

Trustee Candidate: Marty Reed

* Candidate profiles are published as submitted.

Who are you, and why are you running to be a trustee in Red Deer Catholic?	My wife and I have called Red Deer home since 2008. As a parent with children in Red Deer Catholic schools, I want to ensure every student is supported to succeed. My community and school involvement includes the Piper Creek Optimist Club, Red Deer Ringette, the Red Deer Food Bank, and in-school activities such as Mock Interviews and Skills Alberta trades exploration. These experiences have shown me the importance of strong schools supported by dedicated staff. Professionally, I have managed teams, budgets, and long-term planning, which has prepared me to oversee resources responsibly. I want to bring both community and professional experience to the role of trustee, ensuring decisions reflect the needs of students and families, while also supporting staff and protecting the long-term strength of Catholic education.
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 are entrusted with preserving our faith while serving a community that includes people of many backgrounds. These responsibilities work together as our Catholic identity calls us to welcome, respect, and serve. For schools, this means reflecting Catholic values of compassion, dignity, and service, while remaining inclusive and responsive to every family who chooses Catholic education. By working alongside parents, staff, and parish communities, trustees can support faith formation and help build schools where all students feel they 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?	Classroom supports and teachers must be a priority because they have the most direct impact on student learning. At the same time, faith formation programs are part of what makes Catholic education distinct and meaningful. Trustees need to maintain balance by supporting these programs while ensuring essential classroom resources are protected. My budgeting experience has taught me how to weigh competing needs and make responsible choices, which I would bring to the role of trustee.
What do you see as the biggest challenge to the long-term sustainability of Catholic education in Alberta? What role should trustees play in ensuring Catholic schools remain distinct, valued, and viable within a pluralistic society?	The biggest challenge to the long-term sustainability of Catholic education is ensuring it is understood and valued within a diverse society. Catholic schools must continue to welcome all families while showing the unique value of faith-based education. Trustees play an important role by engaging openly with the community, supporting programs that reflect both Catholic identity and academic excellence, and building trust through transparency and consistent communication. By doing so, trustees help ensure Catholic education remains strong, distinct, and viable for future generations.
Do you support public education in Alberta? What is the role of private education and/or charter schools in Alberta?	Publicly funded education is the backbone of Alberta’s education system, and Catholic schools are a vital part of that success. Alberta’s students consistently perform among the best in the world in literacy, math, and science, showing the strength of our public education model. Private and charter schools can provide unique opportunities for some families, but resources must prioritize the public system where most children learn. Strong, equitable support for public education protects Catholic schools’ accessibility and ensures all students can succeed.
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.	Classrooms are under pressure from limited per-student funding, growing enrolment, and increasingly diverse learning needs. To improve learning conditions, trustees must advocate strongly to the provincial government for sustainable, predictable funding that allows for smaller class sizes, educational assistants, and specialized supports. Advocacy should include working with other boards, engaging parents and community partners to add their voices, and presenting clear data that shows how funding shortfalls directly affect student outcomes. Catholic education also faces the challenge of remaining distinct within a publicly funded system while resources are stretched. The Board’s role is to keep classroom learning central, steward resources wisely, and plan responsibly for long-term growth so Catholic education remains valued, viable, and accessible to families. Senior Administration provides important expertise, but trustees must also listen carefully to teachers, parents, and the wider community to make balanced decisions. Good governance means weighing these perspectives, building consensus, and ensuring that decisions reflect both classroom realities and long-term goals. My leadership experience has shown me the value of collaboration and accountability when diverse viewpoints need to be brought together. I see the ATA as an important partner: locally, in supporting teachers and staff directly, and provincially, in advocating for policy and resources that strengthen classrooms. By maintaining respectful relationships and creating ongoing dialogue with staff, families, and the ATA, I will work to ensure decisions remain grounded, inclusive, and focused on what is best for students.
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	Senior Administration provides important expertise, but trustees must also listen carefully to teachers, parents, and the wider community to make balanced decisions. Good governance means weighing these perspectives, building consensus, and ensuring that decisions reflect both classroom realities and long-term goals. My leadership experience has shown me the value of collaboration and accountability when diverse viewpoints need to be brought together. I see the ATA as an important partner: locally, in supporting teachers and staff directly, and provincially, in advocating for policy and resources

you build relationships and work collaboratively with the Alberta Teachers' Association at both the Local and Provincial levels?	that strengthen classrooms. By maintaining respectful relationships and creating ongoing dialogue with staff, families, and the ATA, I will work to ensure decisions remain grounded, inclusive, and focused on what is best for students.
Why should voters pick you in addition to the other qualified candidates?	Voters should support me because I bring a mix of professional, community, and volunteer experience that directly relates to the role of trustee. I have managed teams, budgets, and long-term planning, giving me the skills for accountability and responsible oversight. My volunteer work reflects my commitment to supporting youth. As a parent, I understand the importance of strong communication between schools and families. I will bring this experience and commitment to the trustee role, ensuring decisions put students first, support staff, and keep Catholic education strong and responsive to community needs.
Are there any other comments / ideas / thoughts that you want to share?	Catholic education is strongest when parents, staff, students, parishes, and the wider community work together. As trustee, I will listen, act with integrity, and make decisions that respect both our faith and the people who live it each day in our schools. My commitment is to keep Catholic education strong, welcoming, and trusted for the future.