

DPAC Question # 1 - Why are you running for school trustee?

I am a long-term advocate for children and youth in our community, region and across the province through my work with various charitable organizations. The main reason I am running for school trustee is I believe that a change is needed to help move our district forward and provide a better education for students in our district. Through my experiences with nonprofit organizations I have developed strengths in policy development, strategic planning and finding ways to maintain and grow services while spending less. All of these are current priorities of the district. I believe a positive education can be the foundation for great things for our students down the road.

DPAC Question # 2 - What is your position on choice of school and programming in School District 57?

I fully support both choice schools and programming in the district. I recognize that not all students will learn sitting in a traditional classroom. By offering choices the parents are able to find a program that gives their child(ren) the best opportunity for success.

DPAC Question # 3 - How will you ensure that parents and other education partners are involved in decision-making?

I believe that parents, students and other School District 57 stakeholders need to have a voice when it comes to decisions about education in the district. I believe that the two sets of school closures have shown that the consultation process needs to be looked at and reviewed as many people feel their voices and suggestions were not heard. I am committed to making myself available to parents, students or other stakeholders when they have a concern, question or suggestion. I will reply to emails, messages or be willing to talk when I am out and about in the community. Our district has some great committees in place to ensure that all stakeholders have their say, including a strong District Parent Advisory Committee, Cores for Rural Schools and I hope to see the District Student Advisory Committee build itself back up. With that being said I would like to look at the policies about who is sitting around the table and ensure that all stakeholders have a seat.

PGDTA Question # 1 - What specific actions would you take to ensure better classroom composition for the students of School District 57?

I could make all these promises however I realize that trustees have to work within a set of guidelines and I don't want to be making empty promises. I believe that teachers and administration are doing the best they can with the "cards they are dealt" and if elected my priority will be to advocate for what is in the best interests of students across the district. I feel that the new board needs to continue to apply pressure on the government to change its funding formula and look at the budget and find ways to cut spending so more funds can be allocated to where they belong; supporting the needs of our students. If schools had more funding available they could ensure that support and resources are available.

PGDTA Question # 2 - How do you plan to advocate for District 57 students even if it means opposing government initiatives?

I feel that school trustees are responsible for advocating on behalf of all schools and students in their district. I am a strong supporter of local solutions for local issues. I am committed to acting in the best interests of all stakeholders even if it means opposing government initiatives.

PGDTA Question # 3 - How will you ensure teachers have input in the implementation of 21st century learning initiatives?

I fully support the implementation of 21st Century learning initiatives. I believe that by utilizing technology and new teaching methods will only enhance a student's education. I feel that training opportunities for teachers will be vital in bringing these new technologies into the classroom. I would be willing and interested to meet with teachers to hear their ideas and would like to work with a committee of stakeholders to find ways to bring learning into the 21st Century. The world is changing and if our district doesn't adapt then our students are going to be left behind.