

**Josh Silva Introduction:**

*Tell us about yourself and why you are running or what you hope to achieve.*

First of all, God bless you all for coming tonight to show your interest in shaping the best opportunities for our children and future generations. Please bear with me with my first attempt with public speaking, believe me all of this comes from my heart. My Name is Josh Silva and I am a proud father to two girls. I am running for school district trustee because I believe we need to do better for our children so that they have the education that they need for this high paced world we live in and the ability to manifest their own destinies. I want to achieve a positive atmosphere where all our children will be happy, healthy and together when focusing on education. I believe all children should have equal learning opportunities as well being able to excel with advanced placement programs that will allow them to focus on their strengths. I think all kids should be provided the opportunity to have a healthy lifestyle at least while they are in our education system which in turn will lessen the daily stress in their lives and allow them to be the best they can be for not only themselves but for everyone around them.

**Question 1 from CUPE Local 3742:**

*What do you view as your responsibility in relation to senior management?*

If I am elected I believe my responsibility to senior management is to be a voice for our teachers, parents and students; recognize their strengths and abilities and help them determine a way that we can move forward together without all of the division that is going on within school district 57. Listening to people's issues and working towards resolve for the people as a whole is something that I am strong with. I don't actually know the people I'll be working with, but I have seen all throughout my life that most people don't have the ability to make decisions that are the best for the whole, excluding their own personal situation, views or agenda from the equation. From what I'm hearing already from parents and the few teachers I've spoken with they could possibly use some help with this on all levels of our education system. I will be a voice of reason for all sides involved.

**Question 2 from PGDTA:**

*School District 57 continues to face a six-year shortage of teachers in all of its communities. This has already resulted in over 20 thousand hours of lost support to students and District assessment data shows that vulnerable students are not reaching education achievement benchmarks in multiple areas.*

*What are your ideas for teacher recruitment and retention and how would you advocate at both local and provincial levels for a fully funded serious recruitment and retention plan?*

There's no doubt that resolving the shortage of teachers should be a top priority. From talking to teachers and others that have knowledge about SD57, it seems to me that teachers aren't allowed to have much a voice unless their views align with upper management. So they are remaining silent in fear of backlash and even the possibility of losing their job if they actually speak what's on their mind. No one should ever fear for their job for speaking up about problems that they see in their day to day lives at their place of work. This mentality and abuse of power needs to end now. We also need to find a way to instill values, morals and respect back into the school system so that it is desirable and people want to be helping and empowering our children. People often say that teachers are overpaid. For years I've been telling people they're wrong. I

firmly believe teachers are underpaid! I say this because not only do they have to deal with disrespectful children but they also have to deal with the parents that come in after their child has acted out and often the parents are in the wrong, but they feel the need to stand up for their child and refuse to listen to the facts. This goes back to accountability and discipline. Society has made parents out to be mean if they discipline their children, so most spoil their children, not only because of society but also because they love them. I firmly believe in tough love. Children will respect you more if you're firm and decisive. I see this in children with the way they treat the firm parent opposed to the parent that will argue with them after they've already said no, it's not supposed to be an argument! Rules are rules, and if they have everyone's best interests in mind then they need to be followed. I believe there needs to be more open communication and accessibility for parents and teachers to work together on the educational fundamentals for our children and future generations through a better and more accessible PTA.

**Question 3 from DPAC:**

*What does accountability mean to you and increasing accountability in SD57?*

Accountability and respect are possibly the 2 biggest issues with all of society at this time. We can all do better at both and we all have to do better at both being respectful towards each other and holding each other accountable in every action we take. We need to simplify things in a sense. If something we do cause anyone else harm in any way we need to accept accountability and own it, on and at every level. I believe so many horrible things happen and people are able to avoid being held accountable simply because of poor legislation... "politics". This also needs to end in our school system NOONE is above the law. We are all equal and need to start acting like it.

**Question 4:**

*Please provide a value Statement on Indigenous Education in School District 57.*

We have a lot to learn about the indigenous and their way of life in the sense of their learning and knowledge of the land, their medicines and there spiritual connections that has been passed down from their elders and I believe a lot of it needs to be implemented in our education system. It will empower us all in ways that most of us don't even understand at this time. We need to stop the stereotyping in us as a society and will come together to understand and respect each other equally through their teachings and all of our learnings through our educational system. This will help all indigenous children to gain knowledge and understanding of their culture that was stripped from them through the residential school system.

We need to give our children the opportunity to be diverse in the knowledge of the indigenous culture as it was the original laws and ways of this great land that we call Canada today.

We will unite all children of our community to be the beacon of hope that we understand and live together as the elders always wanted us to be under the great law of the land.

We owe it to our children and community to come together and unite and provide a safe and respectful environment.