



April 11, 2017

Mr. Rick Massini
Chair
Medicine Hat School District No. 76
601 - 1 Avenue SW
Medicine Hat AB T1A 4Y7

Dear Mr. Massini:

In the 2017 municipal election cycle, strengthening the voice of locally-elected school boards through trusteeship is more important than ever before.

Alberta's school communities continue to benefit from the local representation of the trustees they elect every four years, in addition to other municipally-elected officials. This is meaningful and gratifying work for those who choose to serve.

As locally-elected school board trustees, we are uniquely privileged to work together to make decisions on behalf of more than 600,000 students in kindergarten to Grade 12, and determine the best ways to allocate a provincial education budget of \$8 billion on local education priorities. We take this privilege and responsibility seriously, and we want to ensure we have the best possible candidates from all over the province running in the 2017 school board trustee elections.

To that end and, as in previous years, we have prepared a package of information to assist school boards in creating their own local election campaign packages. Ideally, there would be as few acclamations as possible to ensure a strong roster of candidates, along with increased voter interest and election participation.

This year, we will produce a series of short videos on various aspects of running for local political office, and on running for school board trustee. These videos, and the supporting information, will be sharable across digital media. We encourage you to link from your school jurisdiction website – and individual school websites – to the ASBA website. We would also welcome your ideas and feedback on how we can work together. As well, ASBA's Communications Services is ready to assist school boards with their own local campaign readiness efforts.

Enclosed are two copies of the *Be a leader in your community: become a school board trustee* handbook for promoting the October 16, 2017 school board elections, and a quantity of tri-

fold brochures for prospective school board trustee candidates. These resources, as well as others referenced in the handbook, are posted on the ASBA website at <http://www.asba.ab.ca/trustee-election/>. More resources will be added throughout the 2017 election season.

Let's work together to ensure a robust election – with more candidates than ever before running in every Alberta jurisdiction – to ensure our children have the best possible locally-elected school board trustees working on their behalf in leading Alberta's public education system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Martin', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mary Martin
President

cc: Superintendent

Enclosures:

Be a leader in your community handbook

Be a leader in your community tri-fold brochures for prospective candidates