what are the qualities of a successful school trustee?

Prepared to put students first
Successful school trustees put the needs of students first. They run for office because they are committed to making things better for Alberta’s children.

An effective communicator
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A team player
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Not necessarily an “education expert”
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legal considerations for candidates

Who is eligible to run for trustee?
Depending on if you are running for a Public or a Separate board or Francophone regional authority, candidates must meet the following requirements:

Candidates for Public jurisdictions must
• be eligible to vote in the election
• have lived in the local jurisdiction and the ward, if any, for six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day

Candidates for Separate jurisdictions must
• be eligible to vote in the election
• be of the same faith as those he/she seeks to represent on the Separate school board
• have lived in the local jurisdiction and the ward, if any, for six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day

Candidates for Francophone regional authorities must
• be at least 18
• be a Canadian citizen
• have lived in Alberta for six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day

These are general guidelines. Candidates are encouraged to refer to the Local Authorities Election Act and the School Act for complete information. These Acts are posted on the ASBA website at www.asba.ab.ca.

Who is eligible to vote?
You may vote in a Public or Separate jurisdiction if
• you are at least 18
• you are a Canadian citizen
• you have lived in Alberta for six consecutive months immediately preceding election day
• your residence is in the area on election day

You may vote in a Francophone regional authority if you
• are at least 18
• are a Canadian citizen
• are a Francophone
• have lived in Alberta for six consecutive months immediately preceding election day
• have a child enrolled in a school operated by the regional authority

Who cannot run for school trustee?
See Sections 22, 23 and 24 of the Local Authorities Election Act for more detail. The most common reasons for ineligibility are:
• An employee of any school district, school division, charter school or private school on nomination day cannot run for the office of school trustee – unless they take a leave of absence for this purpose. Employees may notify their employer that they are taking a leave of absence without pay on or after July 1 but before the last working day before nomination day.
• An auditor of the jurisdiction (for which the office is sought) on nomination day may not be a candidate.
• An individual who does not meet the residency requirement on nomination day may not be a candidate.
• A candidate must not otherwise be ineligible or disqualified as provided for under section 22 of the Local Authorities Election Act.

submitting nomination papers
This is general information. Please confirm all dates and times with your school board office. Local authorities may set different dates and times for filing nomination papers and they may set alternative dates for election day.

When do candidates file their nomination papers?
September 23, 2013. Typically the returning officer receives nominations at the local jurisdiction office between 10 a.m. and noon on nomination day.

How many signatures do I need?
Check with your local school board office. This requirement varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Who can sign my nomination papers?
Each person who signs a candidate’s nomination papers must be eligible to vote in the election for the office for which the candidate is running. They must be residents of the local jurisdiction on the day they sign the nomination form. Where there are wards, only electors who are residents of the ward for which a candidate is being nominated may sign the nomination form.

1 Notwithstanding this criterion, a candidate for 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 but must be a resident of the school district.

Residency
Where there is no Separate board in a geographical area, a person of any faith may run for the school board. Where there is a Separate and Public board in the same geographical area, people having the same faith as the Separate board are only eligible to run for the Separate board. Other people are only eligible to run for the Public board.

Conflict of interest
Trustees may not participate in making decisions in which their economic self-interest may be in conflict with their public duty. The economic or pecuniary interest of a trustee’s spouse or adult interdependent partner is deemed to be the economic interest of the trustee. See Sections 80 to 91 of the School Act for: the types of pecuniary interest; the steps a trustee who is in conflict must follow; the disqualification of a trustee and the consequence of refusing to resign upon being disqualified as required under the School Act.
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1200, 9925 109 Street
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Be part of important decisions... become a school trustee

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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: OCTOBER 21, 2013

Published February 2013

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