

Terri Grills responses
Candidate for Red Deer Public School Trustee

1. I'll be very blunt. The new curriculum is garbage and has no redeeming features. It focuses on rote learning, outdated ideals, and religion. Dr. Carla Peck wrote an excellent piece about the draft curriculum and I agree with her summary.

As a parent and grandparent, I've been writing to Adriana LaGrange as well as protesting outside her office. I'll bring that same energy to the school board. Immediately following the election there will be no time to waste because staff have already been given a schedule for curriculum training. I will advocate for a united but firm stance against continued rollout plans. We must convince the sitting government to drop this curriculum.

2. Subsidizing private schools with public funds needs to stop. This won't be easy because our current government is very invested in continuing to open private schools. A properly run public system meets the needs of all students in an equitable manner and eliminates the need to seek programs outside the system.

3. Yes, I oppose the privatization of services. I can't recall a time where privatized services have resulted in long term positive outcomes. I commit to learning which service providers we have here in Red Deer and following through on this issue.

4. Yes. Employees are the backbone of the system. They've been expected to do more with less for far too long. This past year all staff was expected to accommodate additional measures with very little if any support. That's not okay. Employees who feel secure in their employment and who are making a good wage, not just a living wage, are far more likely to stay employed with us and we in turn benefit from their skills as they progress.

5. As a former employee I was furious to find out the government had started meddling in our pensions. This government has done almost everything it can to undermine unions, education, and medical staff in an effort to destroy the systems we rely on. School boards need to work with unions to provide a strong voice in order to build our systems up. I support an employee's right to strike.

6. It's frustrating to see all the misinformation out there. It's more frustrating though to see how it's impacting our children. Right now children 5 to 9 are the fastest growing group of covid positive cases. Yet schools have been left to figure out their own responses.

We need a mask mandate pre K to 12 for all staff and students. Medical grade masks provided by the government or the boards. The only exceptions would be for disabled children or those with a legitimate medical case as confirmed by a doctor.

Staff, who work with students, need to be vaccinated. If unable to, for a verified medical reason or because they simply refuse, we need to find supplemental employment for them at full pay

that doesn't have them around children. They would be brought back to their positions as soon as the dangers have passed. This is necessary if we're going to keep staff and students safe.

Rapid testing and contact tracing are also needed. These are things we need now. Waiting until after the election on Oct 18 will be too late. I've been writing and calling Adriana Lagrange and our new health minister Jason Copping to press them for these.