

WHITNEY JASON

Yellowknife Catholic Schools
2026 Trustee Candidate Profile



Biography:

Whitney Jason was born and raised in Yellowknife having attended Weledeh, St. Joseph Catholic School, and graduated from St. Patrick High School. She has firsthand experience with both the public and Catholic education systems as her passion for education led her to work as a substitute teacher with both school districts, providing valuable insight into the diverse needs of students, educators, and families in our community. Following graduation, Whitney taught at a Montessori school in Ghana, West Africa. During her time there, she established a special needs classroom, creating opportunities for students who previously had limited access to specialized educational support. One of Whitney's proudest community accomplishments was serving on the board that helped revitalize the Yellowknife Farmers Market. The market has created opportunities for local businesses, entrepreneurs, artisans, and producers, while improving access to fresh, healthy, and locally sourced food for residents. An advocate for sustainability and hands-on learning, Whitney has also volunteered at Weledeh, where she worked alongside students in the schools gardens. She believes these experiences foster practical life skills, encourage curiosity, and shows she is willing to get her hands dirty.

Question 1: Why are you running for trustee?

I currently work as an Electrical and Instrumentation Scheduler at Gahcho Kué Mine on a 4 days on 3 days off schedule. Over the past four years, my experience at the mine has renewed the strong sense of community that has always been at the heart of who I am, while deepening my commitment to service, collaboration, and making a positive difference in the lives of others. My work schedule gives me the flexibility to remain actively involved in local initiatives and dedicate my time, energy, and experience to the community where I was born, raised, and continue to call home. I am passionate about giving back and helping ensure that future generations have every opportunity to learn, succeed, and thrive.

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

With Yellowknife Catholic Schools welcoming a new Superintendent, I recognize that periods of transition can bring both opportunities and challenges as new leadership styles, priorities, and expectations are introduced. I believe strong governance, open communication, and collaboration will be essential to ensuring that students, families, and staff continue to thrive throughout this transition. I also understand the financial pressures facing school boards across the North and the importance of responsible budgeting in supporting student success. With a strong interest in finance and strategic planning, I am eager to contribute my skills, energy, and perspective to help the Board navigate future challenges and ensure resources are managed effectively, responsibly, and in the best interests of our students and schools.

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

As a trustee, I will champion student success by supporting strong academics, student well-being, and inclusive learning environments where every child has the opportunity to thrive. As a proud graduate of the Catholic school system, I am committed to preserving the faith-based values of compassion, service, respect, and community that make Catholic education unique. I am passionate about supporting learning opportunities that inspire students, celebrate their individual strengths, and help them become confident, compassionate leaders who will contribute positively to the future of Yellowknife and the North.

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

As a Northerner, I have witnessed many of the challenges that affect individuals, families, and communities, including addiction, loss, mental health struggles, and domestic violence. These experiences have given me a deeper understanding of the different realities people face and have shown me the importance of compassion, support, and opportunity. Like many Northerners, I have also faced challenges and setbacks of my own. Through those experiences, I learned firsthand the transformative power of a supportive community. The encouragement, mentorship, and support I received from my workplace community at Gahcho Kué Mine helped me rebuild my confidence, rediscover my strengths, and find my footing again. Their belief in me became a powerful reminder of what people can achieve when they feel valued, supported, and encouraged to succeed.