

Re: Public School Questionnaire

Kim Doyle Thorsen <tree_dream@yahoo.ca>

Sun 2021-09-26 6:30 PM

To: Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org>

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Hi Tammy,

Thanks for your hard work on these issues! My answers are as follows:

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?

I absolutely agree with the calls to scrap the draft curriculum. Alberta deserves a world-class curriculum, not one that takes us backwards. Teachers need supportive material to help decolonize every single subject taught in public schools today, not a curriculum that promotes and encourages colonialism, racism, homophobia and other bias. In this age of information, the last thing we need is rote memorization. Media savvy critical thinking is needed more than ever!

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?

The short answer is no. Our provincial government has made significant cuts to education, and continues to allow public dollars to fund private schools. I would make restoration of funding to EPSB a priority, by campaigning the provincial government to commit public funds to public education. I will rally the rest of the board of education to do the same.

In addition, I'd like to address inequities in the distribution of AGLC funds. Schools that have parents with time and resources to volunteer for organizing and working casinos earn enormous sums; schools where parents do not have that free time or access to childcare are left out. I would advocate for AGLC funds to be distributed evenly across schools and AGLC should dispense with the requirements for volunteers to "earn" these funds.

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 and yes. I oppose privatization in all its forms, including P3s. I definitely support bringing previously privatized services back.

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 believe in unions and ensuring labour concerns are represented. Living wages are essential to a stable, strong society, and economy.

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?

Absolutely.

6. Do you support measures such as mask mandates, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce to spread of COVID-19 in your schools?

Yes. Mask and vaccine mandates are needed to protect vulnerable children. The misconception that children are not affected by COVID is a scourge. In addition to the risk of children themselves being infected, children are also at risk of losing their parents and extended family, causing lifelong trauma.

Kim

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she/her/they/them

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I acknowledge that I live and raise the next generation on the land of the displaced Papastew Nation and colonized Treaty 6 Territory known as amiskwaciwâskahikan (Cree for Beaver Hills House). Treaty 6 encompasses the territories and home of numerous Indigenous peoples, including Nehiyawak (Cree), Tsuut'ina, Niitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy),