

AUPE Trustee Candidate Survey 2021

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EPSB Candidate for Ward E

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. I believe the proposed K-6 curriculum is fundamentally flawed and should not be implemented. I have explicitly called for it to be scrapped as one of the top priorities in my platform. As trustee, I will lobby for a new, inclusive, transparent process of curriculum development that is led by educators and curriculum experts and is supported by FNMI communities.

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?

The current funding formula is inadequate for EPSB, as the 3-year averaging of enrollment growth means our district must provide the same quality education each year, to more students, with less funding per student. It is unsustainable and inequitable. As trustee, I will work with the board to call for an equitable funding model that adequately funds *every student*, by demonstrating how the effective cuts to our district have combined to undermine learning in the classroom. Classes are larger and more complex, with fewer supports and less early intervention – this goes against our obligation to provide the best learning conditions for our students.

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 oppose the P3 model for public infrastructure, and we have seen over and over again examples of higher costs, inferior results, and an erosion of working conditions. My policy work with the Parkland Institute has included extensive research on the failures of P3s and privatization as a political project, so I would support bringing previously privatized/outsourced services in-house wherever possible.

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. These are the fundamentals of good working conditions – and well-paid, secure public jobs contribute back to the economy in vital ways.

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. The current government is operating according to a playbook that is attempting to undermine public sector unions, erode workers' rights, and pay for poor provincial decisions by imposing cuts on workers. As trustee, I will continue to support workers' rights and stand against these tactics.

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 when it comes to staff and student safety, decision-making must be guided by the best available evidence. Where that data is not being collected, decisions must be made on the precautionary principle – a policy that is demonstrated to cause little harm relative to the immediate risks presented by COVID-19.

Thank you for participating in this survey from AUPE's Committee On Political Action. The Committee is asking for all surveys to be completed by **Tuesday, September 28**. Please send your responses or any questions of your own to AUPE via email at t.tangedal@aupe.org The committee intends to publish the responses (or lack thereof) during the week of October 4.