

Mumbi Maina's Response to Parkland Teachers' Local Questions

Hello,

I would like to say thank you for the following questions. I hope you hear my heart through my answers. Have a great evening.

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

My top priorities for improving student achievement and well-being across the division are providing the students with a high-quality education. By preparing students for future readiness. Prepare students not just to graduate but to thrive in the "real world". This can be done by providing targeted academic interventions such as tutoring, mentoring programs, encouraging families to help their children with schoolwork at home and investing in family engagement strategies.

Many of the students that are in our schools have different cultural and religious beliefs. As a community, let us foster a sense of belonging and representation for all students no matter their backgrounds.

Student mental health and well being is a top priority because in this time and age, there are more issues with mental health, there are more students on social media who are being bullied. Bullying has carried on from the school playground all the way into their mobile devices. This has affected many students negatively and has caused a lot of pain in families. Creating a safe, supportive environment where every student feels seen, heard, and valued can eliminate many struggles.

Last but not least, involving parents and valuing their input.

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

By demanding clear and accessible budget reporting whereby budget documents are public, easy to understand, and accessible in many ways this can be in different languages and available in audio. Push for community-friendly explanations of how funds are allocated and spent. Transparency builds trust

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

I plan on engaging with parents, by having meetings reachable in many means. This can involve social media whereby parents can join meetings wherever they are. By hosting regular listening sessions and including information that is easy to understand so that parents can learn what is expected from them and what is expected from the schools. During my campaign, I have come across a few parents that had no idea what a board of trustee is or what is their role. I believe by doing this, both parents and the schools will benefit.

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?

Pushing for more teachers, EA's, and support staff with better pay. Having more staff in the schools, teachers can take their time with children who need more one-on-one support. This will eliminate fatigue

which will make our teachers look forward to coming in everyday. Prioritize equitable funding so that schools with higher needs get the resources they require.

Some parents are turning to private schools due to frustration. Also, by creating safe, inclusive, and innovative learning environments.

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?

Prioritize investing in mental health staff, create schools where students feel seen, safe and supported and strengthen anti-bullying policies and ensure consistent enforcement across all schools, especially for vulnerable student groups (different background, different race and religion).

Thank you,

Mumbi Maina