

Tammy Monro responses

Grande Prairie Public School Division candidate

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 curriculum that was developed is not suitable for our youth and does not reflect a high quality education. Even without looking deeply into the curriculum, the amount of criticisms it has received from teachers and frontline staff should be enough to have it completely overhauled.

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 believe as a whole, public education is a of low priority to the government. This is seen through actions that reduce funding or subsidizing private education as was mentioned in this question's preamble. As a board it is our job to work with other provincial boards and our MLAs to advocate for education.

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?

Private education has no place in our province. Every child should have access to the same building blocks regardless of family income levels. Privatization only furthers the gap and increases the barriers for a large portion of our population.

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 fully support teachers and school staff and will do everything in my power to ensure they are given the wages (and respect) they deserve. Teachers are the very foundation of our school systems. They are asked to wear an infinite number of hats in their daily lives that reaches far beyond simply implementing and delivering a curriculum to students. All staff should be given the opportunity to have a healthy work/life balance.

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. There is power in our words and actions as shown by strikes and rallies. To add legislation to that would be taking that action away.

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?

This has been a very controversial topic and one that I have thought about deeply. At this time I do not agree with mandatory vaccinations for staff or children, however, I do believe it is important to receive the vaccine.

Instead, I feel it is necessary to implement other precautions such as mandatory masking, cohorting, physical distancing, upgrading ventilation where required, and most importantly reinstating contact tracing. This could also be strengthened with individual barriers at desks, however, due to the increased cost of plexiglass or other such materials, this option is less viable.