



Parents for Choice in Education (parentchoice.ca) is an Alberta-based, non-profit organization that supports Alberta students by advocating for excellence in education through maximum parental choice.

To help parents make informed decisions in the upcoming trustee elections, we invite candidates to respond to the following questions on key education issues.

Most questions are answered Yes / No / Somewhat, with space provided for additional comments.

Responses are published on our website and shared widely to help voters understand candidates' positions.

Candidate Email **MatthewDonovanTrustee@Outlook.com**

Candidate Name **Matthew Donovan**

School Board **Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39**

Ward/Area (if applicable) **Red Deer**

Please provide any links to your social media and/or website that you would like us to include with your answers:

https://www.instagram.com/matthew_donovan_4_trustee/

#1. Who are trustees primarily accountable to?

- ☒ Parents
- ☐ The wider Public
- ☐ The school system/administration
- ☐ Other:



#2. Trustees are expected to represent parents. If candidates are supported by the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), that risks shifting their loyalty toward teachers instead of parents. Have you received support from the ATA — financial, in-kind, or by participating in ATA candidate workshops?

Learn more:

[ATA trustee elections page](#)

[Vote4Kids site \(ATA-run\)](#)

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#3. Should school board funding prioritize classrooms and teachers over administrative programs and positions, for example, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) coordinators?

Learn more:

[Issues with funding](#)

[Facts on Funding](#)

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#4. Should curriculum development rely on subject-matter experts to set clear, foundational outcomes in core subjects, rather than bureaucrats or political agendas?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat



—Will you vote wisely on Oct. 20th?—
**RESPONSES TO THE PCE 2025
TRUSTEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

#5. Should sexually explicit books be excluded from school classrooms and libraries?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#6. Should parents be notified and asked for consent before children are taught sensitive topics such as gender identity or sexuality?

Learn more: [Legal rights of parents](#)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#7. Many school boards still have secrecy policies, originally mandated by the government, that prevent staff from informing parents if a child joins a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). Do you believe these secrecy policies should remain in place?

Learn more: [Secrecy in Alberta schools](#)

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Somewhat



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#8. Should school board meetings be open to the public, with exceptions only where privacy is legally required?

Learn more: In 2011, the Calgary Board of Education even considered a “gag order” to restrict public input.

In 2025, Edmonton Public moved to pull 200 classics like *1984* after a provincial directive on explicit content. **Yet no meeting notes show how trustees chose such an extreme response.**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#9. Should trustees be free to visit schools and publicly share their views on board policies?

Learn more: Example of Alberta trustees being censured under board codes of conduct in Red Deer Catholic.

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#10. Do you believe parents should have the final say in decisions affecting their child’s education, health, and well-being at school?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat



#11. Should schools provide clear, objective measures of student learning (e.g., standardized tests and percentage-based reporting) so parents can know how their children are progressing?

Learn more:

[Performance matters](#)

[In Defense of Standardized testing](#)

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat

#12. Should school boards require parental consent before outside groups or facilitators are given access to students during school time?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat

If you have any additional comments that you would like to have publicly available, especially if you answered "somewhat" to any of the questions above, please provide them below.

School board trustees must represent parents and the wider public, as the education of all children shapes our collective future. Trustees should be independent of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) to ensure they prioritize parents' interests in school governance. I have no ties to the ATA and am committed to advocating for parents in their children's schools. ATA influence on boards creates an imbalance that undermines fair representation and the quality of education.