

# Ebbonnie Minty

## **A bit about me:**

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, I relocated to the RM of Portage la Prairie in 2007 where my first child attended Oakville School and I sat the Oakville School Parent Council. I have four children and they have all attended schools within the Portage la Prairie School Division with one currently at Oakville School and another enrolled at Portage Collegiate Institute.

With a strong sense of community, I have also sat on the Portage Potato Festival Committee, worked as the Marketing Coordinator for Central Plains Tourism, sat on the Parent Advisory Committee and as a Board Member for the Portage Family Resource Centre (formerly Tupper Street Family Resource Centre) and even coached soccer. Currently, I am an active member on the Oakville School Parent Council.

## **Why I am running for School Board Trustee:**

As a parent to children that have and are enrolled in schools within the division, I feel that somewhere along the way, our children have lost their voices. Our children lack adequate advocacy within the school division. I believe it is important that when we send our young citizens to school and they encounter a challenge or have a concern or complaint as a student in the Portage la Prairie School Division, they have easy access to someone who will advocate for them in our absence as most parents do have to work. When we, as parents, cannot be in the schools to advocate and fight for our children and the children do not have advocates, their voices are muted.

We have recently coined the term "every child matters", however, the sad reality is that not every child is treated the same or treated fairly. Another sad reality is even when we, as parents, try to advocate for our children, even our voices are muted.

With the Portage la Prairie School Divisions Mission Statement in mind:

*"Our Mission is to recognize the individual needs and potential of our students and to provide these students with the opportunity to undertake schooling experiences that will contribute to the development of their full potential. Schooling experiences will give consideration to the future demands that will be placed upon society by our rapidly changing world."*

I would like to see advocacy for ALL students and their parents.

Advocates to:

- Offer support if you encounter a challenge or have a concern or complaint as a student or parent of a student in the Portage la Prairie School Division.
- Inform you of your rights and responsibilities.
- Provide you with information to help you understand your options and to assist you in the next steps.
- Help you prepare written request or appeal letters and attend subsequent meetings or hearings.
- Help you understand what the decision made regarding your situation means and discuss what your options are.
- Assist with mediation and dispute resolution

Yes, EVERY child matters and EVERY child should have a voice!

