

SD 61 & 63 TRUSTEE CANDIDATE SURVEY

2011 Municipal Elections Nov. 1, 2011

CANDIDATE NAME: EDITH LORING-KUHANGA

Please complete and return this survey to subresc@uvic.ca by Tuesday November 1, 2011. Results from this survey will be published.

Please indicate your chosen answer and/or provide comments where applicable.

1. Do you support a fully funded budget that meets the needs of all students? (a 'needs' budget)

YES X

NO

2. Will you vote to submit only a fully funded 'needs' budget to the Minister of Education?

YES X

NO

3. How will you vote when the Superintendent's Report on Class Size and Composition is in violation of Bill 33?

ACCEPT

REJECT X

I was the only Trustee who voted against accepting the Superintendent's Report on Class Size and Composition in Saanich because there were twice as many classrooms that had more than 3 IEP's as well as ESL students than last year. This is totally unacceptable.

4. Some districts send the Superintendent back to use surplus funds to improve class size and composition. Will you vote to send the Superintendent back to produce a revised report that uses surplus funds to improve class size and composition?

YES X
NO

5. What is your position on Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) testing?

SUPPORT
REJECT X

Comments: I don't feel that they are applicable since teachers do a wide variety of assessments already. Also, the results are misused by the Fraser Institute to rank public schools against each other.

6. How will you engage and improve parental and citizen participation in public education issues?

Comments

By what I am doing – getting out and talking to parents and the general public and informing them on the importance of their involvement in public education. There are many events where parents attend and I would make sure that I was visible and accessible to them such as PAC meetings, school functions, community functions. Being visible and accessible everywhere.

7. Will you accept invitations to go visit a classroom regarding specific problems?

YES X
NO

8. If you are an incumbent trustee have you ever been invited to visit a classroom regarding specific problems?

YES
NO X

What did you do?

VISITED

DID NOT VISIT

9. Do you think that special education is adequately funded?

YES

NO X

If "NO", what should change?

We need to ensure funding and staffing is available to do assessments and designations as soon as possible as student's without designation do not receive the supports that they require in order to be successful. In addition, counseling services must be readily available for students. We should do our best to adequately support our students with the necessary adaptive technology and other resources in order for them to be effective.

10. What should be done with the current District Strategic Facilities Plan? (Stantec Report)

KEEP THE REPORT

SCRAP THE REPORT

Although I have requested a copy of the report from the Secretary-Treasurer, I have not received one so I am unfamiliar with the contents. I have asked a couple of other candidates who are trying to get a copy for me. However, from what I understand there was a lack of consultation with the parents, community and Board and the report was extremely badly written. Based on what I have heard, I would scrap it and ask our staff to do the strategic plan.

11. How many hours per month will you commit to the role of Trustee including meetings?

1-5 hours

6-10 hours

11-14 hours

15-20 hours X at least

21-25 hours

26-30 hours

31+ hours per month

12. What are your thoughts and comment's on user fees that parents pay for, such as academies, sports equipment, math workbooks, technical equipment, planners?

I don't believe that parents should be asked to pay for user fees since our schools are within the public school system therefore, everything should be paid for. My ultimate goal would be to eliminate user fees etc. and force the government to adequately resource the schools. In the interim, user fees would have to continue but I would monitor them and ask the teachers and administrators to reach out to those students who may not have the funds to pay for the equipment rather than waiting for them to come to the teacher. The responsibility for this has to be with the teacher and not the student.

13. What is your experience in parliamentary procedure and committee work?

Over the past 3 years that I have been a Trustee with SD63, I have been on most of the committees: Human Resource, Education Directions (Chaired it for two years), Policy, and Finance and Facilities. I have also been on the Local Education Agreement and Green Committees of the district. In addition, I was on the Executive for the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association and the Aboriginal Education Committee of the BC School Trustees Association (was the Chair for one year).

14. Do you live in the SD 61 boundaries?

YES

NO

15. If you have children, what type of schools do they or have they attended?

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

HOME-SCHOOLED

16. What methods would you use to provide accountability & transparency?

It is important to make as many decisions as possible in public since we are elected officials who represent the public. We need to review what decisions are being made behind close doors and question why that is necessary. If we are making our decisions in the public, the public can hold us accountable and we are transparent.

17. Would vote for a motion to have all votes recorded and published annually?

YES X
NO

18. How else would you inform the public about your positions and actions on issues?

I believe in open community consultation. Whenever there are issues of concern to the public, we should look for ways that we can gather information from the public by having open forums, discussion sessions, attending open houses and school functions, getting involved in the local community and just being visible and accessible.

19. Do you support Kindergarten/Grade 1 split classes?

YES
NO X
Please comment.

My preference is to have K and Gr. 1 be separated as they are miles apart. I have taught Grade 1 and have seen the academic and social growth that many of those students make in one year. As a result, it would be important for them to be separated into their own classrooms.

20. What are your thoughts on the involvement of private corporations in the public education system?

I feel that public education should be fully funded by the Ministry of Education. Public schools should not have to go to private corporations to pay for the most important asset that a province has: their children.

21. Please tell us anything else you think may be important or relevant to your candidacy for School Trustee in SD 61.

I am coming from the Saanich School District and have experience in true partnership between the School Board and all of the partner groups. I would like to bring some of those ideas that are working into the SD#61. It is imperative that we work together for the benefit of the students. I am committed to making SD#61 work for all of our students.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out this survey.