

Humaira Falak responses

Candidate for Calgary Board of Education Wards 5 & 10

1. I am deeply concerned about the proposed curriculum, its content, and also its widespread rejection by teachers, administrators, school boards, parents, indigenous leaders, cultural communities and Albertans at large. I believe we must get back to the drawing board on this curriculum and engage with indigenous communities, students, teachers, administrators and subject matter experts to put together a curriculum that is reflective of our past, inclusive of today's realities, challenges and modern developments, and prepares Alberta students for the future. I am no expert in curriculum development but I believe that it must be informed by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, must be developmentally appropriate and based in research, science and evidence, and it must prepare students for critical thinking and foster understanding of and respect for our diversity in all its forms.

2. In my opinion, public schools in ward 5 and 10 are underfunded and we need stronger and consistent advocacy for more funds based on needs' assessment, gap identification using evidence-based approach and increased community engagement

3. I am all for a publicly-funded and publicly-delivered education system. All decisions relating to student's education and allocation of CBE resources must be informed by the best interest of students, and not profit-motives. In my view, privatization of services will inevitably lead to an injection of profit-motives in the education system and only serve to commodify education, erode its quality and derail its purpose. We owe it to students today, and the future generations of students, to a fully-funded, self-sufficient and functional education system that is singularly focused on meeting students' learning needs. Also, economic arguments and evidence suggests that privatization of public services in the long run often results in increased costs, decreased wages for employees, and low-quality services. In short, public funds for education should not be used to serve private profit-motives .

4. Yes, definitely. Being a single parent and a community development practitioner, I totally understand the importance of job security and collective bargaining rights. There is no way that I would ever oppose that and in fact would advocate for it strongly . A huge population living in wards 5 and 10 are front line workers and have been impacted negatively by Covid-19 and the subsequent economic downturn. Economic security should be the number 1 priority for these communities

5. Being a parent of two girls who go to public school in wards 5 , their safety and other children's safety is my biggest concern. I totally support mask mandates, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. I am not a health expert and will support what is advised by doctors and health officials.