

Shirley Anderson responses

Candidate for Calgary Board of Education Wards 11 & 13

1. I do agree that the 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 modernization to reflect the world we live in. It's academically and educationally valuable to create a relevant and historically impactful curriculum for Albertan students. The proposed K-6 curriculum fails in so many areas.

2. As far as funding, is there ever enough money ? Usually, having more money will lead to more spending. However, spending does not necessarily equate to the success of educational programs. Is the success of education being measured with realistic goals. I get much opposition by suggesting that the money is there, the funds are in place, we just need to create quality programs that can measure and be measured for success.

To answer the question put forth, " Do you believe the current education funding formula is sufficient for your district ?" My response is, it's what we have to work with, let's do our best with the funding from the provincial government. I see more effort needed in support and resources in school districts to help teachers with their students.

3. I will be fair and listen to the pros and cons of privatization of school services. Initially, I would prefer keeping services within the school system in order to have a better degree of accountability. Unfortunately, much falls into affordability.

I would prefer to oppose privatization of school services and infrastructure, including Public-Private-Partnerships and again would have to evaluate the benefits and deficits of bringing previously privatized services in-house.

4. I absolutely devote my energy and will support our employees and community by ensuring the school board employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights.

5. I will emphatically 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. The current provincial government has ample room for improvement on so many issues.

6. I fully support measures such as mask mandates, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of Covid-19 in our schools. Being vaccinated and wearing masks are very critical in preventing the transmission of Covid-19.