

AUPE School Trustee Survey - Jan Sawyer

1. The new curriculum proposed by the Government of Alberta is not acceptable.

Curriculum must be:

- age-appropriate;
- respectful of Canada's Indigenous and Francophone history;
- based on the evaluation of information rather than merely memorizing random facts; and
- created with the engagement of a broad range of teachers and parents and curriculum specialists from across the province, from its initial development through its various drafts, to final approval.

2. The current educational funding is NOT sufficient.

- Enrollment growth in divisions is not funded; in divisions where enrolment steadily increases, this results in a reduction in per pupil funding.
- For inclusion to be truly effective, it must be properly supported (assessments, staffing support, supplies, etc); currently resources are not sufficient for our learners with special needs.
- There are many schools within EPSB that need to be modernized. As well, there are areas within Edmonton that are growing quickly and the schools in those areas are over-full. Money for infrastructure must be available.
- Salaries of teachers, support, custodial and maintenance staff must be enough to encourage employees to remain in their careers.
- Trustees must be transparent with the public about the lack of funding coming from the province and encourage all stakeholders to pressure the government for additional dollars.
- Trustees must be **RELENTLESS** with the province in advocating for adequate education dollars. As well, public school trustees must continue to advocate for provincial dollars to go to public rather than private schools.

3. P3 schools do not work

- The red-tape involved in working within P3 schools is extremely frustrating for those who work within them.
- Ultimately, P3 agreements hide deferred maintenance and infrastructure spending off the province's budget by tucking it away in multi-decade contracts.
- They take work away from qualified, unionized Division staff.
- I would definitely support the returning privatized services back to EPSB employees.

Schools as Employers

4. To attract and maintain quality employees, wages must be competitive and at least keep up with cost of living increases (and have not done so in the last several years). Additionally, working conditions must continue to be part of the collective bargaining process.

5. Unions and collective bargaining (including the right to strike) are essential organizations / processes within our Division. As well, pensions must be protected.

6 Safety and welfare of staff and students is essential

- Masking must continue to be in place until the threat to children is greatly reduced.
- I support the ATA call for a vaccine mandate for teachers and believe it should be applied to all staff. Additionally, there must be an educational process in place to work with employees who are “vaccine-hesitant.”
- Trustees must continue to advocate for the reinstatement of contact tracing within schools.