

## **Kara Pelech Responses**

### **Candidate for Edmonton Catholic School Trustee Ward 77**

#### **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? **Yes, Our province's curriculum should build a strong foundation for our learners and prepare them for the future, however the new k-6 draft curriculum released by the government of Alberta seems to take students backwards. It has been met with multiple criticisms. With over 95% of boards not implementing the curriculum. The overwhelmingly evident in the criticism is that many tasks are not developmentally appropriate for the age level of the students. For example, in grade 2 Social Studies students would be asked to explain the difference between the Roman Kingdom, The Roman Republic, and the Imperial Roam these topics are currently discussed in grade 8. They are not developmentally appropriate for grade two students. I am not in support of the current K-6 draft curriculum and would work towards a halt and a rewrite.**

#### **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? If not, how will you work to convince the province to provide sustainable and adequate funding? **No, We need to strengthen our efforts in advocating to this government the importance of publicly funded education. I have seen too many missed opportunities in the past where we needed a stronger voice and we fell short.**

#### **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.

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? **Yes, I see that as part of the school community. Would a contractor have the same attitude? I would say not.**

### **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.

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, I will. We need to understand value and retain those that work in these positions and ensure that with living wages.**
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! Absolutely I will.**

### **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 measure 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? **Yes, I believe that we need to strengthen our protocols and measures in keeping our staff and students safe. And look after the mental health of our staff as well. This government has failed us in many many ways with the miss handling COVID-19.**

