

## **Submitted by Valentine Crawford on November 4, 2011.**

DPAC Questions:

Why are you running for school trustee?

**I have been a passionate advocate for quality public education since my days serving on the College of New Caledonia Students' Union, and the College Board of Governors. I strongly believe that a quality public education is an essential part of our community, and is vital if we are to bridge the socioeconomic divide that continues to grow today.**

**I was born and raised in Prince George, a proud graduate of Prince George Secondary's Transitional Alternate Program (TAPS) and with two brothers and one sister who attend McBride Elementary and Secondary school, education has never been more important to me because I know education can change people's lives.**

What is your position on choice schools and programming in School District 57?

**I believe that School District 57 is at its capacity for choice schools; however, we still have the recommendation from the Aboriginal Education Task force which speaks to the creation of a Aboriginal Choice High School. That said our elementary Aboriginal Choice School is still in its infancy and until we have a solid grounding for this school, the District should not proceed too quickly.**

**With the shift to Personalized Learning, Trustees will have to demonstrate leadership and encourage schools to create "choice" or "special" programs within the schools to meet the learning needs and expectations of students. Although this applies more to Secondary Schools, our Elementary Schools would benefit greatly by integrating specific programs year to year. For example a "family of schools" could rotate a series of music and/or art projects throughout their "family"**

How will you ensure that parents and other education partners are involved in

**I strongly believe that our Consultation Process can be better. We can take more steps to invite open and meaningful discussions. We know we will never always agree; however, it is far more important that we work to understand the issues and a work towards making things work for the betterment of the district as a whole.**

**I am committed to making policy changes that pave the way for real open discussions when the district is making big changes and to break down the silos that have been created and that begins with the creation of a Partner Group Round Table.**

PGDTA Questions:

What specific actions would you take to ensure better classroom composition for the students of School District 57?

**Appropriate class size and class composition are crucial components of quality public education. Teachers who are faced with oversized classrooms or classrooms with many students with special needs are less likely to be able to give students the individual attention they need and deserve. This is a fault of the education system, not the teachers, yet the teachers are often given the blame.**

**As a trustee, I am committed to continuing to press the provincial government to ensure that the funding formula works to address the problem of class size and composition. The cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all approach taken by the government assumes that what works in Surrey will also work in McBride. It's part of our job as trustees to remind Victoria that such thinking is short-sighted at best.**

How do you plan to advocate for District 57 students even if it means opposing government initiatives?

**I am committed to continuing to use and build upon the new relationships with our education partners discuss issues associated with government's initiatives and the impacts on our district. Further, I believe more joint work needs to occur, such as joint letter, public forums, and meetings with MLAs, as we all have vested interests in our district.**

How will you ensure teachers have input in the implementation of 21st century learning initiatives?

**Teachers need adequate avenues for participation throughout the district when it comes moving the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning agenda. By restoring various committees to ensure teacher collaboration, input and meaningful consultation, we can face the challenges and reap the rewards in the coming years. I have said previously that we can improve on our communication and consultation; that applies with all stakeholders in education: parents, students, staff, teachers and the community at large.**