

Submitted by Betty Bekkering on Oct. 30,2011.

DPAC Questions: October 30, 2011

Why running: I feel I have developed the skills of being able to listen, collaborate, negotiate compromise and speak up for what's right and thus make a worthwhile contribution at the Board table.

Choice of school: I feel there should be a choice for French Immersion and the new Aboriginal School,

But the ability of parents to choose any school out of catchment, makes for an uneven playing field and makes socio-economics more of an issue than quality education.

Decision making: I was part of a committee in Vancouver that changed the old PTA system to the current PAC. I felt parents needed to be more involved in the decision-making regarding their children's education. I will always advocate for that to happen.

PGDTA Questions:

Classroom Composition: The first action I would take would be to ask our superintendent what the statistics are of classroom composition in SD # 57. so that we know how many IEP's are in a class of 30, so that we know how many students with learning challenges are still waiting to be diagnosed. Only then can we develop an action plan.

Advocating for students: The best way I can see myself advocating for students in our district, is to collaborate with the provincial trustee association to put pressure on our government to restore education funding to the level it was in 1991, when it was 26% of the provincial budget instead of the current 15% which is detrimental to effective learning.

I would also emphasize the need for a Child Poverty Reduction Plan. BC has the highest child poverty rate in Canada and that usually puts them at an unfair advantage to be able to arrive at school ready to learn.

21st Century Learning: The teachers should have representation at any table where the implementation of the 21st Century Learning Initiatives is being discussed! This is uncharted territory our province is wanting to go in and the people at the front line(i.e. Teachers) need to be consulted at every phase of implementation. I would have no problem representing that point of view at the Board table.

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