

## Navjot Kaur responses

### Candidate for Edmonton Public School Trustee Ward I

#### 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. The curriculum must reflect best practices, research and methodology. The current curriculum does not meet any of these standards. This is pertinent and extremely important for the upcoming 10-15 years.

#### 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?

Public dollars must be spent for public education and public good. I would present accurate data that demonstrates how sustainable funding models actually cut costs overall. Supporting student literacy today supports how that citizen will participate in society tomorrow.

#### 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 de unionized, 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?

P3s and other neoliberal turns for justifying privatization degrades our quality of service. I support good public sector jobs in sectors that are entrusted with supporting our most vulnerable, our youth.

#### 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. This is imperative to good quality education and safe schools. As an older millennial, I know the above statement is true across many families from different backgrounds. Public jobs support our neighborhoods and families.

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?

School staff have the right to strike, and I support their advocacy for better working conditions.

**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 support evidence-based guidance, rooted in medical science- as a way to inform policies to best protect our schools and our communities.