

JABIN CARRASCO

Yellowknife Catholic Schools
2026 Trustee Candidate Profile



Biography:

My name is Jabin Carrasco. My wife Jessica and I are raising our family here in Yellowknife, and being a husband and dad to 6 kids is a big part of who I am and how I look at the world. I teach Early Childhood Education at Aurora College, working with students who are preparing to become educators. I am also a pastor here in Yellowknife and spend a lot of time working with children, youth and families. Education, faith and family overlap quite a bit in my life. I care about how kids learn, whether they feel like they belong, and whether we are actually listening to what children and families need. I have also served in different leadership roles over the years. Those experiences have taught me to listen, ask questions, speak up when I think something needs to be addressed, and work with people even when we don't always agree. Yellowknife is home for our family and I care about the kind of community we are building here for kids and families.

Question 1: Why are you running for trustee?

I'm running because education, kids, families and faith are already a big part of my life, and I think I have something useful to bring to the Board. As an educator, I see how much goes into helping students learn and how different one learner can be from the next. As a pastor, I spend a lot of time with families and hear about the things they are celebrating, but also the things they are struggling with. I'm also someone who asks a lot of questions. I like to understand why something is being done a certain way and I'm not afraid to ask whether there might be another way to do it. I don't think a trustee needs to walk in with all the answers. I think they need to listen, do their homework, ask good questions and care about the decisions being made. That's what I would try to bring to the role.

Question 2: What is the biggest challenge facing Yellowknife Catholic Schools, and how would you address it?

One of the biggest challenges I see in education is meeting the needs of kids who are all very different from one another. There isn't one kind of student. Some kids need extra help. Some need to be pushed more. Some are doing fine academically but are struggling somewhere else. Sometimes a child just needs someone to notice them and figure out what is going on. I don't think the answer is another one-size-fits-all solution. I would want to hear from teachers and staff about what they are actually seeing. I would want parents to feel like they are being heard, and I think we need to listen to students too. Then the Board needs to take what it is hearing seriously. That could mean changing a priority, asking more questions, looking at how resources are being used or advocating for something our schools need.

Question 3: How will you support both student success and Catholic education?

I think they should go together. Obviously, we want kids to do well in school. They should have good teachers, be challenged, get help when they need it and leave school prepared for whatever comes next. But I don't think that's the whole picture of success. Who our kids are becoming matters too. Catholic education gives us the opportunity to put faith into practice. Kids should see compassion, grace, service, forgiveness and love being lived out in the way people are treated. Faith shouldn't only be something we talk about; it should affect the kind of community we create. I want kids to learn and succeed, but I also want them to know they matter. I want them to learn to care about other people, stand up for someone who needs it and understand that their lives can make a difference.

To me, that's part of education too.

Question 4: What experience or perspective makes you the best candidate for the role?

I think I bring an interesting combination of experience. I'm a dad raising a family in Yellowknife. I'm an educator and teach Early Childhood Education at Aurora College. I'm also a pastor, so faith and working with children and families are already a big part of my life. I've also spent time in leadership roles where you have to deal with policies, ask difficult questions, advocate for people and work through disagreements. I've learned that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't still work with them. Probably one of the biggest things I would bring is curiosity. I ask questions. I like to know why we're doing something, whether it's working and what we could do differently. I won't know everything walking into the role, and I don't think I need to pretend that I do. I would come willing to learn, willing to listen and willing to speak up when I believe something needs to be said.