

## Carmen Mombourquette responses

### Candidate for Holy Spirit Catholic School Trustee Ward 2

#### **Curriculum:**

Curriculum experts, educators, parents, and many of the current school boards have pointed out the flaws in the draft k-6 curriculum.

1. Do you agree with calls to scrap the draft curriculum and start over to develop a curriculum that is accurate in capturing Alberta's colonial history, diverse present, and modernized to reflect the world we live in?

Answer: I think we should scrap the current draft. It does not attend to the learning needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century children.

#### **Funding:**

Alberta continues to be a growing province, with more students entering the system. While we're told funding is tight for public education, Alberta continues to subsidize private education with millions in public dollars.

2. Do you believe the current education funding formula is sufficient for your district? If not, how will you work to convince the province to provide sustainable and adequate funding?

Answer: Good question! How does anyone convince this government that sustainable and adequate funding for education is an investment, not an expense? There are many policy statements made by this government that I simply do not agree with. However, just because I disagree does not mean that I can't come to understand their position. Understanding will lead to action. Action will provide the means to help move the dial on funding.

#### **Privatization including P3s:**

AUPE members know very well that privatization regularly fails to find "efficiencies" and any cost savings are often off the backs of workers who become de-unionized, with lower pay and benefits.

They also work on the front lines of service delivery and see the problems caused by high-turnover low wage private providers, and the bureaucratic burden caused by having to deal with a third party instead of an in-house provider.

3. Will you oppose privatization of school services and infrastructure, including Public-Private-Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

Answer: Simple answer – yes. From first hand experience arising from my life's work in the public education system I have seen the damage caused by privatization.

#### **Schools as Employers:**

As our economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, good jobs are an important factor. Public sector workers spend in their communities, and many households impacted by private sector recessions have been able to keep the bills paid thanks to a stable public sector job.

4. Will you support your employees and your community by ensuring the school board employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights?

Answer: That would be the hope. Boards themselves no longer control the revenue side of the equation when it comes to school funding, the government controls all. However, based on the limited roll Boards have over funding I would work towards ensuring that all employees are treated fairly.

5. Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against school staff including cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

Answer: Of course I would oppose these items.

**COVID Safety:**

With the negligent provincial response to now three preventable waves of COVID-19, school boards have been put in an awkward position of needing to take measure to protect their students and staff throughout the pandemic. Many are introducing measures of their own, but not all have.

6. Do you support measures such as mask mandates, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your schools?

Answer: Yes, I support mask wearing for students and staff. I also support mandatory vaccines for all staff –

except for those with a medical exception.



C21252 AULReP