

Dianne Macaulay responses
Candidate for Red Deer Public School Trustee

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?

- The new draft curriculum has many flaws and it will not properly educate our students. A modern, accurate and diverse curriculum is needed, and it needs to be developed by experts that actually teach and teach here in Canada.

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?

- Private schools should not be funded by public dollars! I have been advocating the government for years to change this. It is already being done in other provinces so it can be done here as well. I wish I had a magic solution, but what I am proud of is the information the Public School boards Association has developed with the information how private schools are ruining our public schools.

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?

-In some of our current schools we have partnerships with some city facilities like libraries and ice arenas. These work great. They also allow the school to have a greater portion of land. When developing a request for a new school in our area the province will not even give consideration if there are no partnerships. At times our hands are tied, and we are at the will of the government.

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?

- Most of the collective bargaining is out of the school boards hands now. The government has taken most of that over and has left school boards with just minor items that mostly have no monetary value. I am very proud that our district has not had a strike. Our relationship with our unions is very good. I would like to keep that relationship on good terms and work together.

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?

-Unions have a right to strike. I would oppose that being taken away from them.

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?

Yes.