

Thank you for participating in this survey from AUPE's Committee On Political Action. The Committee is asking for **all surveys to be completed by Tuesday, September 28**. Please send your responses or any questions of your own to AUPE via **email at t.zimmerman@aupe.org**

The committee intends to publish the responses (or lack thereof) during the week of October 4.

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?
 - a. Yes, I completely agree with the voices of parents/guardians, teachers, education professionals, and various other stakeholders in the call to reject the draft curriculum. The Minister of Education has continually stated that the document is a draft but has not listened to concerns or made any significant changes to the draft. There was an opportunity to continue and revise the 2018 draft, but instead it was scrapped and written by handpicked consultants. The created document is partisan, age inappropriate, blurs the line between curriculum and pedagogy, and dismisses call-to-action items from Truth and Reconciliation recommendations. This draft is being pushed through without proper support, guidance, resources, and materials. I feel the CBE needs to take a stronger stance on the curriculum and create a report outlining specific concerns and action items after consultation. Board recommendations should have weight with the Minister of Education. Educators and parents should not be looked at as "opposition"; this is our children's education and future that needs to be protected.

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?
 - a. No, I do not believe the current education funding formula is sufficient. The Weighted Moving Average (WMA) provides predictable funding but for the CBE who continually see increased growth, this results in lower per student funding that trails 2-3 years behind actual enrollment. Adequate funding promotes lower classroom sizes, a wider variety of programs, mental health supports, and specialized classroom supports that promote robust education. PUF funding needs to be reinstated to previous levels – early interventions and classroom support systems benefit children in the long run. I believe in public education that has democratic oversight, is equitable, and accepts enrollment of all children.

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?
 - a. Yes. Historically P3s have reduced community opportunities, have maintenance issues that the board/school level cannot address, provided lower quality equipment, and produced over budget. New schools need to be designed as hubs for the community. Schools require flexibility of opportunities such as before and after school spaces, evening and weekend rentals, and gathering places. Privatized services do not have the assurances of quality and the prices savings do not support the community and economy. I support the discussion of bringing previously privatized services in-house.

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?
 - a. Yes. At the start of the pandemic health care workers and teachers were celebrated. Somehow the narrative changed and their professional capability and perceived service to the community were diminished. We need to protect our education systems and support those who spend their time teaching, caring, maintaining, and work in support roles for our students. I have limited experience with collective bargaining rights but believe in systems that support workers.
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?
 - a. Yes. Pension plans paid by teachers and professionals should be protected. Again, I have limited experience in the right to strike. I would like to resolve items before it reaches a strike and maintain students learning in-person.

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?
 - a. Yes. The Chief Medical officer of Health and Education Minister have stated and put policies in place that treat COVID as endemic in schools. We are currently in a provincial state of emergency and asking for federal help BUT not changing direction in schools. The Minister of Education has stated that school authorities continue to have the ability and the corresponding accountability to put in place local measures, such as physical distancing, cohorting, and masking requirements that may exceed provincial guidance.

- b. I support mask measures when indoors and unable to physically distance. Students that are using bussing to get to school are still required to be masked by the Government of Alberta. This year the CBE has tried to get "back to normal" by allowing lockers, band and sports activities, field trips, and after school activities. Having this school normality will be crucial to our students' mental and physical health.
- c. I strongly urge AHS to reinstate test, trace, isolate in schools. The CBE has over 124,000 students that deserve a safe in-person learning environment. Voluntary parent/guardian COVID reporting and AHS sending out notices when 10% of the student population is absent will not prevent the spread of COVID.
- d. We need to increase & upgrade ventilation. There are many benefits to improved ventilation and the addition of stand alone HEPA units.
- e. I am willing to start the conversation around mandatory vaccines for adult staff members and adult volunteers in school settings. This is a conversation that needs to happen with stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my vision of Public Education in Alberta.

Charlene May

Candidate for Public School Board Trustee, Calgary Wards 12 &14

www.charlenemay2021.com

charlenemay2021@gmail.com