

## Jay Chowdhury responses

### Candidate for Calgary Board of Education Wards 5 & 10

Curriculum: Curriculum experts, educators, parents, and many of the current school boards have pointed out the flaws in the draft k-6 curriculum.

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?

Curriculum is still in a DRAFT stage and that gives us the scope to make changes. There are teachers expertise whose input is important to ensure the truth that is accurate in capturing Alberta's colonial history, diverse present, and modernized to reflect the world we live in.

Funding: Alberta continues to be a growing province, with more students entering the system. While we're told funding is tight for public education, Alberta continues to subsidize private education with millions in public dollars.

2. Do you believe the current education funding formula is sufficient for your district?

It is definitely not for Ward 5 & 10

If not, how will you work to convince the province to provide sustainable and adequate funding?

We need to discuss at a Length on Weighted Moving Average (MMA) Formula. If we take hypothetical examples of 3 years of Year 1 (20 students) Year 2 (30 students) and Year 3 (50 Students) divided by 3 that is 33.33% with a deficiency of 16.67 % how will we manage this 16.67%?

3. Privatization including P3s: AUPE members know very well that privatization regularly fails to find "efficiencies" and any cost savings are often off the backs of workers who become deunionized, with lower pay and benefits. They also work on the front lines of service delivery and see the problems caused by high-turnover low wage private providers, and the bureaucratic burden caused by having to deal with a third party instead of an in-house provider.

Will you oppose privatization of school services and infrastructure, including Public Private Partnerships aka P3s?

As a Public School Trustee I must analyze the indepth studies of problems caused by high-turnover low wage private providers, and the bureaucratic burden caused by having to deal with a third party instead of an in-house provider. Workers must be paid as per their rights.

Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house? Schools as Employers: As our economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, good jobs are an important factor. Public sector workers spend in their communities, and many households impacted by private sector recessions have been able to keep the bills paid thanks to a stable public sector job.

I agree with the above statement on the severe impacts both on households and business. We need to keep in house staff to keep the unemployment of Alberta as low as possible. Resources must be used in house ready availability.

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?

It is very important to support our School employees with living wages and full time hours to keep the food on their table so that they do not have to juggle to choose between income and stress.

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?

I believe Student First. No strike should affect their studies and make students the victims of the situation. Different mechanisms must be used such as hard negotiation over the table must be used.

COVID Safety: With the negligent provincial response to now three preventable waves of COVID-19, school boards have been put in an awkward position of needing to take measures to protect their students and staff throughout the pandemic. Many are introducing measures of their own, but not all have.

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?

I have been a victim of COVID went into an induced Coma for 25 days and nights. Primary protection as well as Vaccine needs to be ensured for the children. Childrens and we as adults never hesitated to take any vaccine in our childhood, hospitals have proven record that patients

are dying who have not been vaccinated. Every vaccine for the kids must be ensured that it is safe and protects them from this global pandemic.