

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**

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

### **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 am a parent of a son in grade 4 and a daughter in grade 8, so this curriculum directly impacts my son. I am a physiotherapist by education. I am not a curriculum expert. Therefore, I believe we need to trust the teachers and educational leaders. In their opinion, the new K-6 curriculum has inadequacies and shortcomings. If the teachers feel so strongly that it is damaging to student learning, I will support them in their call to develop a more appropriate curriculum.

### **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?

Education is a priority and seems to be continuously underfunded. As a trustee, I think it is essential we have an understanding of funding, grants and resources that are available to education, at a municipal, provincial and federal level. We need to prioritize the needs of the students, school communities and the district to ensure we are advocating at the provincial level for resources needed. For example, my nephew is in grade 7 French Immersion and is in a class of 37 students, several with individual program plans, and there is no additional support for the teacher in that classroom. More funding should be in place to ensure that students that need the supports, get them.

### **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?

Given the current economic situation, I believe we do need new and creative solutions to ensure success for the school community. However, I do not support P3s as they have potential to be damaging to not only the school community but the community at large. I am a physiotherapist and work within a publicly funded healthcare environment. I see firsthand the impact privatized services can have on quality of service and I will support services brought in house if possible and feasible.

### **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 I do support a liveable wage, full time hours where desired, job security and bargaining rights.

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?

Being a unionized healthcare worker for the past 15+ years I understand how this type of legislation can impact staff and am sympathetic. Cuts to LAPP would also directly impact my pension. Striking whether this be in health care or education is not a decision that anyone takes lightly and should only be taken as an absolute last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted.

### **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?

The priority is to keep the school community safe. I am a front line worker and I believe we should be following the recommendations of Alberta Health Services. When provincial response is not present we should be looking to our local Medical Directors to make zone specific recommendations and follow their health direction.

