



Linda Wellman, Calgary Catholic School Board Trustee Candidate for Wards 3, 5 & Airdrie

How would you advocate for sustainable and adequate funding for our students?

I will continue to advocate for sustainable, predictable and flexible funding to meet the diverse and complex needs of students by regularly meeting with MLAs to inform them of educational issues and needs. I am committed to advocating collectively with my colleagues on the Board and with trustees throughout the province through the Alberta School Boards Association. I will also continue to meet with parents individually and collectively through School Councils. I strongly support meeting with parents through Parent/Trustee Forums to raise awareness of funding challenges so they in turn can assist in advocacy efforts.

What are your priorities for education outcomes for Alberta's students?

I believe students should have equitable access to programs that will meet their learning needs and that students will be successful, caring and good citizens and contributing members to our global society. Students will be critical problem solvers and possess the skills they will need to adapt to an ever-changing world knowing that many of the careers students will have in the future do not exist yet.

What is your position on the current draft K-6 curriculum?

Feedback from parents, staff, teachers and other interested stakeholders all shared similar concerns that the draft did not strike the correct balance in providing students with information/data, experiential learning, independent thought and critical thinking skills. It was also thought that the curriculum was Euro-centric, concerns about developmentally appropriate content and the age appropriateness for some subject matters. There is lack of scope and sequence in areas between grade levels. The indigenous perspectives in the draft were limited and seen as tokenistic and does very little to advance the spirit of reconciliation. I share many of the above concerns.

What is your position on charter schools?

Charter schools provide a choice for parents, I do support choice. However, the concept of charter schools was to provide educational and learning opportunities that were not being provided within the 3



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facets of publicly funded education, Public, Separate and Francophone. It was also intended that the charter schools would share best practices with all 3 of the public school entities to enhance teaching and learning and provide greater opportunities for students within their public school system. This has never occurred, which causes great concern in that the government has allowed for what appears to be publicly funded private schools that they call Charter.

What are your priorities for new school buildings and other infrastructure?

Government has the sole responsibility to fully fund new school buildings and other infrastructure. The current method of having school boards submit three-year capital plans annually lacks transparency and can be very political. It would be beneficial for the government to have a more transparent, accountable process and have a set formula for ensuring that the provincial budget includes capital dollars to reflect the growth and the needs of communities.

What is your position on public-private partnerships to build new schools?

I am aware that several new schools have been built through public-private partnerships and that the time-line can be elongated from approval to the day the new school opens. It has not been adequately demonstrated by government that this method of building and maintaining new schools is more efficient or more cost effective for the taxpayer, therefore it is difficult to support this concept.