

Student Trustees in KPR

Student Trustees play a critical role in gathering and reporting student voice across the Kawartha Pine Ride District School Board (KPR). This important role encourages more student involvement, greater awareness and understanding of mutual issues between and among the Board, school staff and students. KPR has always been a champion of student voice and belonging; KPR Student Trustees play a pivotal role in ensuring positive relationships within the board.

The Student Trustees provide information to student government leaders regarding Board meetings, issues discussed by the Board, and motions passed. Students who serve as student government leaders in their schools provide, through the Student Senate, secondary student perspectives which are communicated to the Board through the Student Trustees.

Student Trustees, where invited, will attend Board committees to provide student perspectives and to participate in discussions. KPR recognizes the benefits which accrue when students are involved fully in the planning of their education, and this is especially true in the process of decision making. These opportunities allow students to develop leadership skills and help the Board achieve a better understanding of education issues among students. It is also expected that Student Trustees will provide information to secondary school students, through the Student Senate, regarding Board committee meetings, issues discussed by Board committee, and motions passed by the Board.

The Student Senate is a committee of students responsible for soliciting, gathering and collating information from secondary school students throughout the jurisdiction of the board to determine student issues, priorities, and concerns. The Student Senate communicates this information to the Board through the Student Trustees.

The Student Senate selects two Student Trustees for each school year for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.

Student Trustee Role:

- It is expected that students who serve as Student Trustee will bring student perspectives directly to the Board, will develop as leaders, and will assist the Board to achieve a better understanding of educational issues among students.
- Student Trustees are expected to attend all open sessions of Board meetings.
- Student Trustees will submit both the “Student Trustee Report” and “Character Education” reflection for inclusion in Board meeting agendas, and will speak to these reports at the Board meeting, along with any additional activities that the Student Trustee is involved in.
- Student Trustees will have the right to participate in discussions at all open and in-camera session meetings of the Board and Committees, with the following exception: when the subject matter under consideration involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board, or a pupil or their parent or guardian.
- Student Trustees are not Board members and therefore not entitled to a binding vote but do have the right to have their vote recorded in the Board Minutes if requested.
- Student Trustees will have authority to act on behalf of the Board only where authority has been explicitly and specifically delegated, and act in good faith and within Board policy.
- Student Trustees will chair and be actively involved with the Student Senate and will be encouraged to be involved with the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association.
- Student Trustees shall report back to the Student Senate on a regular basis and shall solicit ideas and opinions about matters coming before the Board. Student Trustees will be encouraged, through the Student Senate, to provide occasional reports to all students through several of the following means: newsletter, email, Edsby, social media, assemblies, and school meetings.
- Student Trustees will serve for a term beginning August 1 and ending on July 31.
- Incoming Student Trustees will be elected by the end of February and are expected to attend meetings with the incumbent Student Trustees in order to prepare the incoming Student Trustees for the responsibilities once appointed.

Student Trustee Compensation:

- Student Trustees will receive an honorarium based on Ministry funding of approximately \$2,500 for the one-year term August 1 to July 31. If a Student Trustee does not serve for a full term, then the amount is prorated. Student Trustees may earn up to two co-op study credits.
- The Board shall reimburse Student Trustees for expenses while on approved Board business in accordance with Board policy.
- The Board will provide Student Trustees with reasonable access to resources for the purpose of fulfilling the duties, including a computer.

Eligibility:

- The Student Trustee must be a full-time student of the board or an exceptional student in a special education program for whom the board has reduced the length of the instructional program.
- The Student Trustee must be in Grade 11 or 12.

Election Process:

Two Student Trustees will be elected by the Student Senate. To apply for the role of Student Trustee, students must:

1. Submit an application package to Mariah Nowee, Executive Assistant to Associate Director of Education, Drew McNaughton by February 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Documents required within the package are:
 - a resume listing activities and accomplishments,
 - a transcript of your marks (available from Guidance),
 - one essay written by the applicant on the following topic: Why I am the best person to be Student Trustee (maximum three pages typed),
 - one recommendation letter from your current or former secondary Principal, and
 - one recommendation letter from a teacher or community member.

2. Student Trustee applications will be distributed to the secondary school Student Senate so that students can “get to know” candidates prior to election night. Student transcripts will not be shared with the Student Senate.
3. The candidate will attend the Student Senate meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, and prepare a speech/presentation to the Student Senate. The speech/presentation will be between 3-5 minutes in length and outline your personal leadership skills, your goals for your role as Student Trustee and your goals for the Student Senate. Student Senate representatives will have 5 minutes after each presentation to ask questions of the candidates.
4. Interested candidates can attend an information session via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m.** The meeting can be accessed through [this link](#).

Voting Procedures:

- The voting body consists of two Student Senators (student council members) from each secondary school student council.
- Each school has two votes.
- Schools that are present (in-person or logged into the virtual meeting) on election night will be eligible for the vote but there must be an individual present for each of the ballots.

Applications can be submitted via email to mariah_nowee@kprdsb.ca or mailed to Mariah Nowee at the Education Centre.

For further details or clarification please contact Student Leadership Principal Advisor, Karen Cummings by phone or text at 705-760-6645.