of a successful trustee?”

Individuals don’t need to be an “education expert” to be a school trustee. The ideal school board includes trustees from all walks of life. The role of the trustee is not to serve as a professional educator or act as the spokesperson for a particular interest group. Rather the effective school trustee represents the wishes of all parents, students, and community members.

The trustee represents the wishes of parents, students and members of the community.

Trustees put the needs of children first. They run for office because they are committed to making things better for all Alberta’s children.

Trustees, acting individually, have no authority to make decisions. The School Board, in public meetings, has the power to make decisions that affect schools in the jurisdiction. Trustees must act as team players.

Trustees must be effective communicators to the community about wants and needs and ensure the public is kept up-to-date of the Board’s plans and decisions.
General Information to Candidates

Terms of Office:

- Elected at a general election – shall hold office for a term of three years.
- Holds office from the Organizational Meeting following the general election to the Organizational Meeting of the Board after the next general election.

Election Day:

- General Election
  
  2010 – October 18

Nomination Day:

- Shall be 4 weeks before election day
  
  2010 – September 20

- Receive nominations between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Form of Nomination:

- Shall be on prescribed form, signed by at least 5 electors eligible to vote in the election and resident of the jurisdiction on the date of signing nomination.

- Candidate must provide written acceptance, (prescribed form) accompanying nomination form.

Withdrawal of Nomination:

- If more than required number of candidates are nominated, any nominee may withdraw within 24 hours after close on nomination period. Withdrawal in writing to the Returning Officer.

Eligibility:

Any person may be nominated if he/she is:

- eligible to vote in the election,
- has been a resident of the local jurisdiction and the ward, if any, for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day
- not employed by a school district, a school division, charter school or private school on nomination day. (See Section 22 Ineligibility) below.

NOTE: a candidate for the Trustee of a Board of a School District that is wholly or partly within the boundaries of a city is not required to be a resident of the ward in either a general election (or by-election) but must be a resident of the School District.
Ineligibility:

A person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in any election under the Local Authorities Election Act and the School Trustee Statutes Amendment Act, 2002 if, on nomination day (September 20, 2010):

- he/she is an individual who is an employee or auditor of the jurisdiction (for which office is sought)

  Section 22 – Employees of school jurisdictions, charter schools and private schools are not eligible to be nominated as a candidate for elections to a school board on nomination day unless they are granted a leave of absence from the employing school jurisdiction. An employee may apply for a leave of absence without pay after July 1 in the year of an election, but before the employee’s last working day prior to nomination day. A school jurisdiction, charter school or private school must grant every application for leave it receives.

- on nomination day he/she is an individual who is a primary contractor of the jurisdiction

- an individual fails to meet the residency requirement on nomination day he/she may not be a candidate for trustee
**Electoral Subdivisions and Map (See attached) of the Jurisdiction:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th># of Vacancies</th>
<th>Ward or Electoral Division Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public School Trustee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rural Electoral Division No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Trustee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rural Electoral Division No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Includes the Town of Millet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Trustee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rural Electoral Division No. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Trustee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rural Electoral Division No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Trustee</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>City of Wetaskiwin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electoral Subdivision #1 (Ward 1)**
All that portion of the County of Wetaskiwin #10 (County) contained within the boundary as follows:
- Commencing at the north east corner of the east boundary of the County, then south along the east boundary to the south boundary of the County;
  - then
- West along the south boundary to Highway #2;
  - then
- North along Highway #2 to the local road known as Hillside Road;
  - then
- East along the local road known as Hillside Road to Secondary Highway #814;
  - then
- North along Secondary Highway #814 to the County boundary;
  - then
- East along the north boundary to the point of commencement

**Electoral Subdivision #2 (Ward 2)**
All that portion of the County contained within the boundary as follows:
- Commencing at the north east boundary of Range 24 then south along Secondary Highway #814 to the south east corner of the south east quarter of Section 13, Township 47, Range 24, West of the 4th Meridian;
  - then
- West along the local road know as Hillside Road to Highway 2;
  - then
- North along Highway 2 to the north boundary of the County;
  - then
- East along the north boundary to the point of commencement. This includes the Town of Millet
Electoral Subdivision #3 (Ward 3)
All that portion of the County of Wetaskiwin contained within the boundary as follows:
- Commencing at the north east corner of the north west quarter of Section 33, Township 47, Range 25, West of the 4th Meridian and proceeding south along Highway #2 to the south boundary of the County;
  - then
- West along the south boundary to Secondary Highway #771;
  - then
- North along Secondary Highway #771 to the south east corner of the north west quarter of Section 22, Township 46, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian;
  - then
- North along the west boundaries of Sections 22 and 27, Township 46, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian;
  - then
- South east along Pigeon Lake to the north east corner of the south east quarter of Section 13, Township 46, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian;
  - then
- South to the north west corner of Section 9, Township 46, Range 28, West of the 4th Meridian;
  - then
- Following the south, east and north boundaries of the Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve No 138A;
  - then
- North west along the Pigeon Lake boundary to the south west corner of the south east quarter of Section 14, Township 47, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian;
  - then
- North along the County boundary to the north boundary;
  - then
- East along the north boundary to the point of commencement.

Electoral Subdivision #4 (Ward 4)
All that portion of the County contain with the boundary as follows:
- Commencing at the north east corner of the north east quarter of Section 28, Township 46, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian proceeding south along the east boundaries of Sections 28 and 21, Township 46, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian, and continuing south along Secondary Highway #771 to the south boundary of the County;
  - then
- West along the southern boundary to the west boundary of the County;
  - then
- North along the western boundary to the north boundary of the County;
  - then
- East along the north boundary to Pigeon Lake;
  - then
- Southeast along the boundary of Pigeon Lake to point of commencement.

City of Wetaskiwin
The City of Wetaskiwin is not divided into electoral subdivisions and the trustees are elected at large.
For more information visit the WRPS Website www.wrps.ab.ca

The following information may be useful for prospective candidates and is located on the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools website.

- Strategic Education Plan
- Budget
- Audited Financial Statements
- Policy Manual
- Administrative Procedures
- Board Minutes
- Board Agendas

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)**

School Boards are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act).

The personal information that is being collected under the authority of the Local Authorities Election Act will be used for the purposes authorized under that Act.

It is treated in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If you have any questions regarding this collection contact Sherri Senger, Returning Officer of the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools at 5515-47A Avenue Street, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 3S3, phone (780) 352-6018.