The following are the responses to the Parents for Choice Education Trustee Candidate Questionnaire provided by **Sarah Murphy, candidate for Elk Island School Division, Sub-jurisdiction ward 1**, submitted at 9/21/2021 13:56:15

The long form answers are at the bottom of this page.

**The candidate's responses, including name and comments, are presented below precisely as the candidate entered them on the questionnaire form. If you have questions about these responses, please mail them to Sarah Murphy at murphyforsbt@gmail.com*

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

1. Do you agree that all education laws, school board policies and best practices in Alberta should comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Family Law Act when it comes to the right of parents to direct, and be fully informed about, all aspects of their children's education?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

2. Do you support subsidiarity - the idea that distant levels of government should not make decisions that are best understood and resolved at the local level?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

3. Do you agree parents should be permitted to choose the location, type and style of education (i.e. home-based, language, interest, faith-based, etc.) that best suits their child, free of bureaucratic, union or government coercion?

The response was "**Somewhat**" to the following question:

4. Do you agree that the Alberta government should provide equitable funding to all education settings, whether public, Catholic, francophone, independent, faith-based, charter, alternative and supervised home education?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

5. Do you agree that the Alberta curriculum should leave room for chosen educational interests - such as history, faith, the arts, sport, language, or STEM for example - and refrain from prescribing excessive content which unduly crowds out local thematic interests?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

6. Do you agree that curriculum development must be transparent and focused on clearly defined and foundational basic skill and knowledge outcomes in core subject areas?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

7. Do you agree with providing a system of high-quality standardized testing based on specific scholastic skills and knowledge outcomes, created by independent testing organizations? Examples might include the Canadian Test for Basic Skills or international tests such as the PISA.

The response was "**Somewhat**" to the following question:

8. When it comes to communicating student progress for Grades 7-12, would you agree that an objective and clear reporting system of percentages and class averages (as opposed to descriptive terms only) is important?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

9. Do you agree that any school board policy that forces teachers to keep secrets from parents is unacceptable, and if elected would you move to repeal any such policies? For example, the NDP government in 2017 forced boards to pass a policy regarding certain student clubs that said "notification, if any, respecting a voluntary student organization [...] is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity."

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

10. Currently, provincial legislation requires that parents be provided notice when a program of study includes subject-matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality (Education Act - Section 58.1). Do you agree that this notice and opt-out opportunity should continue to be provided?

The response was "**Yes**" to the following question:

11. Do you agree that every school board should establish a procedure for vetting and obtaining parental consent when it comes to individual external facilitators accessing students during both instructional and non-instructional time?

Sarah Murphy's added comments:

To question 4, My concern is having limited funding spread too thin amongst many types of schools.

to question 8 I need a better description of these processes as I am not familiar with them currently. clear and objective sounds good! what are the descriptive only methods? my apologies for not being able to give a sound answer to this question.