



Trevor McGowan

**Principal Basinview Drive
Community School**



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education



Previous Roles as an Educational Leader or other recent leadership experience:

- Board member of Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting
- Principal Bicentennial School
- Vice President of the Cole Harbor-Dartmouth PC Electoral District Association
- Principal Colonel John Stuart Elementary
- Vice principal Ocean View Elementary school
- Vice principal William King Elementary

Experiences (governance, committees, negotiations, prior Board involvement):

I have extensive governance and leadership experience, including service as a Board member of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting. I have served as a principal and vice-principal in several schools and have significant experience with committees, staff relations, negotiations, policy implementation and system-level decision-making. My experience working with government and community stakeholders has also given me an understanding of how to build relationships and advocate effectively for administrators and public education.

Skills & Qualities (what prepares you for Board service):

I bring more than 30 years of experience in education, including extensive experience as a school administrator. I have Masters degrees in EAL and SLDNE, am a graduate of the Instructional Leadership Academy, and currently serve on a provincial regulatory board. I'm a strong communicator, collaborative decision-maker and experienced negotiator who understands the realities administrators face every day. I try to listen first, consider different perspectives and find practical solutions that are fair and work for students, staff and administrators.

Leadership Philosophy: One key value or principle that guides your leadership:

I believe in leading with respect, positivity and an understanding that there are always different perspectives. For me, relationships are a big part of leadership. Building trust, finding common ground and working together usually gets you much further than trying to have all the answers. I also don't believe in accepting the status quo just because "that's the way we've always done it." I think good leaders should be willing to ask questions, listen to different viewpoints, challenge ideas when needed and always look for ways to make things better.

Top 2–3 key issues facing administrators that you would address on the Board:

A stronger voice with government and REDs — administrators need to have a strong voice when decisions are being made that affect our schools and our work.

Balancing operational demands with strategic leadership — administrators are increasingly pulled into day-to-day operational issues, leaving less time for instructional leadership, staff development and long-term school improvement.

Workload, retention and support — we need to look at how we attract and retain good administrators, including more transparency around hiring. We also need to recognize the workload and emotional strain that comes with the job and make sure administrators feel supported.

Contributions to your school, RCE/CSAP, or the broader education community:

Throughout my career, I have tried to contribute to education and my community both inside and outside of my role as an administrator. I currently serve on a provincial regulatory board and have experience working with government and community stakeholders. I have also been involved in local politics through my role with the Cole Harbour-Dartmouth PC Electoral District Association.

Earlier in my career, I was involved in coaching at the local level, including high school volleyball, junior high basketball and volleyball, and minor hockey. These experiences have given me the opportunity to work with students, families, staff and community members in different settings. I believe these experiences, along with my work as a principal and vice-principal, have helped me build strong relationships and a good understanding of the broader education community.

Final Thoughts:

I'm putting my name forward because I believe I can bring something valuable to the PSAANS Board. I understand the day-to-day realities of being an administrator because I'm still living them, but I also bring experience from outside the school system through my work on a provincial regulatory board and my relationships with government and community stakeholders.

I want to be part of a Board that is willing to speak up for administrators, have difficult conversations when needed, and work constructively with government and the system to get results. I'm a strong believer in relationships, finding common ground and looking for practical solutions. At the same time, I'm not afraid to ask questions or challenge things when I think we can do better.