

Archie Lillico's Response to Parkland Teachers' Local Questions

1. What are your top priorities for improving student achievement and well-being across the division, and how do you plan to address them?

For me, student success starts with the basics — strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, good attendance, and feeling safe and supported at school. If kids don't feel like they belong, or if they miss too much school, their learning suffers. I'll be pushing for evidence-based practices in classrooms and policies that put student well-being front and center. My role as trustee isn't to run the schools day-to-day, but to make sure the division is setting the right priorities and tracking results.

2. How will you ensure that financial decisions and budget allocations remain transparent and focused on supporting classrooms and student learning?

Public dollars need to be spent where they make the most difference — in the classroom. I'll advocate for budgets that are clear and understandable, so parents and staff know where the money is going. For me, that means protecting teaching and learning as much as possible, being open about tough decisions, and always asking, "How does this support students?"

3. What is your approach to engaging with parents, staff, and community members to ensure their voices are meaningfully included in board decisions?

I've always believed that listening comes first. Parents, staff, and community members are closest to what's really happening in our schools, and trustees need to hear those voices. For me, that means being present in schools, open to conversation, and making sure concerns and ideas get brought to the board table. Representation isn't about speaking for people — it's about carrying their perspectives forward.

4. Given the growing push for private and charter schools, how will you advocate for strong, well-funded public education that serves all students equitably?

I believe strongly in public education because it's the one system built for every child, no matter their background. Families may make different choices, but as a trustee my job is to make sure our public schools remain strong and well-funded. That means advocating for sustainable funding, highlighting the great work happening in our classrooms, and making sure every student in our division has access to the supports they need to succeed.

5. In light of current challenges in education, what steps will you take to ensure public schools have high standards of learning, safety, and inclusivity?

High standards and safe, welcoming schools go hand in hand. I'll support policies that keep expectations for learning high, while also ensuring that schools are inclusive and safe places for all students. That includes backing staff with the resources and training they need, and making sure we're paying attention not only to academics, but also to student mental health and well-being.

Archie