

**Marsha Nelson responses**  
**Candidate for Edmonton Public School Trustee Ward B**

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 believe this draft is developmentally inappropriate, does not scaffold skills for kids, and replaces exploratory learning with rote memorization. I also disagree with implementing a new curriculum across multiple subjects and multiple grades in the same year. That is financially irresponsible as schools will have to allocate money to teacher training and classroom resources.**

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. There needs to be a per-pupil funding model that is reflective of the growth in some cities, includes monies to maintain or build schools and is allocated to PUBLIC education. I believe that the board needs to work with other large and small boards to advocate to the government the need for appropriate funding which includes infrastructure and education.**

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? **I don't pretend to fully understand the impact of the P3 models but I do understand the need for a team of trades in house to respond to requests for services which support our buildings and therefore our students. There is a loyalty and pride in work when employees know they are valued members of the team!**

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, the purpose of collective agreements is to negotiate these terms. We need to be an employer of choice so we can attract skilled and dedicated employees.**

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? **As a retired educator I oppose the government getting their hands on any pensions. The right to strike is an inherent right which is unfortunate when it has to be used but sometimes it's the only way to get the government to listen.**

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? **Short answer, yes! We need to listen and take advice from the experts, science and medical. We need to support any measures which create safe learning environments for students but also for all staff groups.**