



DSBN Guidelines for Use of School Board Resources during the Municipal and School Board Election Campaign 2026

Guideline Statement/Objective:

To establish instructions for the use of school board resources by trustees and staff during the Municipal and School Board Election campaign period. The guidelines do not prevent current elected trustees from performing their role and duties during their term of office.

Background Information:

School board trustees are locally elected representatives of the public and the community's advocate for public education. A trustee's role is to maintain a focus on student achievement and well-being and to participate in making decisions that benefit the entire board districts, while representing the interests of their communities.

Municipal and school board elections are held every four years.

The next term of office (2026-2030) begins for publicly elected school board trustees on November 15, 2026.

Key Dates – 2026 School Board Elections

May 1, 2026	Nomination and Campaign Period Begins
August 21, 2026 (by 2 pm)	Nomination Day (Last Day to be Nominated) Final Day for Withdrawal of Candidacy
October 26, 2026	Voting Day
November 14, 2026	2022-2026 Term of Office Ends
November 15, 2026	2026-2030 Term of Office Begins
December 31, 2026	Election Campaign Period Ends
November 14, 2030	School Board Term of Office Ends

Definitions

School Board Resources

School Board resources may include: staff time, computer, telephone, cell phone, laptop, tablet, website, newsletter, email, board or school social media accounts. This list is to include any board-issued resource and any other information technology devices given to a trustee for their work use as a trustee of the board.



Before the Campaign Begins – Prior to May 1, 2026:

- Trustees are expected to continue using their board-issued resources in fulfilling their duties as a member of the Board.

During the Campaign – After May 1, 2026:

- Trustees will not use their Board office or school board-issued resources for any campaign-related purposes. This includes displaying election-related materials in Board offices, board meetings, board events or school-related events.
- Trustees will not distribute or use the Board logo or Board telephone number or other contact information, including any Board branding in any campaign-related material.
- Trustees must ensure that all campaign-related material is funded by the trustee in their capacity as a candidate.
- Trustees will not use the Board’s email system to distribute election-related electronic messages and will not use the board’s voicemail system to record election-related messages.
- Trustee websites and newsletters that are funded by the Board, are not to include campaign-related material.
- Trustees will use their personal information technology resources to create and use social media accounts created for campaign purposes. These are to be separate and distinct from any accounts used by the candidate in their position as a trustee.
- Trustees will not distribute (print, electronic or other method) any election-related materials via students or parents/guardians.
- Trustees will not use the services of Board staff to assist or advise in the preparation, distribution or communication of any election-related material.



Other Activities during the Campaign Period:

School Visits – by Trustees

- Trustees who are seeking re-election may continue to perform their duties which may include their continued participation in local events held in schools while they serve their term of office. Trustees should not participate in activities at school events that could be perceived as campaigning.

School Visits – by Political Candidates

- Requests for visits by any political candidate for the purposes of campaigning are not appropriate.

School-Related Events

- Political candidates are not permitted to campaign at school-related events intended for the students and parents/guardians of that school. Current trustees may continue to attend and participate in school-related activities but shall not campaign or conduct themselves in any way that may be perceived as campaigning.

Campaign Involvement – Students and Staff

- Students and staff who support or work for a registered political candidate must keep all campaign or election-related activities to outside of school/work hours and off board property.
- Students are encouraged to participate in curriculum-based activities (Civics) and democratic awareness programs such as Student Vote.

Related DSBN Policy:

- DSBN Policy A-15: Policy Advocacy and Participation in the Political Process