

School Trustee Questionnaire

In your own words, please respond to the following questions. Note that the STA will make this questionnaire and your responses available to members via email and on the STA website at sooketeachers.org.

1. **MOTIVATION:** Why have you decided to put your name forward for this work and what are your top three priorities as a School Trustee? Explain how these priorities will improve public education.
2. **EXPERIENCE:** When was the last time you spent time in a public school in British Columbia? What direct experience do you have in advocating for improvements to public education in British Columbia?
3. **RELATIONSHIP:** Are you working with any other Trustee and/or City Council candidates, either formally or informally? Based on the platforms of others running, are there any Trustee candidates you would like to work with around the table? How will you foster respectful and collaborative labour relations with the STA and other employee groups?
4. **AUTONOMY:** What degree of autonomy do you think teachers should have over their instruction and their professional development?
5. **BUDGET:** While BC's public schools are suffering the impact of chronic underfunding, public tax dollars are provided to private schools. What are your thoughts about public funds being used for private schools? How would you approach the budget process to make sure you are casting an informed vote?
6. **VOICE:** How do you plan to ensure the voices of vulnerable staff and students are represented in board decisions?
7. **VIOLENCE:** What is your understanding of violence in schools and what would you do to ensure workplaces are safe for staff and students?
8. **SOGI:** What does SOGI mean? What is your position on SOGI education in schools? What would you do to address the rise in transphobia and queerphobia?
9. **CLIMATE:** What role do trustees play in addressing the climate crisis?
10. **RECONCILIATION:** What steps have you taken toward Reconciliation?

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1. My main motivation is to do the best work I can for kids in the classroom. It always has been. My top three priorities are communication between trustees, communication with all partner groups and inclusivity. All three of these are necessary for the growth of our district.

2. My experience is with three years of teaching elementary severe behaviour kids in Alberta, a year of TTOC work in this district, two years of elementary behaviour work at Ruth King, a year of Gr 2, Gr 5 and Integration Support at Colwood, one year of severe behaviour kids at Sooke Alternative School, and twenty nine years at EMCS teaching moderate and severe behaviour kids, Phys Ed 9-12, Drama, Planning 10, Intro Math 9, Math 9, Math 10 and 11 Essentials and Math 10 Pre Calc.

3. I already have a great working relationship with Amanda Dowie and Tom Davis (running for School Trustee in the Belmont Zone) and connecting well with Laurie Szadkowski. I will foster the relationship with the other trustees as well as the STA and other partner groups with open, honest and regular conversation.

4. Complete autonomy for teacher instruction and professional development.

5. Private schools should not get a nickel of public funds. I will be vocal to put the money in front of the kids instead of behind the kids. I would be asking many questions on where the money is going and why, as well as listening to all the partner groups.

6. I have no problem voicing any vulnerable voices of staff and students in our district. They will be heard by me and expressed by me.

7. Violence in schools is at an increasing level. I am certain there are even more because resilient teachers, EA's and PVP will "work through it" without reporting it. I would stay up to speed with the reporting that is being done to stay informed and voice the concerns.

8. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. It's a must in schools. Ask to set up communication with the middle and secondary school GSA's to get information from their perspectives.

9. With clear transparency, climate change is one of the areas I'm least informed about. I will be working towards being better informed. I do know from the Resource Committee that our district is moving in the right direction and doing well compared to most districts.

10. With clear transparency, I would like to do more towards Reconciliation. In my career I have always followed the school-wide celebrations and memories.