

AUPE School Board Survey Responses, Jaelene Tweedle, RDP Trustee Candidate

Curriculum

- 1) I have a number of serious concerns about the Draft being implemented in it's current form. It is not just a matter of the curriculum needing some minor edits, or additions, I believe the majority should not make it's way into classroom in September 2022. I will attach a link to a Blog that I wrote in August, on this very subject.

[A Curriculum That Doesn't Make The Grade — Jaelene Tweedle For Trustee \(tweedle4trustee.ca\)](http://tweedle4trustee.ca)

Funding

- 2) I believe the current funding formula will see our District fall behind and we will see that deficiency accumulate as each year passes. As a District we have a long standing pattern of enrolment growth each year, and the 3 year average enrolment formula will see Districts that do see continual growth, fall behind. The new formula is adequate, and even beneficial for some Districts that see continual declining enrolment, many of which are in rural areas. I fear that Districts with a steadily increasing student population will be on a road of playing catch up and will face added difficulty in adequately funding their schools, as each year passes. In regards to working to convince the province to provide sustainable and adequate funding, I think Boards need to remember that one of their important roles is in the area of advocacy, for those they represent. I would be a voice to speak to the need for our Board to outline clearly to AB Ed, that the new formula not only provides insufficient funding, but also does not allocate funding in a realistic, and equitable manner. AB Ed themselves, has acknowledged that the formula does benefit Districts with declining enrolment, over those with growing enrolment. Not only does this seem to be a poorly devised formula used to allocate funds, but it may also create more of a perceived divide between "urban" and "rural". In addition to addressing the new funding formula, I think it is imperative that Public Schools speak strongly to the continued erosion of Public Education that is occurring because of the funding that is provided to Private Schools. I am a firm believer that public tax dollars should not be funding private schools. And as someone who is looking to represent a Public School District, I feel it is even more important to speak to the importance of prioritizing the Public Education System.

Privatization Including P3's

- 3) Yes, I would oppose privatization of services and infrastructure, including P3's. And I would also support bringing what has been previously privatized, back within the District level. Our Education System should be seen as an investment in our Students and Communities. Unfortunately, it is sometimes only seen as an expense, as there is no monetary profit involved. When elements of privatization are brought to Public Services, the element of profit always comes into play. And private contractors are not in business to provide public service, but instead to prioritize profits. Regarding P3's, I view them as a form of a long term lease, without Local Boards having any direct control over the level and quality of maintenance that may

occur. In my own school communities, I have seen many frustrations in waiting for extended periods to have maintenance work performed, waiting for designated contractors to deal with concerns- when many of these issues could be addressed by in house maintenance departments. In terms of supporting advocating for previously privatized services to return to in house delivery, I feel this is another move that supports our own local communities, and employees. And when in house, those very services are not performed, with the element of profit eating away at the limited, precious financial resources we have.

Schools As Employers

- 4) I will absolutely support paying a living wage, full time hours where desired, job security and collective bargaining, for the employees in our District. The most valuable resource we have in our schools, is the people within those school walls. Our employees are the very heart of supporting, empowering, and educating our students. And over the last year and a half of navigating through Covid, we have seen our staff continually going far beyond what was ever mandated of them, in supporting our students and providing them with continued learning throughout some very difficult times. In providing our employees with optimal employment conditions, we are not only benefiting individual employees' families, but also our community as a whole.

- 5) Yes, I will oppose any of these attempts, by the provincial government.

Covid Safety

- 6) Yes, I support mask mandates, and vaccine mandates for staff. In addition, I support cohorting, enhanced sanitization, and the re-introduction of tracking, tracing, and isolating measures. And while I support vaccine mandates for staff, it pains me to know that staff can't have the comfort of the same assurance that would come from knowing that students eligible for vaccination, are vaccinated. School Boards must always remember that the decisions and policies they make, aren't just for a few, but for many. Our District has over 11,000 students and over 1,200 staff- and the decisions we make must reflect the best interests of these over 12,000 individuals, and the families they go home to.