



# Help create change

## Public school board elections will be held Oct. 28, 2009.

Every three years, Regina voters elect seven school board trustees. These seven individuals ultimately decide the future of our schools.

### Who can be a trustee?

Any citizen over age 18 can stand for election in one of seven city subdivisions. You do not have to reside in the subdivision you run in.

### Am I qualified?

Good trustees bring community wisdom and common sense to the table. If you know your community and the families who live there, you have solid qualifications.

### What's the workload?

Trustees attend two evening board meetings a month. They also sit on one or two sub-committees. Ideally, trustees devote extra time to reading documents and communicating with people in their communities.

### Will I be paid?

Yes. Trustees receive about \$22,000 per year for meetings and expenses.

### Do I have enough time?

If you care about neighbourhood schools, chances are you are already putting in countless unpaid community volunteer hours. This is an opportunity to redirect the same number of hours toward a position that includes reimbursement for your time and effort.

### How do I get on the ballot?

You must fill out nomination papers before deadline. RealRenewal can assist candidates with this process.

### How do I get elected?

Knock on doors, attend community meetings, create a leaflet and lawn signs. Contact RealRenewal for background documents, fact sheets and other materials, and for help organizing community forums.

### Why should I do it?

Active community volunteers and parents with school-aged children seldom step forward to sit on the school board. As a result, decisions are made to close our schools and put our children on buses to distant locations. We think it's time to change that.

# The clock is ticking...



## School closures

### 2008

Herchmer  
Stewart Russell  
Usher Collegiate

### 2010

Dieppe  
Jenkins

### 2011

Athabasca or Argyle

### 2012

Haultain or Glen Elm

### 2013

Martin Collegiate

### 2014

Connaught or Davin  
Imperial or McDermid  
Coldwell

### 2015

McDonald or Corona-  
tion Park

### 2017

Rosemont or Walker  
Kitchener

## Program closures

### French 2008

Wascana Community  
School

### French 2011

Connaught  
Community School

### English 2008

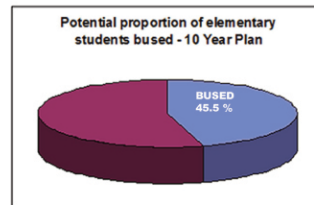
Wilfred Walker

### English 2011

Massey

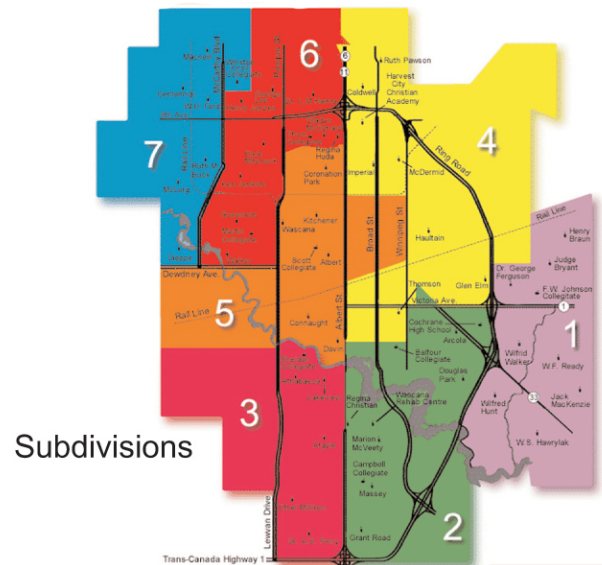
**At the end of 10 years, up to 45.5 per cent of elementary students will take buses to distant schools, rather than walking to a neighbourhood school.**

## ...and the price is high



The plan requires \$96.5 million for demolition and construction to enlarge schools, without taking into account inflation over 10 years. As well, the board anticipates spending up to \$1.3 million annually in increased

bussing costs. Cost savings to be achieved are minimal, as the number of teachers and overall amount of physical space to be managed will remain roughly the same. In some cases, increased bussing costs are projected to exceed administrative savings



## Becoming a trustee

# What are the challenges?

Working within tight budgets and a highly technocratic decision-making environment will be your biggest challenge. In these circumstances, bureaucracies seek to 'maximize efficiencies' through centralization, standardization and consolidation. Diverse community-rooted schools are not appreciated. There is a strong push to ensure all schools are the same size, have the same architecture, and adhere to standardized statistical outcomes. From a bureaucratic standpoint, schools that don't fit in should be torn down, and neighbourhoods that upset the statistics should be abandoned.

Our households and communities respond to the same budgetary challenges with creativity, flexibility and common sense. We understand that decision-making is ultimately about values, and that the happiness of our children is the thing we value most. As a trustee, these core values will be tested very day. What's best for the bureaucracy and the teaching profession will be presented to you as what's best for kids, using highly specialized language. Your job will be to see the forest through the trees. Keeping children and neighbourhoods front and centre will be the biggest challenge you face. RealRenewal is committed to supporting candidates who are prepared to meet these challenges.