Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District No. 42

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2026

SD42 BOARD OF EDUCATION

The *Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education* is comprised of **5** Trustees representing the community of Maple Ridge, and **2** Trustees representing the community of Pitt Meadows. Trustees are elected every four years at the same time as the mayor and city council for the two municipalities.

TIME COMMITMENT

Although time commitments vary, it is not uncommon for a trustee to spend an average of 15 hours per week on activities associated with the role, including:

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE WORK

School trustees participate in monthly board meetings and also attend advisory and committee meetings as board representatives.

GRADUATION AND AWARD CEREMONIES

Trustees attend year-end graduation and award ceremonies for six district secondary schools and a number of district programs.

SCHOOL VISITS

School trustees visit schools throughout the year. There are currently 6 secondary and 22 elementary schools in the district.

CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

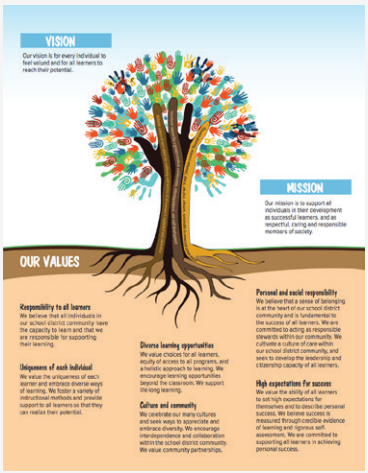
Trustees also attend various school concerts and performances during the year. Christmas concerts are especially popular.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

Total remuneration for board members for 2026/27 is as follows:

- Trustee $34,900
- Vice-Chairperson $36,994
- Chairperson $39,088

SD42 STRATEGIC PLAN



http://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/strategic-plan/

BOARD MEETINGS 2026/27

September 23, 2026	March 10, 2027
October 7, 2026	April 14, 2027
November 18, 2026	April 28, 2027
December 9, 2026	May 19, 2027
January 20, 2027	June 16, 2027
February 17, 2027	

SD42 CORPORATE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Teresa Downs
Superintendent/ CEO

Richard Rennie
Secretary Treasurer/ CFO

School District 42
Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows
Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE
22225 Brown Avenue
Maple Ridge
e. elections@sd42.ca
t. 604.463.4200

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2026
OCTOBER 17, 2026

- Election Period: Jan 1 - Sept 18
- Nomination Period: Sept 1 - Sept 11
- Campaign Period: Sept 19 - Oct 17
- General Voting Day: Oct 17

CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
11995 Haney Place
Maple Ridge
e. election@mapleridge.ca
t. 604.467.7423

CITY OF PITT MEADOWS
12007 Harris Road
Pitt Meadows
e. election@pittmeadows.ca
t. 604.465.5454

A GUIDE FOR MAPLE RIDGE - PITT MEADOWS
SCHOOL TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

Disclaimer: *This document provides general information and should not be relied upon as legal advice.*

BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Boards of education share a co-governance relationship with the provincial government, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the Ministry of Infrastructure. The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets the general direction for K-12 education, including curriculum, funding, and the legislative framework within which boards operate, while the Ministry of Infrastructure is responsible for capital planning and school infrastructure.

Boards are responsible for operating school districts based on the educational aspirations of their local communities and in accordance with the provincial direction. The respective responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Child Care and boards of education are described in the School Act (https://bit.ly/4dUwqHj). The School Act outlines the primary functions of boards of education, including:

- attending meetings
- setting local policy for the effective and efficient operation of schools
- employing the staff necessary for school district operations, primarily through the superintendent
- establishing conditions of employment for employees
- approving the school district's operating budgets and capital plans
- hearing appeals from parents/guardians and students where a staff decision significantly affects the student's education, health, or safety

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL TRUSTEE DO?

School trustees are the members of the school district's board of education. They are locally-elected representatives of the public and they are the community's advocates for public education in their local school district. Trustees are required to carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under the School Act.

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 school district while representing the interests of their community.

TRUSTEES ESTABLISH THE DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The board is responsible for setting the overall direction for the school district. Trustees work together to establish the board's strategic plan, which sets the direction of the district for parents/guardians, the public, and district staff, and lays out the priorities and strategic direction of the school district.

The board ensures that the superintendent carries out responsibilities for implementing the board's strategic plan. The superintendent acts as the CEO and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school district and for delegating work to staff. For example, the board does not take on the responsibility for the evaluation of individual teachers or administrators. Instead, the board should ensure the superintendent has put in place the necessary procedures and actions to ensure teachers and administrators within the school district are evaluated on a regular basis according to established board policy.

TRUSTEES ARE FINANCIAL STEWARDS

School districts are significant businesses in communities. Boards have important responsibilities for approval and oversight of school district financial decisions. One of the most important aspects of governance for trustees is to connect district goals, strategic planning, and financial capacity through the establishment of the school district's annual budget. The board oversees development of a strategic plan and the allocation of resources to support that plan. The board ensures the budget and staff allocations are in alignment with the plan and with the identified goals intended to improve outcomes for students.

TRUSTEES ARE A PART OF A TEAM

A school trustee is a member of a team: the board of education. Under the School Act, the trustee's power lies in membership on the corporate school board. What this means is that the board has the authority to make decisions or to take action; individual trustees in and of themselves do not have this authority.

While healthy debate is an important aspect of good governance, once the board has voted, it is the board's decision and an individual trustee's responsibility to act in a manner that promotes and upholds the board's decision and to communicate the board's decision to the public.

The issues that motivate an individual to run for school trusteeship can often be deeply personal. A passion for issues in public education is important to guide one's work, however, it will be vital to the success of the board of education for each member trustee to look beyond personal issues in order to make decisions that benefit the school district as a whole.

TRUSTEES ARE COMMUNITY LEADERS

Trustees work with their board of education colleagues and with other community partners to ensure that all the students within the board's jurisdiction have equal opportunities to reach their maximum potential.

While members of the board act as representatives of their community, their primary job is to participate in policy-making and strategic planning that are in the interests of all learners in the district and are grounded in promoting student achievement and well-being.

Successful trustees manage to balance the governance role with the representative role, participating in decision-making that benefits the whole board while representing the interests of their community.

BOARDS ARE EMPLOYERS

As employers of all school district staff, boards are responsible for establishing policy and oversight for employee relations. Day-to-day employee relations and staff management are delegated to the superintendent. For unionized staff, the terms and conditions of employment are established through legislation, board policy, and collective agreements.

BC operates under a two-tier structure for teacher collective bargaining, with the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) negotiating provincial issues, and local teacher associations negotiating local issues.

Boards will have a significant role to play to ensure their local priorities are heard during the next round of bargaining. BCPSEA (bcpsea.bc.ca) is the employers' association as well as the accredited bargaining agent for the province's 60 public boards of education.

BCPSEA bargains provincial issues on behalf of boards of education with unionized teaching and support staff in British Columbia. Local bargaining is done through local teacher associations, CUPE locals, and boards of education.

AM I UP TO THE JOB?

Trustee candidates do not need to have a background in public education. However, the following skills and experience would be assets for potential trustee candidates and will be developed throughout a trustee's tenure.

UNDERSTANDING OF OFFICIAL MEETING PROCEDURES AND SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE POLICIES

Candidates should review a copy of the board's bylaws, governance policies and codes of conduct (http://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policy-manual/). Candidates may wish to attend school board meetings or speak to existing board members to get an understanding of the process.

AWARENESS OF THE LEGAL, POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE PARAMETERS IN WHICH SCHOOL BOARDS OPERATE

Board operations are often highly prescribed by legislation or provincial policy. In executing their duties, trustees will develop an understanding of the legislative process, the structure and relevant provisions of school legislation (especially the School Act), government policy, and board policy.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial oversight of a school district is complex work that requires trustees to be able to interpret financial statements, information and data, ask the right questions, and ultimately govern the financial, business and capital decisions of their school district. Trustees, through the trustee orientation program and BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) learning events, will be provided with the support necessary to fulfill their financial oversight responsibilities.

WILLINGNESS TO LEARN

The board has the responsibility to competently protect the interests, image and credibility of the school district, to ensure its financial viability, and to act in accordance with all applicable laws and board policies governing the board and its actions. These are significant and complex responsibilities that entail trustees acquiring education sector knowledge and skills to deal with the required range of information and decisions effectively, and to exercise appropriate oversight and accountabilities to protect the interests of students, families and the broader community.

REMUNERATION

The board approved the following total trustee remuneration effective July 1, 2025: $32,950 for trustees, $34,450 for vice-chairperson of the board, and $35,950 for the chairperson of the board. Trustee remuneration for the 2026-2030 Board of Education, effective November 1, 2026, will be determined on June 17, 2026 in accordance with board policy *2920 Trustee Remuneration*, which provides for annual adjustment effective July 1 each year based on the Metro Vancouver Consumer Price Index differential for the prior year.

TIME COMMITMENT

Although time commitments will vary, it is not uncommon for a trustee to spend an average of 15 hours per week on all the activities associated with the role, including:

- preparing for and attending board meetings and committee meetings
- attending community meetings as a representative of the school board
- attending BCSTA Annual General Meetings
- responding to the concerns of parents/caregivers and other community members
- responding to telephone calls or e-mails, meeting requests and queries from parents/caregivers or members of the community as a member of the board

The Annual Work Plan for the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education is included on the following page.

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION 2026-2027

Trustee orientation will being on November 4, 2026, and will continue through the fall and winter, with specific dates and times to be confirmed.

BOARD MEETINGS 2026/27

September 23, 2026
October 7, 2026
November 18, 2026
December 9, 2026
January 20, 2027
February 17, 2027
March 10, 2027
April 14, 2027
April 28, 2027
May 19, 2027
June 16, 2027

November 4, 2026 - New board oath of office ceremony

BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL WORK PLAN

SEPTEMBER

- ☑ Approve Audited Financial Statements
- ☑ Approve Five-Year Capital Plan for Minor Capital Programs
- ☑ Approve Supporting All Learners: Enhancing Student Learning Annual Report
- ☑ Receive Audit Findings Report
- ☑ Receive Student Transportation Update
- ☑ Receive Summer Learning Update
- ☑ Receive District Operational Plan
- ☑ Receive Executive Compensation Disclosure Report
- ☑ Receive Board Policy Development Committee Work Plan
- ☑ Receive Whistleblower Protection Policy Annual Report
- ☑ Complete Conflict of Interest Declarations

OCTOBER

- ☑ Approve Statement of Financial Information
- ☑ Complete Board Self Evaluation
- ☑ Represent Board at BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting
- ☑ Consider Motions for BCSTA Annual General Meeting

NOVEMBER

- ☑ Issue Annual Chairperson Report
- ☑ Elect Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- ☑ Receive Enrolment Update
- ☑ Represent Board at BCPSEA Symposium
- ☑ Attend BCSTA Trustee Academy

DECEMBER

- ☑ Approve First Quarter Financial Statements
- ☑ Approve Preliminary Budget Process and Consultation Timeline
- ☑ Approve School Growth Plans
- ☑ Receive Chairperson's Trustee Appointments to Committees and Community Liaison Groups
- ☑ Receive Enterprise Risk Management Update
- ☑ Consider Motions for BCSTA Annual General Meeting

JANUARY

- ☑ Approve Motions to BCSTA Annual General Meeting
- ☑ Receive Ministry Funding Update
- ☑ Receive Progress Report on District Operational Plan
- ☑ Complete Financial Disclosure Act Statement of Disclosure Forms
- ☑ Represent Board at BCPSEA Annual General Meeting

FEBRUARY

- ☑ Approve Board and Departmental Operational Plan Updates
- ☑ Approve Board/Authority Authorized Courses and Programs of Choice
- ☑ Approve Non-Resident Student Fees
- ☑ Approve Second Quarter Financial Statements
- ☑ Adopt Amended Annual Budget Bylaw
- ☑ Receive Three-Year Enrolment Projection
- ☑ Receive Enhancing Student Learning Feedback Report
- ☑ Receive Input from the Indigenous Education Council on Budget Priorities
- ☑ Receive Input from Partner Groups and Students on Budget Priorities
- ☑ Represent Board at BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

MARCH

- ☑ Approve Facility Rental Fee Rates
- ☑ Approve Board Meeting Schedule
- ☑ Approve Trustee Remuneration
- ☑ Receive Ministry Funding Estimate for Upcoming Year
- ☑ Consider Updates to the Strategic Plan
- ☑ Represent Board at BCSTA Meeting
- ☑ Represent Board at Ministry of Education and Child Care Liaison Meeting

APRIL

- ☑ Receive Proposed Preliminary Budget
- ☑ Engage in Budget Consultation Process
- ☑ Approve Preliminary Budget Changes and Budget Bylaw
- ☑ Approve Annual Facilities Grant Spending Plan
- ☑ Attend the BCSTA Annual General Meeting

MAY

- ☑ Approve Third Quarter Financial Statements
- ☑ Approve School Fees and Specialty Academy Fees
- ☑ Approve Eligible School Sites Proposal
- ☑ Approve Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan
- ☑ Approve Financial Statement Audit Plan
- ☑ Receive Environmental Sustainability Update and Climate Change Accountability Report

JUNE

- ☑ Approve Five-Year Capital Plan for Major Capital Programs and Building Envelope Program
- ☑ Complete Superintendent Evaluation and Growth Plan
- ☑ Receive Annual District Parent Advisory Council Report
- ☑ Receive Board and Committees Meeting Calendar
- ☑ Receive District Operational Plan Accountability Report
- ☑ Submit Input on Provincial Budget Consultation

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

- ☑ Engage in Trustee Professional Development
- ☑ Engage in Advocacy Initiatives
- ☑ Engage with Local Governments (municipal and first nations)
- ☑ Engage with Students, Staff, and School Communities
- ☑ Engage with Secondary Students for Input
- ☑ Prepare and Issue Advocacy Letters
- ☑ Represent Board at BCSTA Branch Meetings
- ☑ Represent Board in Committees and Community Liaison Groups
- ☑ Recognize Students and Staff
- ☑ Attend School and District Functions
- ☑ Attend Employee Recognition Events
- ☑ Attend Community Events

OTHER ITEMS SCHEDULED AS NEEDED

- ☑ Develop and Approve Board Policies and Bylaws
- ☑ Approve Ad Hoc Capital Project Bylaws
- ☑ Approve Budget Changes
- ☑ Approve Collective Bargaining Plans
- ☑ Approve Disposition of Real Property (land and buildings)
- ☑ Approve Exempt Compensation Framework
- ☑ Approve Local Education Agreements
- ☑ Approve Motions to BCSTA
- ☑ Approve School District Calendars
- ☑ Approve Strategic Facilities Plan
- ☑ Appoint Financial Statement Auditor
- ☑ Ratify Collective Agreements
- ☑ Ratify Principal and Vice Principal Appointments
- ☑ Receive Indigenous Education Council Advice
- ☑ Receive Operational Updates
- ☑ Receive Principal and Vice Principal Cohort Placements
- ☑ Receive Student and Staff Presentations
- ☑ Hear Appeals
- ☑ Issue Chairperson Updates

Trustees also attend the following committee and advisory meetings:

INTERNAL

- ☑ Finance
- ☑ Board Policy Development
- ☑ Facilities Planning
- ☑ District Student Advisory
- ☑ Education Advisory
- ☑ Accessibility Advisory

EXTERNAL

- ☑ Indigenous Education Council
- ☑ District Parent Advisory Council
- ☑ BC Schools Trustees Association Provincial Council
- ☑ BC Public School Employers' Association
- ☑ City of Maple Ridge Engaged, Healthy Community Advisory Committee
- ☑ City of Maple Ridge Liveable Community Advisory Committee
- ☑ City of Maple Ridge Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility & Inclusiveness
- ☑ City of Pitt Meadows Community Service Awards Task Force
- ☑ City of Pitt Meadows Community Support & Accessibility Committee
- ☑ English Language Learners Consortium
- ☑ Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council
- ☑ Ridge Meadows Education Foundation
- ☑ Youth Planning Table
- ☑ Other Board Liaison

GETTING ELECTED

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education is comprised of five trustees representing the community of Maple Ridge, and two trustees representing the community of Pitt Meadows.

Trustees are elected every four years at the same time as the mayor and city council for the two municipalities.

The trustee elections for Pitt Meadows are run by the City of Pitt Meadows. The trustee elections for Maple Ridge are run by the City of Maple Ridge.

CITY OF PITT MEADOWS

Chief Election Officer - Kate Barchard
Deputy Chief Election Officer - Tanya Barr
12007 Harris Road
Pitt Meadows, BC, V3Y 2B5
election@pittmeadows.ca
604.465.2462

More information: https://www.pittmeadows.ca/city-hall/elections-and-voting.

CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE

Director of Legislative Services &
Corporate Officer - Carolyn Mushata
Deputy Chief Election Officer - Tonya Polz
11995 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 6A9
election@mapleridge.ca
604.467.7423

More information: https://www.mapleridge.ca/306/Municipal-Elections

ELIGIBILITY

If you want to run for board of education, you must be a Canadian citizen who will be age 18 or older on general voting day. You must have been a BC resident for at least six months. You must not be disqualified under the School Act or any other enactment from being nominated for, elected to or holding office as a school trustee.

If you are endorsed by an elector organization, information regarding elector organizations is available on the Elections BC website (https://bit.ly/4vpYOs0).

BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

You may be a Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District board of education employee and want to run for a seat on the Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows board. Before you are nominated, you must give notice in writing to the school district of your intention to consent to the nomination.

You must take a leave of absence from your employment with the school district beginning on the first day of the nomination period or the date on which the notice is given, whichever is later. You will have to resign from your employment with the school district if you are elected to the board of education.

If you are a school district employee and want to seek election to a board of education that is not your employer, you don't have to take the leave of absence or resign. There may, however, be circumstances when you are ineligible to participate in certain board of education matters due to potential conflicts of interest which may arise from your being an employee of a board and a school trustee (e.g. provincial collective bargaining if you are a unionized employee in one school district and a trustee in another district). Further information about conflict of interest follows.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest rules in the School Act and those derived from the common law (laws developed through court decisions) apply to school trustees.

The oath of office (https://bit.ly/3ScAqLQ) which trustees take includes a solemn affirmation that the trustee "will comply with the requirements of the School Act that relate to conflict of interest and, in particular, … will comply with the requirements relating to disclosure of pecuniary and indirect pecuniary interest in a matter."

Part 5 of the School Act (https://bit.ly/4ucKou6) addresses pecuniary (monetary) conflicts of interest. If a matter being considered by a board of education could monetarily affect a trustee on the board (or certain other persons associated with the trustee), the trustee is said to have a pecuniary interest in the matter. If a trustee has a pecuniary interest, the law considers the trustee to have a conflict, unless the trustee falls within a few narrow exceptions set out in the School Act. The conflict law says that the pecuniary interests of certain people associated with a school trustee through family (e.g. spouse, parent, child) will be treated as though they were the trustee's personal pecuniary interests.

For example, a school trustee whose spouse, parent or child is a member of a union that represents unionized staff in a school district in British Columbia is not eligible.

If a trustee has a pecuniary interest in a matter that is being considered at a board or committee meeting, the trustee must disclose the pecuniary interest, not take part in any discussion of the matter, abstain from voting on the matter and not attempt in any way to influence the voting on the matter before, during or after the meeting.

Situations sometimes arise where a trustee does not have a financial interest in a matter before the board but their involvement in the matter may give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias. For example, the board may be called on to deal with an issue involving close personal friends or relatives. At common law, a trustee is not qualified to vote on a matter in which they have a "personal interest" distinct from that of the community generally that could lead a reasonably well-informed outsider to think that the trustee's judgment could be influenced by that interest, in other words that your personal interest would lead to a "reasonable apprehension of bias."

KEY DATES

September 1 to 11, 2026 - nomination period open

September 11, 2026 - declaration of candidates

September 15, 2026 - challenge of nomination deadline

September 18, 2026 - candidate withdrawal deadline

September 19, 2026 - declaration of election by voting

October 17, 2026 - general school election

October 21, 2026 - declaration of official results

November 4, 2026 - swearing in ceremony

November 18, 2026 - inaugural board of education meeting

FILING YOUR NOMINATION

Nomination documents must be submitted to the local chief election officer for the City of Maple Ridge or for the City of Pitt Meadows.

FINANCIAL INTERESTS

You must also include a written disclosure of your financial interests, as required by Section 2(1) of the Financial Disclosure Act (https://bit.ly/4vq7L4A).

This statement must provide details of both your corporate and personal holdings.

COMPLYING WITH ELECTION RULES

You alone are responsible for complying with the election rules, including ensuring all of the documents and the deposit (if required) connected with your nomination are filed with the chief election officer for your community by the deadline.

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

School trustee candidates are governed by the same campaign financing rules as are local government candidates. They are found in the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act.

Elections BC administers the campaign financing and election advertising rules under the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act. The Local Elections Campaign Financing Act became law in 2014 and is available on the BC Laws website (www.bclaws.ca).

Campaign financing rules are complex. They are described in more detail in Elections BC resource materials (https://bit.ly/4uMJ0j0).

CAMPAIGNING

Ensure you are familiar with rules relating to your campaign including:

- Local government bylaws relating to signage
- School district policy relating to political activities in schools
- Ministry of Transportation signs policy
- Election advertising on the internet
- Campaign rules applicable to general voting day

RESOURCES

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board Information: http://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board Policies: http://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policy-manual/

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board Local Elections Information: http://www.sd42.ca/local-elections/

Ministry of Education and Child Care: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/legislation-policy/legislation/schooltrustee/school_trustee_election_procedures.pdf

Elections BC: https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/

BC School Trustees Association: https://bcsta.org/elections

School Act: https://bit.ly/4fkHQ9G

City of Maple Ridge: https://www.mapleridge.ca/306/Municipal-Elections

City of Pitt Meadows: https://www.pittmeadows.ca/city-hall/elections-and-voting