

# Trustee Candidate: Chris Andrew

\* Candidate profiles are published as submitted.

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| <b>Who are you, and why are you running to be a trustee in Red Deer Catholic?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>My name is Chris Andrew and I work at the YMCA as one of the Supervisors of Youth Program at the Northside Community Centre in Red Deer. I took on this role after being a teacher, curriculum coordinator, vice principal and principal in Red Deer Catholic during a 35 year career that saw me serve in 10 school communities during that time.</p> <p>I am running for trustee in Red Deer Catholic because it was a place where I got to work and I reaped the rewards of someone who lobbied on my behalf to give the division the resources it needed to provide a safe and caring environment for my children and all youth to learn and grow.</p> <p>I also wanted to take on this role because I feel my present experience working with youth in the community through my role at the Red Deer YMCA and my experience as a teacher and administrator in Red Deer Catholic will be a valued perspective to bring to the decision making table as the Board of Trustees navigate the next chapter of Red Deer Catholic.</p>                                         |
| <b>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?</b>                                                                                                                      | <p>All members of the Red Deer Catholic community enter into our facilities knowing that all actions in that day/year will be guided by the division's Principles of Practice. This applies to all members of the school division including teaching staff, support staff, administration, Senior Administration, Board of Trustee members, parents and students. We are all on a Faith journey. However, we must expect from all members of our community to be open to moving forward on that journey and encouraging/expecting all members of our community to continue to grow. All members are not only invited to participate to the complete extent that they can but also continue to grow in that direction. Those that do not wish to or refuse to move forward in their faith journey are free to choose another form of education that better fits their beliefs and values if the Principles of Practice do not fit align with their personal beliefs.</p>                                                                                                         |
| <b>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?</b>                                                                             | <p>Our Faith is the reason for our existence as separate school board. As a trustee, I will believe that one of main roles is to act as a pillar in the formation of faith in our community. This does not mean that the formation of faith has an unlimited budget, however we must strive to find meaningful ways to make faith be meaningful to parents, staff, and students. I believe it is meaningful for us to gather as community so that both staff and students can see that they not alone on their journey of faith as an individual, a classroom, or a school. These opportunities have to be done in a cost effective way so we can continue to provide the resources necessary to deliver the curriculum students require to be productive members of the society.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>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?</b>                                                                                                       | <p>As I answer this question, I answer it based on my perspective as a parent and teacher involved in education over the past 35 years. Catholic Education is larger than buildings and excellent programs. It is built on employees that choose to proudly proclaim their Catholic faith, showing youth and the community that the principles of faith have a place in a society that continues to devalue faith in daily exchanges.</p> <p>I believe that by having our common core values is Catholic Education's superpower. These common values hold our staff (teaching and support), students, administration, and parents to a higher standard. These higher standards stretch everyone in this partnership so that our Good becomes Better, and our Better becomes Best.</p> <p>It is this commitment to excellence that we challenge each member of the community to Struggle and eventually Emerge a better person through this process.</p>                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Do you support public education in Alberta? What is the role of private education and/or charter schools in Alberta?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>I am a strong advocate for Public Education. I am open to private education as long as it remains completely private not receiving government funding for their operation. Public Education needs to be funded with all the resources, not fragmented funding to special interest groups. As a province and a community, we can not afford to have a two-tiered system where student success is based on the financial status of their family. Each student needs to have the opportunity to be successful with full access to the necessary resources. Funding for private education fragments the money that students have access to and unfairly disadvantages the students in the public system.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>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.</b> | <p>The current state of funding for public education by the richest province in Canada is unacceptable. As a trustee, I need to advocate to create a relationship where government and school divisions are working together rather than at odds with one another.</p> <p>How did this become so polarized? What did teachers do to no longer have a voice at the table in the curriculum that they teach in their classroom. I can understand that they may not have the final say but at least a voice in the process so that the concept of learning readiness, pedagogy, implementation plan, resource creation, etc. are a part of the complex process of introducing a curriculum. I understand that introducing a new curriculum is not going to be easy but done in a sequenced process supports the burden and provides students with the necessary skills to be successful in an everchanging world.</p> <p>Why have support staff been reduced? Why are we as a province not able to provide a living wage to our support staff, who are integral members of the</p> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>education process?</p> <p>I see my role as a trustee to create a better working relationship between educational staff and government so that each side recognizes the role and direction of the other. We need to find ways to work together for mutual gain.</p> <p>We all gain when Public Education is done well in a fiscally funded way. It is our future.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>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?</b></p> | <p>Decision making should be based on taking in all the perspectives and making decisions that will have the maximum impact on the division.</p> <p>In working with the Alberta's Teachers' Association, I believe we have to both be realistic. We can not have everything that we want. We have to work together to make the most of the funds we have and live with both the rewards of those decisions as well as the consequences. When I say this, I believe that we need to live with and work with those consequences until the next time we meet to work to remedy them. As we work together in team, not all of our decisions will be perfect, but we need to work cooperate and listen to one another to find common ground and be committed to the choices that we made and alter those choices when an appropriate time comes to revisit that decision.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Why should voters pick you in addition to the other qualified candidates?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>I believe I should be one of the candidates that should receive your vote for three reasons.</p> <p>1.) I have demonstrated in my role as a teacher/administrator and now as a Supervisor of Youth Programs at the YMCA that I have the ability to work collaboratively to seek ""Win-Win"" solutions to our challenges to maximize opportunities for youth.</p> <p>2.) Secondly, I have a passion for working with youth. I left a career in education to continue to work with youth in the various programs that the YMCA I supervise. I am in tune with the challenges youth face as I talk with youth about the challenges they face in an education system that does not meet their needs. I have stayed current with these challenges and I want to be a part of a solution.</p> <p>3.) Lastly, I want to give back to a school division that I had the pleasure to work in for 35 years. I want the present staff of our division to be proud of the work that and have the opportunity to make lasting impressions on the youth of our community that they get to interact with each day. During my career in Red Deer Catholic, many trustees worked to create the environment for those opportunities for me and now I want to support the schools so the next generation of teachers/support staff get that chance as well.</p> |
| <p><b>Are there any other comments / ideas / thoughts that you want to share?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Please be an informed voter. Read and learn as much as you can about each of the 14 candidates, we all have platforms to move the division forward in the the next 4 years. Make your decision with the best information that is available and MAKE SURE YOU VOTE.</p> <p>Advance Polls are from October 14th -18th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Red Deer- iHotel &amp; Conference Centre- 6500 67 Street</li> <li>- Central Red Deer- Baymont by Wyndham 4311 49th Avenue</li> <li>- South Red Deer- Harvest Centre 4847A 19th Street (Westerner Park)</li> </ul> <p>All centers are open from 10 AM- 8PM</p> <p>Election Day- October 20th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Red Deer- Northside Community Centre YMCA 6391 76th Street</li> <li>- North Red Deer- iHotel &amp; Conference Centre- 6500 67 Street</li> <li>- North Red Deer- Parkland Mall 6359 50th Avenue</li> <li>- Eastside Red Deer- Deer Park Church 2960 39th Street</li> <li>- Central Red Deer- Baymont by Wyndham 4311 49th Avenue</li> <li>- South Red Deer- Collicutt Centre 3031 30th Avenue</li> <li>- South Red Deer- Harvest Centre 4847A 19th Street (Westerner Park)</li> </ul> <p>All centers are open from 10 AM- 8PM</p>                                                                                      |