



2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Candidate Biographies: English Public School Board Trustee



Sarah Azizi

Hello Residents of Collingwood and Wasaga Beach!

Thank you Town of Collingwood for the opportunity to introduce myself as a candidate for public school board trustee.

Currently, I am the founder and CEO of a structured literacy academy, where my work centres on students with a wide range of learning abilities. I am deeply embedded in the research of how safe learning environments are created, how critical thinking skills are taught for lifelong learning, and how to inspire students to reach their full potential. I live every day for the betterment of the academic environment our youth are being taught in. My background includes training in neuroscience and neurodiversity, particularly in understanding how different brains operate, and especially how they learn. Being a stepmother to two elementary-aged children has also given me firsthand insight into the current climate of our classrooms.

As an entrepreneur who has built operations from the ground up, I have extensive experience working within budgets and planning ahead with the resources available. It has also strengthened my ability to communicate complex evidence clearly, bring others together around practical solutions, and move decisions forward without unnecessary delay or confusion.

Through my work with students, I have seen how deeply mental health, academic success, and confidence in the future shape a healthy learning environment. That experience is a large part of what inspired me to run for trustee.

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Candidate Biographies: English Public School Board Trustee



Kasia Baniak

My name is Kasia Baniak and I am running for the School Board Trustee Role in Simcoe County, specifically Collingwood & Wasaga Beach district. I am a local business owner who has completed a certificate in Early Childhood Management from George Brown College. More recently, I have focused on developing and delivering community-based programming for children and families, including creative and early childhood experiences.

Earlier in my career, I worked in banking and insurance licensing compliance, where I developed a strong understanding of regulatory requirements, accountability, and the importance of accurate and timely decision-making.

I volunteered with Million Dollar Smiles as an administrative lead, helping coordinate community playground builds that provided children with disabilities and other health-related needs with accessible play spaces in their own backyards.

As a parent, my connection to education is deeply personal. My own experiences as a parent, together with my education and professional work with children and families, have shaped my understanding of childhood, learning, and development. They have also given me a firsthand appreciation for the many experiences that shape a child's journey through school and their community.

Over the years, I have built strong ties within the community through my involvement with children and families. These personal and professional connections have given me the opportunity to engage with people from a variety of backgrounds and have broadened my understanding of the different experiences of children and families within our communities.

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Candidate Biographies: English Public School Board Trustee



Jay Barron

I'm Jay Barron, my family and I have been in the community since 2019. We have 2 young children in public school, and I am an active parent passionate about family and community. You may have seen me coaching my sons U6 baseball team this summer and can attest that my actions align with my words. I am an avid skier in the winter and spend much of the summer swimming and enjoying the bay.

I have worked in our family business, Barrons, for over 20 years with locations in Aurora, and formerly Port Carling and Duntroon. Previously I had served on the Port Carling BIA (Business Improvement Association) and was the first representative from the Business School on the Laurentian Student Union.

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2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Candidate Biographies: English Public School Board Trustee



Adam Harrod

Adam Harrod is a lifelong Simcoe County resident, a father of two daughters attending local public schools, and a candidate for Simcoe County District School Board Trustee representing Collingwood and Wasaga Beach.

Adam has spent more than 18 years working in municipal government and currently serves as Manager of the Town of Collingwood's By-law Services Division. Throughout his career, he has gained extensive experience in public administration, budgeting, policy development, community engagement, complaint resolution, service reviews, and developing recommendations for Council.

He is also a licensed paralegal with the Law Society of Ontario and has pursued continuing education in municipal law, governance, adjudication, and public administration through organizations including Osgoode Professional Development, York University, and AMCTO.

Adam previously served as Chair of the Town of Wasaga Beach Committee of Adjustment and Property Standards Committee and has held leadership and educational roles within professional associations. He has also contributed to municipal knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Public education is personal to Adam. He attended public school in Simcoe County from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12 and now sees the education system through the eyes of a parent with two daughters in local public schools. He remains actively involved in their school communities, volunteering on field trips and previously serving on the Parent Council at Byng Public School.

Adam's background includes extensive experience in municipal administration, professional education in law and governance, and volunteer involvement in local public schools.

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The submissions and contact information provided in this document are those of the Candidates. The Town of Collingwood is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.



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Julie Rose

Simcoe County has been my home since September 2000 and I have built my life here. I am a licensed Ontario paralegal and have operated my own solo practice since 2021. I also have three years of experience teaching at the college level.

A college graduate I have a 3 Year Diploma in Business Admin/Marketing. I also graduated from Georgian College's Post Graduate Paralegal Program and became a Licensed Paralegal in 2021.

As a paralegal, I operate a solo legal services practice. I am also a Wedding Officiant licensed by the Government of Ontario through Humanist Canada.

Giving back to my community is important to me. I am a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Wasaga Beach and volunteer as the Membership Coordinator for the Central Ontario Humanist Association. I previously served as Treasurer for the Orillia Business Women's Association. I genuinely enjoy volunteering; love meeting new people and being involved in my community.

I am a proud grandmother of two, and I have many great-nieces and great-nephews attending schools throughout Simcoe County. Education and the well-being of young people are especially meaningful to me.

As a person with a disability, due to rheumatoid disease (RA) (since I was 18 years old), I have had challenges, but it has never stopped me from working, teaching, volunteering, and continuing to do the things I care about, including raising two daughters.

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2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Candidate Biographies: French Public School Board Trustee



Rachael Golem

Rachael Golem was born and raised in Newmarket, Ontario. She moved to Montreal to pursue a Bachelor of Arts at McGill University, followed by a law degree at the Université de Montréal. Rachael began her legal career at a Montreal law firm, spending 15 years in the city as a student and practising lawyer before returning to Ontario. Upon her return, she moved into an in-house corporate role and currently serves as General Counsel for a global infrastructure consulting company, where she manages risk, provides pragmatic solutions, and negotiates contracts across both the public and private sectors in English and French.

Following the birth of their third daughter, Rachael and her husband relocated to Orangeville specifically to enroll their children in a Conseil scolaire Viamonde elementary school. As an active parent within the French public school system, she heavily invested her time in the school community, recently concluding her tenure as President of the Parent Council.

Her background combines a decade of corporate management and legal advisory experience with years of direct involvement in parent-school collaboration.

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2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Candidate Biographies: French Public School Board Trustee

Eric Lapointe

No photo or submission received.

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2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Candidate Biographies: French Separate School Board Trustee

Donald Blais

No photo or submission received.

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