

Monica Truong responses
Candidate for Calgary Board of Education Trustee Wards 8 & 9

1.

Yes, in short. Curriculum should be up-to-date, contextualized to the locale and relevant to the learner. Furthermore, the curriculum can dictate the facts to be taught, but should not dictate methodology. That should be left up to teachers, as they will know how their students will learn best. It is also crucial that the knowledge be presented in an unbiased way, so that students may be taught to think and not be indoctrinated by the current 'fashionable' trend in XYZ.

I have taught in Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia in their public systems and having seen the variety of curricula first hand, I am convinced that many different curricula work well, but the best curriculum of all is a personalized curriculum. Children learn best (and more importantly, retain what they learn and then are able to apply their knowledge to a new context) when they study what they are interested in. If elected, my goal is to give CBE students time to pursue a passion project for 20% of the school week.

2.

Yes, in short. I believe that the per student funding is adequate for now. We just need to look more carefully at how and on what the funds are being spent and to prioritize the spending on learning and students. The public schools I taught in overseas were very basic, nothing fancy. One school looked much like the other. The students and teachers cleaned their schools. I do not have a financial background, but that is what the CFO at CBE is for. I will scrutinize the budget and clarify the items with the CFO until it is crystal clear to me that there is no waste in the budget and every dollar is being used efficiently. Any CFO who is clear about his/her budget should be able to explain it so that a layperson like myself, can understand. In the four years of my term, inflation will inevitably cause costs to rise and more funding will be necessary. In the end, 'Where there is a will, there is a way!' My will is that every child in Calgary gets the best education.

3.

I would support bringing previously privatized services in-house, if it makes sense financially and ethically. I definitely would not want the efficiencies to be 'off the back of workers'. I am an immigrant to Canada and saw how hard my parents had to work in their blue collar jobs. My husband is part of the 'working class', so I understand the importance of protecting the worker.

The PP3 question is not one that has come to my attention until now. After doing some research, there seems much controversy over its effectiveness and so, I would have to know more specifics on the proposed PP3 project. I would talk to the CFO at CBE, read publications and research on both sides and make decisions based on the best interest of the students at the CBE. My first instinct is that whoever is paying is most interested in paying the least to get the most, so the public sector should remain public.

4.

Yes, I would support CBE employees and our communities by ensuring the school board employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective

bargaining rights - where bargaining is a collaborative effort of give and take. Being part of a working class family, I understand the struggle and support the workers. But my first priority must always be to advocate for students, who do not have a union to back them up.

5.

Yes, I would. The cost of living is rising continually, it doesn't make sense to cut pensions. I believe that people must be free to take collective action to protect their livelihood and striking is one way. Of course, I hope that conversation and collaboration is enough to come to a mutually respectful agreement.

6.

I am 100% in support of AUPE's stance which reads, "AUPE will **only** recognize and acknowledge a required-vaccine **policy that complies with Human Rights Legislation**. When a member is not able to be vaccinated because of a medical condition or another protected ground under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, such as a disability or religious affiliation, employers must accommodate the individual...." This should apply to mask policy as well. As an elected official, trustees would have a legal responsibility to comply with the legislation as outlined in the Alberta Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which means creating policy that is free from discrimination. Withholding a person's livelihood from them or otherwise penalizing them based on their medical status is medical discrimination. The end does not justify the means.

Thus, I cannot support school boards creating their own mask/vaccine mandates. Trustees are not medical doctors. Both masks and vaccines are medical interventions. Trustees should stick to creating educational policy. Safety is important of course. At this point, people have had many months to do their own research and the science is not settled. 'Where there is risk, there should be choice.' Wearing a mask makes some employees feel safe, it makes others feel unwell. Each individual should do what they believe is safe and healthy for them and thus it will naturally follow that the whole community will be healthy and safe.