

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

As a trustee, one of my top priorities for improving student achievement and well-being is to ensure educators have the resources and supports they need to help their students be successful. Some practical strategies I would like to implement include:

- Focus board agendas and discussions on student outcomes and wellness priorities to align with budget allocation.
- Advocate for funding and resources allocated to resources like counsellors, wellness facilitators, and comprehensive health programming. One of the areas that I would like to see continued improvements throughout the division is mental well-being, starting with initiatives that focus on citizenship and school culture.
- Connect with parents, students, and community to listen and learn what supports they need and use that feedback to inform the board. Feedback loops are integral to solving complex problems. This takes time but it offers different perspectives and can be a helpful way to generate new ideas or ways of thinking in a proactive way, solution-focused way.
- Communicate and celebrate achievement and wellness results openly to school community and stakeholders.
- Advocate for resources and programs that nurture staff well-being, recognizing that healthy staff positively impact student learning.
- Evaluate the impact and value of current policies and procedures to assess implementation efficiency (reduce administrative burden where possible)

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

I would follow open governance practices, ensure the information is shared publicly, and align spending with student learning priorities. To ensure transparency, all board meetings and budget discussions should be open to the public and we should regularly publish meeting minutes and financial statements. A board should also provide clear communication about major decisions as well as the rationale behind those decisions to reflect how they connect to student learning outcomes. Community engagement would also be a priority before major planning or policy changes would occur.

My intention as trustee to ensure fiscal responsibility is to approve budgets with clear, targeted allocations towards classroom instruction, staffing, and support programs that directly impact student learning. It would also be important for

me that the board monitors implementation and reviews audit reports to confirm responsible financial management and compliance with policy.

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

I would like to provide a number of ways to engage with various stakeholders as an opportunity for me as their elected official, to listen and learn from them. As part of my campaign initiatives, I am hosting “Coffee with a Candidate” every Wednesday morning at a local coffee shop to provide opportunities for students, staff, and parents to engage in meaningful conversation about our school communities.

If elected, I would like to continue those conversational opportunities at various times throughout the year. Much of my work as trustee will be guided by the feedback and information I receive from those of whom I serve, so I would like to organize various engagement opportunities and provide ways in which people can connect with me anytime. I would also collaborate with other board trustees to develop an engagement plan to ensure consistent communication across the division.

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?

This issue is a key focus area for me in my campaign. I am strongly against the continuing increase of public funds being directed to private and charter schools. While I agree with offering choice in education, I feel that we can provide significant choice within the public school system if financially supported by this government. The public system is the cornerstone of education and provides an equitable learning environment for all learners. The public system currently serves 95% of students and the funding from the provincial government should reflect that. I believe that our system, if provided with the necessary funds and resources, could provide a robust and innovative design to fulfill the needs of the majority of students. Charter and private schools have their place and are necessary for some families; however, there needs to be a cap on the number of charter schools allowed (as per previous legislation) and private schools should be funded at 30% with the balance being collected in tuition. Our focus should be on strengthening public education, not weakening it. Unlike charters and independent schools, public school systems offer public oversight and accountability and a place for all students to receive an education in an equitable environment.

Once elected, I would like to represent PSD on either the ASBA or the PSBAA to learn from, and collaborate with other school board trustees to provide a unified voice when advocating to the provincial government.

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?

As indicated in the Division's foundational statements, our ultimate goal is student success and well-being. To achieve this, the board must:

- Set clear priorities while ensuring compliances with provincial guidelines.
- Collaborate with the Superintendent to ensure we are monitoring learning outcomes and focusing on continuous improvement
- Approve and oversee the annual budget to ensure resources support effective learning environments for all students
- Monitor implementation of safe and welcoming school procedures
- Monitor and evaluate progress towards goals for learning, safety, and inclusivity, making adjustments on feedback and evidence
- Actively engage with parents, students, and community to reflect local voices in decision making
- Review and evaluate our division's inclusive education practices and learn how other divisions are designing an inclusive education system to ensure all students feel welcome, valued and respected.