



## **SD 61 TRUSTEE CANDIDATE SURVEY 2011 Municipal Elections**

---

**CANDIDATE NAME:**  
Michael McEvoy

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

Yes

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

All trustees swear an oath upon taking office. Among those things each trustee commits to do is uphold the School Act that requires the Board to pass a balanced budget. The public elects us to uphold our oath and to make budget decisions. The public also expects that we will continue to advocate for greater investment in public education. If the question is really asking, will I breach my sworn oath as a school trustee by passing an illegal deficit budget, the answer is no.

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

The reporting requirements on the Superintendent's Report are clear and I will only vote in favour of the Report if those requirements are met.

**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?**

The question confuses two different processes. The timing of reported surpluses do not always arise concurrently with the Superintendent's Report. As a more general matter I have, in the past, supported using any unanticipated surplus funds to improve class size and composition. On other occasions, where the surpluses become apparent late in a fiscal year, it made far more sense to carry them over to the next fiscal year in order to offset any potential cuts to teacher staffing.

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

I support the view of the Children and Youth Commissioner, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond who believes the tests are a useful tool to assess and identify the needs of our most vulnerable students, in particular. What I do not support is using the data in the manner the Fraser Report uses it nor do I support releasing the data in a way that has the potential to identify individual students.

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

On every occasion where I speak publicly, whether it is at a graduation ceremony or in the media, I discuss the importance of public education; parents of school age children make the connection immediately. However, for the 80% of citizens who do not have children in the K-12 system, it is imperative they understand that they have a stake in the success of public education. I encourage parents and members of the public to engage their provincially elected Members of the Legislature to urge them to increase investment in public education.

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

When I am able to do so yes. I am also grateful to teachers who invite me into their classrooms on my visits to schools.

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

On occasion, I have been asked to visit a class about a specific problem. Where the issue concerns a parent/teacher matter, I recommend that the teacher and parent attempt to work it out first and if necessary to get administration involved. Specific issues a teacher may have with class composition, for example, are appropriately dealt with between the teacher and principal who usually able resolve matters.

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

I believe we need to invest more money in public education to meet the needs of all learners.

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

KEEP THE REPORT  
SCRAP THE REPORT

Neither answer is relevant. The Report itself was a requirement of the Ministry of Education. The Board has very deep concerns about the Report that have been publicly expressed. However, it is in the custody and control of the Ministry and therefore not within our purview to keep or scrap.

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

I spend well over 31+ hours a month on trustee matters.

**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?**

Parents should not pay fees for essential aspects of education and this is clearly spelled out in board policy. Academy programs including hockey,

soccer, baseball, lacrosse and others would not exist if not for the fees charged. As per board policy, these fees are not applied where they would prevent a student's involvement in the academy. I strongly oppose any attempt to shut these programs down by eliminating fees.

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

Considerable. I have chaired numerous boards including Greater Victoria Board of Education and am now President of the BC School Trustees Association responsible for convening meetings of 60 school boards and more than 400 trustees.

**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?**

Both my daughters have and presently attend public school.

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

Current Board policy ensure board meetings are open to the public and that information is subject to disclosure under *Freedom of Information and Personal Privacy Act*.

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

All of our votes are recorded and minutes of those matters are officially reported out usually at the following meeting so that we do not have to wait to the end of the year to publish them. These can be found on the district website.

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

I speak frequently in the media about my positions on the issues as well as respond to many phone calls and emails. I also make use of Twitter and Facebook to let people know about issues.

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

Where a split is appropriate for learning, yes. Where it is not, no.

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

There is no role for private corporations to deliver education in the public system.

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

For the past 10 years, I have been committed to improving public education for students in Greater Victoria and throughout our Province. In Greater Victoria, grad rates have improved and there are more choices for students -- from music, dance and arts programs to trade courses and sports academies. However, there is much more to be done. This year, I was honoured to be elected President of the BC School Trustees Association. In this role, I have advocated strongly for increased investment in our public schools. If re-elected, I will continue this important work in our community and across BC.

Please see [michaelmcevoy.ca](http://michaelmcevoy.ca) or follow me on Twitter at BCSTA\_President.