

*Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” — [Benjamin Franklin](#)*

## Board Elections: An Educational Issue

The matter of school board elections raises a number of interesting issues, not the least of which is the impact on students and their learning; in fact, the impact on student learning should be the first consideration, not only for the election of trustees, but for all school decisions.

Students do better in school when communities are involved. The National Parent Teacher Association in the USA reports that “when families, schools, and communities work together,

- Student achievement improves,
- Teacher morale rises,
- Communication increases”

Elections are a form of engagement; engagement has a positive impact on student learning, so why would we consider any other option?

People are concerned about the quality of education and want a greater voice in what schools do and how they do it; people want more decisions made locally and they want to be able to talk to the decision-makers.

Some may argue that low voter turnout at election time shows that voters aren't interested. A more likely cause of low voter turnout results from the fact that trustees are perceived to have little authority to make decisions that count in their communities. The answer is to give Trustees real decision-making authority - and that's also good for education.

## Activities Scheduled

**May 14**, presentation, live demonstration and conversation with Dr. Tom White-Hassler, an instructor at Manchester Community College in Connecticut but now living in PEI, about teaching on line, Room 236, Sports PEI, Royalty Centre at 7:00 pm

## Thanks

Our thanks to Gaylene Smith, a former Learning Manager of the Dental Assistant Program at Holland College, for her first-hand account of teaching at the College of the North Atlantic Campus in Qatar.

## Media

‘What should the voting age be for school Board elections, should students be allowed to run for election and, if successful take a seat at the Board table?’ These are recurring questions everywhere, most recently in British Columbia and PEI; The Vancouver Sun of April 27, 2013 reports that the BC School Trustees Association considered the question of students serving as Board members and defeated a motion at its recent annual meeting; the vote was very close, though, 112 in favour and 99 against. No doubt, the issue will be back on the table again.

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