

## **Rob Martin responses**

### **Candidate for Grande Prairie Public School Division Trustee**

#### **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.**

I support a full curriculum review and rewrite, that includes curriculum experts, current teachers, and experts from various fields to ensure accurate and relevant information is in the new curriculum. The current curriculum is not age appropriate, with many inaccuracies, and plagiarized information. The curriculum should embrace our rich history, be factual based, modern, and support growth and learning in an age appropriate manner.

#### **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?**

#### **Privatization including P3s:**

When the current Government of Alberta changed the funding formula to a 3-year rolling average, it has the possibility to create many shortfalls in funding. I will continue to advocate for proper funding that will allow, for both operational and capital growth. We need to be able to control class sizes, ensure there are proper supports in classrooms, and that we have adequate schools through proper funding.

This will allow Alberta Education to continue its long history of being one of the best places to get an education in the world.

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-PrivatePartnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?**

I believe society is only as strong as the citizens in it. A properly funded PUBLIC EDUCATION system allows opportunities for all not just the select few that can afford it. This empowers people to control their own destiny and success. I am not against private education, but it should be just that, a private system funded through private dollars NO public dollars.

**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?**

I absolutely believe that we should be providing our employees with living wages, fulltime hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights. This will help us keep a consistent workforce which supports learning and success.

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.zimmerman@aupe.org](mailto:t.zimmerman@aupe.org)

The committee intends to publish the responses (or lack thereof) during the week of October 4.

**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?**

I have and will continue to advocate for proper support and funding to already existing Local Authorities pension plan and protect their right to strike.

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?**

I do and will continue to support health measure brought forward by Alberta Health Services; this is our best path forward. It will allow us to keep kids in school, parents working, and our economy going.