

Re: School Trustee Questionnaire

Sheeraz Rahman <info@electsheeraz.ca>

Thu 2021-09-30 12:12 AM

To: Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org>

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Good evening Tammy,

Thank you for allowing me to answer these very important questions. I'm a strong believer and supporter of AUPE and for standing up for the rights of the common person. Please see my answers to your questions below:

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?

The new draft k-6 curriculum in my opinion is flawed and requires 'immediate change.' I'm running into many families who are upset, angry and deeply concerned about what their children's education and well-being. I feel the material is a bit much, and "too advanced" for our young children. If I'm School Trustee, I would propose inviting to the table our Indigenous, Metis, cultural leaders and our education experts to come together and help re-draft the curriculum with more age appropriate material that falls in-line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions standards.

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?

I do not believe our current education funding model is suitable or meets the requirements of our school system. In previous years, school boards would receive a specific amount of funding per student enrolled in the school division. The government has recently moved towards a weighted moving average model based on student enrolment for the past three years. This type of funding model does not work with school boards like that are growing. Our province is growing at an expedited rate. More people are moving into the province for a variety of reasons from having more employment opportunities, better quality of living, and our education system. If we cut back on funding initiatives related to education, how will we be able to sustain the amount of growth we're experiencing in our school division? As school trustee, I would encourage more bi-lateral and tri-lateral discussions which would include our stakeholders and members from all levels of government. The only way to lobby our government for more funding dollars is through *evidence based, fact-finding data*. This information will provide us with the statistics to prove that the new weighted funding model fails to address our growing needs for our school division.

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 will most certainly oppose any privatization of school services and infrastructure, including Public-Private Partnerships because they have a tendency to fail when they are implemented. P3s are marketed in a way that can be appealing on paper, but have also proven to be a "bad

deal for taxpayers," because they are riskier and quite costly. Public-private partnerships are also quite questionable and have proven to have a negative impact on our economy.

Our government continues to explore out these avenues simply because they are cheap and feel they are getting more value for their money in the long-term. The question we should ask is, "who's money exactly are we talking about?" The money that's skimmed off the backs of our hard working, tax paying citizens of course. If we value our schools than why would we want to compromise the quality of our infrastructure over a few dollars? Why would be put at risk or jeopardize the quality of our school systems with shady, backroom deals just to save a few bucks? These kinds of options only favour the people that promote and market them. There has been research that shows that if school boards where to operate their building operations themselves, they would save more money in the long-term because they would be far lower in cost than P3 operators.

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 believe collective bargaining is a way to providing more security for our employees and their rights. It also benefits our schools and community as a whole. Unions will stand and advocate for fair wages and benefits. Without it, people will be taken advantage of and have no one to help support or fight for them when they need help. Through collective bargaining both the employee union and employer representatives can work collaboratively to negotiate and reach agreements for their employees. This will be one of my main priorities to see that each and every employee is looked after and that the rules and procedures they need to follow in their workplaces are fair, inclusive and comprehensive.

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 will certainly oppose any attempts our government tries in efforts to make any kind of cuts to LAPP, or if they try to take away the civil rights of school staff employees who wish to strike? I know many people who have LAPP and its a great pension plan with lots of perks for its members! The government has a responsibility to the hundreds of thousands of Alberta public-sector workers and the last thing they want to do is to make any attempts to disrupt peoples pensions in anyway that could hurt them financially especially for those close to retirement.

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 most certainly do. I've gone on record to indicate that as the threat of COVID-19 continues to hover over our heads and as the pandemic continues to grow, I believe we need to prioritize the health, well-being and safety of all students and staff in our district. This means we need to adhere to the direction, guidance's and mandates passed down by our health experts and hold accountable our government to ensure they provide the school boards with the necessary funding and resources so that our school boards can implement these policies and protocols in our schools across the district.

This also means we need to lobby our government to re-establish contact tracing in our schools! I don't understand what the delay is in getting this done? We're in the middle of a pandemic and parents should have the right to feel that their children are safe and protected. We need

mandatory masks, vaccinations, ventilation upgrades where needed, CO2 air quality monitors and HEPA filters. We could also look at creative and innovative ways to reduce class-sizes, which would help mitigate the spread and risk of COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses. We need an "all hands on deck," approach which includes active engagement between all stakeholders, including community leaders, members, staff, teachers, parents, students, and anyone who has an active interest in public education to come together in a collaborative effort to find comprehensive strategies to protect our students and staff in our schools across the province.

Thank you again for allowing me to participate in your survey. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any further questions?

Sincerely,

Sheeraz Rahman
Edmonton Public School Trustee candidate - Ward A

ph: 780-709-6999

email: info@electsheeraz.ca

website: <http://www.electsheeraz.ca>

facebook: <https://business.facebook.com/electsheeraz>

twitter: @electsheeraz

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ph: 780-709-6999
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For School Trustee | Ward A

From: Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 1:38 PM

Subject: School Trustee Questionnaire

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) Committee on Political Action (COPA) and their Chair Mike Dempsey.

The Committee has written a survey for candidates seeking municipal office that they are hoping you will **complete by Thursday, September 30th.**

The Committee intends to review the responses and publish them on the week of October 4 to help the 90,000 AUPE members across Alberta make an informed choice in the election.

Please send your responses to this email, as well as any questions you might have about this survey.