

Tricia Doherty responses

Candidate for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Trustee

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

I support public employees and their rights and think that all services should be offered in house.

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?

Yes I completely agree with the calls to scrap the draft curriculum. They either need to go back to piloting the 2018 curriculum or they need to scrap this current draft and start from scratch.

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?

I do not think the education funding formula is sufficient for mine or any district currently. I would work with the board to petition the government to make education spending a priority.

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?

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 believe in living wages for employees, they should have job security. I also believe in a fair bargaining process.

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?

Absolutely I would oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against school staff. Employees deserve the right to a fair pension without cuts. Employees' right to strike should be protected, however I do believe in the fair bargaining process and if that is working as it should job action should be a last resort.

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?

Yes, I believe it is important for those who can, to do their part to slow the spread of covid 19 should. Especially in our schools where a lot of students are not yet eligible to receive a vaccine and it is the adults in our community that must protect them.

