

The School Trustee

Open Letter on Education: 2020 Provincial Election

Saskatchewan's provincial election is on Oct. 26. The Saskatchewan School Boards Association represents all 27 school boards in the province. With this open letter, we are sharing our priorities for the future of education and seeking the views of those who are running for office.

First, in these exceptional times, we want to emphasize that health, safety and wellbeing are absolute priorities for boards during the pandemic and going forward. We also know that education is the best long-term investment we can make for our province and our economy.

School boards are locally elected to bring forth the local voices of their communities. Our role is to consider all the factors needed for a properly resourced classroom. Looking ahead, we have identified three priority areas for education: **Innovation, Inclusion and Investment**.

Innovation is about navigating technology and using new practices. We need to make sure our curriculum and resources are based on the best ideas available and centered on our students.

Inclusion is about people and relationships. We need our schools to be welcoming and engaging. We need to keep committing to reconciliation. We need to support local decision-making.

Investment is about resources and working together. We need sufficient and stable funding. We need a team effort to set education property tax rates and to provide supports to our students.

We encourage you to ask candidates what their priorities are for education. What does innovation look like to them? What does inclusive education mean to them? And what investment do they think is required to ensure success for all students? Do they support strengthening partnerships and respecting the role of locally elected school boards?

We also invite you to share the priorities you have for education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shawn Davidson
SSBA President

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Local Voices – Local Choices

Nov. 9

School Board Elections

School board elections are taking place on Nov. 9 and residents are encouraged to participate in local democracy by voting. Locally elected school boards have a vital role in serving Saskatchewan's publicly funded education system. The longest lasting and most fundamental responsibility of school boards in Saskatchewan has been to bring the voice of the public to publicly funded education.

Nov. 9-15

Local Government Week

Local Government Week is being proclaimed to raise awareness and engagement in local democracy. Local governments are closest to the people, representing local voice and impacting lives every day. To highlight and profile the important role of locally elected school boards, the SSBA will be profiling school division programs and initiatives that were developed at the community level.

Nov. 12

Free Virtual Session

The SSBA, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, Métis Nation Saskatchewan, Municipalities of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities are offering a free virtual learning session about local governments. On Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m., representatives from all five organizations will answer questions from the public. Registration details will soon be available.

2020 Spring / Fall Assemblies Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
(*all members enter Zoom*)
- Spring Assembly Opens and Adjourns
 - Fall Annual General Meeting Opens
 - President's Address
 - Executive Director's Address
- 9:20 a.m. Greetings from the Minister of Education (TBC)
- 9:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting of the SSBA
- President/Vice-President Nominations
- 10:00 a.m. Committee Reports
- Audit and Investment Committee
 - General Insurance Plan
 - Employee Benefits Plan
 - Student Transportation WAG
 - Executive Composition, Membership Fees and Voting WAG
- 11:00 a.m. Annual General Meeting of the SSBA
- 2021 Strategic Plan and Budget
 - Procedures: Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions
- 11:30 a.m. Recess AGM
(*members are encouraged to remain logged into Zoom to facilitate sorting into breakout rooms after lunch*)
- 1:00 p.m. Constituency Meetings: Proposed Bylaw Amendments, Resolutions and Budget
(*members enter Zoom breakout rooms*)
- 2:30 p.m. Public Section Meeting
(*all members exit Zoom, Section members enter Section-specific Zoom*)
- Catholic Section Meeting
(*all members exit Zoom, Section members enter Section-specific Zoom*)
- 4:00 p.m. Recess AGM
(*all members exit Zoom*)

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

- 9:00 a.m. Premier's Award and Scholarship Recipients
(*all members return to Zoom*)
- 9:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting (continued)
(*delegated voters connect to ElectionBuddy, remain logged in throughout the process*)
- Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions
- 11:30 a.m. Recess AGM
(*members are encouraged to remain logged into Zoom and ElectionBuddy to facilitate resumption after lunch*)
- 1:00 p.m. President and Vice-President Speeches, Elections and Election Results
(*all members return to Zoom, delegated voters remain connected to ElectionBuddy process*)
- 1:45 p.m. Indigenous Constituency Election
(*other members exit Zoom, voters connect*)
- 2:30 p.m. Central Constituency Election
(*other members exit Zoom, voters connect*)
- 3:15 p.m. Urban Public Constituency Election
(*other members exit Zoom, voters connect*)
- 4:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting (continued)
(*all members return to Zoom*)
- Introduce New Executive
 - Oath of Office
- 4:15 p.m. Fall Assembly Concludes
(*all members exit Zoom*)

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

- 10:00 a.m. – Board Chairs Council (SSBA Executive and Board Chairs or designate only)
- 12:00 p.m.

Provincial Students’ Day Recognized in Saskatchewan

As students returned to school, Tuesday, Sept. 8 was officially proclaimed “Provincial Students’ Day” in Saskatchewan, as requested annually by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

“We know pandemic-related safety is top-of-mind in our communities as school resumes this fall under unprecedented circumstances,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA.

“We also know that school zones might look different this year, with, in some communities, families being encouraged to transport their children and the possibility of staggered drop-off times. With those factors in mind, we think it’s important as-ever to issue a reminder about school-zone safety. We are encouraging all Saskatchewan communities to pay close attention as our roads,

walkways and school zones get busier with returning students and staff,” Davidson continued.

Provincial Students’ Day was first proclaimed in 2010, in response to a resolution passed by the province’s trustees at the SSBA 2009 Annual General Meeting. It is usually proclaimed on the first Tuesday of September. This year, it was moved to coincide with the change in school-year start.

Orange Shirt Day Recognized in Saskatchewan

Joining with communities across the country, schools throughout the province again official recognized “Orange Shirt Day” on Wednesday, Sept. 30, as requested annually by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).

“The SSBA, on behalf of our 27 member boards of education, are encouraging school communities, and all residents of the province, to participate in Orange Shirt Day by wearing orange and taking the time to reflect on residential schools this Wednesday,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA president.

“This special day that we recognize each year represents an opportunity for each one of us to think about residential schools, expand our understanding of this history and commit to growing together through education toward reconciliation,” Davidson added.

Orange Shirt Day is part of a larger movement in the country to provide opportunity to unite in a spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. The movement



SSBA staff participating in Orange Shirt Day

is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in B.C. in 2013, emerging out of the account of a young girl having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

The day was first proclaimed in Saskatchewan in 2016, in response to a resolution passed by the province’s trustees at the SSBA Spring General Assembly. The Government of Saskatchewan

proclaims the day each year at the SSBA’s request.

“Orange Shirt Day is an important opportunity to learn more about the history of the residential school experience and its impacts,” Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said. “Participating in Orange Shirt Day provides a chance to bring schools and communities together on a shared path toward reconciliation.”



"The mission of the SSBA is to provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards of education to support student achievement."

President:

Dr. Shawn Davidson

Vice-President:

Aleana Young (on leave)

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgodia

Central Constituency:

Jaimie Smith-Windsor

Conseil scolaire francaskois Constituency:

Martin Prince

Indigenous Constituency:

Kimberly Greyeyes

Northern Constituency:

Harry Morin

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications and Policy Support:

Jill Welke

Corporate Services:

Georgia Hanwell (acting)

Employee Benefits and Insurance Plans:

Jeff McNaughton

School Board Development, Strategic Human Resources, Legal Services and First Nations and Métis Education:

Ted Amendt, PhD

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The School Trustee is published approximately five times per year (September to June).

If you would prefer to receive *The School Trustee* by hard copy, please contact the Association at the email address above.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association is part of the Provincial Education Response Planning Team that is working hard to ensure the safest and most appropriate way of offering education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay up-to-date at:

www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

The SSBA continues to offer all services to our members.

Encourage Indigenous Trusteeship



The SSBA produced a video about Encourage Indigenous Trusteeship. It is available using the following link: <https://youtu.be/6vv0o-LN3mA>.

Innovation Inclusion Investment



The SSBA produced a video about Innovation Inclusion Investment. It is available using the following link: <https://youtu.be/pQxvBuybgg>.