

Here's What People are Saying About Their Public School Trustees

Trustees across Ontario have helped students and their families navigate what can often be a complex and confusing system. A number of stories and anecdotes of trustees helping and supporting families have been shared with OPSBA. These include:

- *My trustee has been active on several committees making huge impacts at the board. They advocated for the best interest of students and asked staff to reconsider how policies were implemented and pushed to ensure that special needs students with complex needs had smaller class sizes than what was necessary under provincial guidelines BECAUSE it was the right thing to do for students. These decisions were not made lightly, and staff and trustees had to really work things out to make it tenable for students. The current supervisor, without meeting with parents, or community members decided to overturn that decision.*
- *Our local trustees have always been an integral part of the education of our children...as a former school council chair and mayor of our community, I've had many positive interactions with trustees. I have worked with them to accomplish goals not only within the schools my children have attended but also the community at large. It would be an affront to democracy to have the role of the trustee diminished or removed.*
- *My trustee, many years ago, provided information, engagement, and encouragement to get involved in my children's education and the broader education system. Her dedication to public education was inspiring and helped me be both a better advocate for my neurodiverse children (two of whom are now in university) and to be an informed advocate for the best practices that serve student needs and adequate funding for those needs.*
- *Trustees have helped support our Indigenous children, they have helped us work for healthier classrooms, and supported all the students in their districts.*
- *A trustee in Timmins helped secure funding for a robotics program 20-some years ago. Her dedication to kids opened the doors for many children in the north who would not have had a program like this if it was left to bureaucrats in Queen's Park.*
- *Our trustee makes an effort to attend as many school events as possible. She talks to parents and staff and gets to know the things that makes each of our schools unique. That knowledge is critical when making decisions that impact the schools. Not only is she an advocate for our schools, but she is also a connector.*
- *My trustee supported my work on a community advisory committee. These committees play a critical role in ensuring that our school boards are responsive to their communities' interests and needs. She attends our school council meetings and helps answer questions that we don't know the answer to. She helps explain board policies. She is even helpful if I bump into her in the community, always checking in on how things are going in the school.*
- *Our trustee liaised with our local Residents' Association to help us acquire a much-needed crosswalk and also helped ensure the safety and liveability of our community by providing information, advice and support to guide our negotiations with local developers.*