

Trustee Candidate: Kim Pasula

* Candidate profiles are published as submitted.

Who are you, and why are you running to be a trustee in Red Deer Catholic?	"I am Kim Pasula, a lifelong Albertan born and raised in rural Alberta, where I graduated from a small school in a class of just 19 students. With three university degrees and a Chartered Director designation under my belt, I've built a career blending business leadership and education—running my own small businesses, teaching as a university lecturer, and now serving as President and CEO at Brett Capital Corporation, where today I focus on philanthropic ventures that uplift communities, advancing initiatives from homelessness prevention to anti-poverty alliances. My wife Patricia and I raised our two children, Brett and Kate—both graduates of Red Deer Catholic schools—in the nurturing environment of Sacred Heart Parish, where we've been active members since we settled in Red Deer in the 80s. As an incumbent trustee, I've chaired the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association's Governance Committee, co-founded GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education), and led the Catholic Education Foundation. I'm running for re-election because I am passionate about education. It is a calling, and it's where my heart is. My favourite Saint, John Paul II, speaks about a "civilization of love," and I believe that through Catholic education, by nurturing the whole child in Christ's love, this is achieved. Facing today's challenges, from funding pressures to diverse classrooms, I want to continue advocating for Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools to remain a champion of faith-integrated, educational excellence, ensuring every student thrives spiritually and academically without barriers. In the spirit of honouring our people, I also plan to achieve RDCRS becoming the employer of choice. For more information about me and my platform, please visit: PasulaYourVoiceForCatholicSchools.ca . "
How should Catholic school trustees balance their responsibility to uphold and witness to the Catholic faith with their duty to represent a diverse community that may include people of other faiths or no faith at all?	"Catholic trustees have a profound duty to witness the faith as the heart of our schools' mission—rooted in the Gospel's call to form consciences attuned to justice, service, and truth—while embracing subsidiarity and solidarity to honour all voices in our pluralistic society. We aim to uphold Catholic identity through curriculum integration, sacramental programs, and partnerships with families and parishes, ensuring our schools reflect Christ's teachings without proselytizing. Representation can be achieved through active listening—through tools like town halls, parent councils, teacher forums, and simply making yourself available and accessible to have conversations—to weave diverse perspectives into policies that foster inclusion and respect. As a volunteer with many non-profits providing services to people and organizations working with vulnerable populations and marginalized people, I've seen how authentic witness emerges from humility, by serving everyone with dignity. As your trustee, I would champion policies where faith illuminates universal human needs—mental health, equity, love—creating welcoming spaces where non-Catholics feel valued partners in our shared pursuit of the common good. One of my favourite division mottos from the past is: "All are welcome. All belong.""
Given limited resources and competing priorities, how should Catholic trustees decide between funding faith formation programs (e.g., chaplaincy, retreats, sacramental preparation) and other pressing needs such as classroom supports, technology, or staffing?	"Resource decisions demand stewardship, guided by the principle of the common good: prioritizing what sustains our Catholic mission while addressing immediate needs. To allocate equitably, trustees should start with data-driven planning utilizing annual needs assessments involving teachers, parents, and faith leaders. Our faith must permeate all that we do. This mission supports informed decision-making and creates synergy. During my tenure, I've prioritized both by remaining true to our Catholicity while on a mission to augment frontline supports. Ultimately, we advocate strongly for increased per-student funding to eliminate false choices, ensuring faith and learning reinforce each other for every child's flourishing. The board has not achieved satisfactory engagement with frontline educators or parents. I have advocated and will continue to advocate for a clear, improved consultation and engagement system, embedded in policy, that empowers our talented educators and dedicated parents to inform and elevate the division to the highest standards of a quality Catholic educational institution. "
What do you see as the biggest challenge to the long-term	"The greatest challenge is chronic underfunding amid rising enrollments, inflation, and diverse learner needs—straining our ability to maintain distinct

sustainability of Catholic education in Alberta? What role should trustees play in ensuring Catholic schools remain distinct, valued, and viable within a pluralistic society?	Catholic identity while competing in a secularizing society that questions faith-based education’s value. This erodes resources for specialized programs, educator retention, and facilities, risking dilution of our mission. Trustees must lead as visionary stewards. First, amplifying advocacy through alliances like the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association to secure equitable, predictable provincial funding that honours our constitutional rights. Second, fostering distinctiveness through innovative faith integration that demonstrates tangible value, like improved student well-being and achievement. In pluralism, we build viability by modelling inclusive excellence: transparent reporting on outcomes, collaborative forums showcasing Catholic contributions to social justice, and defending school choice as a democratic pillar. From my work as a founder of GrACE and my roles with education associations, health benefit and pension organizations, I’ve seen how proactive trustees can rally support—I’ll continue engaging and uniting stakeholders to ensure RDCRS remains a cherished, sustainable haven where faith inspires societal good. "
Do you support public education in Alberta? What is the role of private education and/or charter schools in Alberta?	"Absolutely, I support public education in Alberta as a vital cornerstone of our democratic society, ensuring accessible, high-quality learning for all families. As a trustee for Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, I view our publicly funded separate system as an integral part of this landscape, rooted in constitutional protections that allow us to integrate faith with excellence in education, while collaborating with other public boards on shared priorities like a fair funding formula and student mental health and well-being. I recognize that not everyone shares this vision—there have been, and continue to be, calls to consolidate into a single secular system, which overlooks the value of choice in honouring diverse family needs. As Catholics, we hold that parents are the primary educators of their children, a teaching rooted in Catholic doctrine and tradition. This principle emphasizes that parents have the first and most fundamental responsibility for their children’s upbringing, formation, and education, particularly in matters of faith, morals, and values. The Catholic Church teaches that this role is both a natural right and a sacred duty, derived from the family’s role as the “domestic church” and the primary environment for nurturing faith and virtue. This principle naturally supports their right to select schools aligning with their values, whether public, separate, francophone, home, cyber, charter, or private. It is in the interest of Catholic education to support choice. In this pluralistic context, charter and private schools provide options that some parents choose. Still, I prioritize advocating for substantial funding—generous and free of restrictive red tape—to sustain and strengthen our public, Francophone, and separate systems first, ensuring no child is left behind due to resource constraints. As Catholics, by honouring diverse family needs, ensuring justice through collaboration, and amplifying the voiceless, we can uphold parental choice without division and garner the resources we need in Catholic schools, fostering stronger Catholic schools within a broader ecosystem for all Albertans. "
As an RDCRS Trustee, how would you advocate for improvements to classroom learning conditions in light of current per-student funding levels? In your response, please also address the biggest challenges facing publicly funded Catholic education today, how these issues should be addressed, and the role of the Board in resolving them.	"The biggest challenges in publicly funded Catholic education today are stagnant per-student funding failing to keep pace with inflation and growth, leading to larger classes, staffing shortages, and possible long-term deferred maintenance—exacerbating educator burnout and diluting faith-integrated supports. These strain our mission to form the whole learner amid rising needs and diverse learners. As trustee, I would advocate continually: leading RDCRS delegations to lobby Alberta Education for indexed increases and additional grants (e.g., for class size reduction, diverse learner support, sufficient transportation funding), partnering with the teachers to inform joint briefs, and leveraging my governance expertise to refine funding formulas for adequate funding and regional equity. Improvements start locally—reallocating budgets to prioritize educators, modern tools, and wellness programs—while piloting innovations, especially those coming from the school front lines. The Board’s role is pivotal. As collaborative stewards, we should be conducting stakeholder engagement and audits to inform advocacy, co-create policies reducing teacher and admin burdens, and transparently report progress, fostering accountability. At RDCRS, our culture needs to allow failure as a tool to learn, to allow for innovation and calculated risk-taking, as opposed to cultural situations where failure leads to reprimand and punishment. By uniting faith, data, and voices, we’ll transform challenges into opportunities for resilient, excellent Catholic classrooms. As an individual trustee, I have no authority. The board speaks with one voice, and decisions reflect the majority’s vote. I acknowledge that the division

	has made financial mistakes, and the board as a whole must share responsibility for the negative outcomes we face today, namely, a lack of reserves to address pressing matters. Despite this, I find comfort in knowing that our schools continue to deliver quality education in a loving, caring environment for those we were created to serve—our children and young people at RDCRS. I am deeply grateful for our staff who make this possible. "
As an RDCRS Trustee, how would you balance the perspectives provided by Senior Administration with other important viewpoints (e.g., teachers, parents, and community members) in your decision-making? In addition, how would you build relationships and work collaboratively with the Alberta Teachers’ Association at both the Local and Provincial levels?	"Balancing perspectives requires subsidiarity, empowering those closest to the work. This can be structured through inclusive governance: initiatives like quarterly advisory councils blending admin insights on operations with teacher forums on classroom realities, parent surveys on needs, and community roundtables on broader impacts. During my chairmanship, I implemented evaluation tools incorporating diverse input e.g. staff culture and engagement survey, ensuring decisions reflect holistic wisdom, not silos. One of my favourite lines has been: to unleash the talent and creativity of the front-line educators. The survey and front-line engagement process were either halted or not delivered to a satisfactory extent. The board needs to return to the implementation of these strategies to improve our culture, honour our people, and drive innovation to improve student outcomes. This engagement and planning work is key to turning our division around. To build ATA relationships, I would prioritize trust-building. At the local level, activities like creating and building upon joint sessions on budget and strategy, and other initiatives that proper engagement will bring to the fore. Provincially, activating joint committees on funding and curriculum, with our trustee associations like the ACSTA and ASBA, and encouraging staff associations like ASBOA, CASS and CCSSA to undertake the same. Regular check-ins, transparent communication, and shared advocacy—e.g., on class sizes—would foster partnership, recognizing teachers as mission co-leaders. This collaborative spirit, rooted in solidarity, strengthens RDCRS for all. "
Why should voters pick you in addition to the other qualified candidates?	"Voters should choose me for my proven track record as an incumbent trustee and former chair with integrity and deep roots in Red Deer Catholic. I contribute to the board a love of education and respect for all people at RDCRS, business acumen for fiscal stewardship, and hands-on volunteering from community service to anti-poverty alliances, which will encourage governance reforms and enhanced educator and broader stakeholder engagement. Unlike others, my entrepreneurial edge, founding and innovating organizations like GrACE, ACSTA, ASEBP, BCC, and expertise in stakeholder engagement equip me to be an effective change agent at RDCRS, including cultural reform. My family’s lived experience in the Church, education, and our schools ensures authentic advocacy for faith and learning. As a bridge-builder, I will unite administration, teachers, parents, and faith leaders with humility and a JPPII-inspired vision. In this pivotal election, choose continuity that acknowledges needed change while planning progress—I’ll preserve our Catholic distinctiveness, champion resources, address cultural issues, honour our people, and make RDCRS a model of joyful, sustainable education. "
Are there any other comments / ideas / thoughts that you want to share?	"As we approach October 20, I propose that we recommit to our sacred mandate: “to make Christ known to children.” Catholic education isn’t just schooling—it’s forming students who serve with compassion in Alberta’s mosaic. I’m grateful for teachers’ earnest witness and invite all to connect via my site PasulaYourVoiceForCatholicSchools.ca or Facebook—your voice will shape our path. With faith and unity, we’ll overcome challenges, ensuring every child encounters hope. Thank you, ATA Local 80, for this opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas with you. "