



TRUSTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Tell us about who you are and why you decided to run for School Board Trustee?

I am a lifelong, passionate advocate for public education, community and student success and served as a CBE school board trustee from 1999-2007. I have been a Board Governor on Education Matters, the CBE's foundation, since 2008 and recently served as Chair. I am also a parent and grandparent of past and present CBE students.

For the past decade, I have worked in Mayor Naheed Nenshi's office as his Community Relations Coordinator. I led on files related to education, civic engagement, mental health and addiction, poverty and homelessness. I strongly believe local decision-making matters and school boards can be more effective in engaging our community to improve student outcomes.

This is a critical moment in the history of public education. Ensuring every single child in our city goes to an excellent public school is the foundation for our success. I am motivated to bring my experience and expertise to help CBE be the best choice for Calgary families and for making Calgary a place where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

2. If you could change three things about the CBE, what would they be?

Three issues have compelled me to run; specifically, upcoming school closure considerations shouldn't be based on utilization rates, school board decision-making should meaningfully engage collaborative partnerships to address barriers to student success and policy or, lack of policy, shouldn't preclude leadership or action.

- School closures shouldn't be inevitable. We can no longer afford single purpose school buildings. We need to explore collaborative solutions, including co-locating community spaces in schools. I look forward to a community discussion on who builds schools, who owns them, and who uses them. I am in favour of publicly funded buildings for public use.
- The pandemic revealed that children face many complex, often intersecting challenges. The CBE must partner with other governments and agencies to tackle these barriers and meet students' needs. Community serving agencies already work well with students to address barriers to learning. We can be even more effective in coordinating these efforts.
- It was disappointing to see the slow CBE response to a student-led petition to change the name of Langevin School. Policy can empower great decisions, but lack of policy shouldn't stop leadership or action.

Our CBE public school board has three responsibilities; governance, advocacy for families and making CBE the best choice for Calgary students. I would like to see the newly elected board successfully fulfill all three roles. We have an opportunity to revisit and reimagine how we work together across the education, health and economic sectors so that we can collectively meet the needs of our community.

3. What are your thoughts on the province's proposed draft school curriculum?

I don't support the draft K-6 curriculum. I am concerned about who has and hasn't been involved in developing changes to the curriculum. I don't think provincial governments should make revisions singularly. We need a process that everyone can trust and support. Our students need a modern and inclusive curriculum. The provincial draft needs to be withdrawn in favour of one that is collaborative and prepares students for the future.

4. What are your thoughts on privatization in regard to the CBE?

As mentioned, this is a critical moment in the history of public education. The CBE is already an excellent public education system.

Schools are the heart of each of our communities brought to life by people who collectively care about student success; our incredibly dedicated classroom teachers and principals, school councils, administrators, school staff, parents and families, and of course our amazing students.

We need to keep the public in education.