

Emily MacKenzie responses
Candidate for Edmonton Public School Trustee Ward I

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?

Yes, the draft curriculum is completely unacceptable and must be scrapped. We should return to the previous draft that was created in a more transparent and nonpartisan way, and refine it into our new curriculum moving forward.

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?

No, funding is inadequate, and has been reduced on a per student basis over the past two years. Considering schools have had to deal with a pandemic during that time, it's appalling that they were not given the resources to do so. I firmly believe that only public schools should receive government support, and private schools should receive no public funds whatsoever. I believe our current government has an ideological desire to champion "choice" in education, meaning choice between public education or private education. The reality is that the vast majority of families opt for public school, and I want to amplify the voices of Albertan voters to their provincial government making it clear that their support of the Minister of Education is contingent on adequate funding of public schooling, not "choices" that only really exist for the most privileged families among us.

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?

I am fundamentally opposed to the privatization of essential services such as education. There is no efficiency to be found in introducing third parties with profit motives into the equation.

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?

Yes. All workers deserve these rights, period.

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?

Yes. I am firmly pro-worker.

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. Mask mandates are essential until we've dramatically reduced the spread of COVID-19 through vaccination. Vaccine mandates are one of the most powerful and proven ways we have to accomplish this. Both staff and students should be required to be vaccinated wherever possible.