



SD 61 TRUSTEE CANDIDATE SURVEY 2011 Municipal Elections

CANDIDATE NAME:
Deborah Nohr

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?

YES

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

REJECT

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

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

SUPPORT - The BCTF position of random sampling.

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

- I would provide weekly details about current issues and initiatives on my website and commentary on the Board's activities.
- I would attend PAC meetings for my assigned schools and seek parent input.
- Change the Board meeting format to include short dialogue with parents and citizens.
- Provide a monthly report to parents, citizens and the Minister of Education (send it out electronically to ALL parents).

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

YES

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

N/A.

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

NO

If "NO", what should change?

The funding formula must be changed. A review of other provinces and progressive countries' approaches would be a good starting point along with parent / BCTF consultation .

Also, I expect the gov't to return the \$335M ASAP to special education students throughout the province. Without it, our educational system is

precariously set atop an eroding foundation.

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

SCRAP THE REPORT - All trustees should re-read it and create a motion and action plan with their own ideas for a 5 year strategic plan. Then there should be a committee struck of partner groups to develop a relevant, community based plan drawing from the Stantec Plan if there is any useful material.

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

26-30 hours

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?

Not acceptable. Work to inform public and gradually fund these programs with taxpayers money...invest in our own community.

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

I have been on numerous committees at work, at church and in the community and have had many years experience with Robert's Rules of Law. (still learning)

14. Do you live in the SD 61 boundaries?

YES

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

PUBLIC

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

- Follow policy/ regulations
- Update policy/regulations
- RECORD VOTES FOR ALL MOTIONS
- Monthly report to Minister of Education / Premier and to all school based PACs about the successes and specific needs of our district
- Establish yearly goals for the trustees with input from partner groups/evaluation (partner groups/self-evaluation) made public
- Use the SD61 website to inform parents/citizens
- The site should be dynamic and possibly interactive...useful to inform and create opportunities for trustee/parent connections
- Change the format of the Board meetings
- Add more details to the minutes with any presentations as addedums
- Move the podium video mtg
- Review the line item budget and inform the community about the facts
- Always check with partner groups

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

YES

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

Report weekly, bi-weekly on my website, tweet, seek profile on the radio and TV..go to PACs at the school etc

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

NO - The curriculum for each grade is distinct and requires a very different approach. K has a play focus. Grade one has more pencil/ paper, literacy and numeracy activities requiring more quite and directed time for practice.

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

I would only consider small initiatives with no profit motive when agreed upon by the GVTA and directed by teachers with a signed sealed agreement.

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

I have had the opportunity to teach in the K-5, middle school, and high school levels over the past 5 years in Victoria and I have seen a multitude of consequences as a result of underfunding. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and work on the issues. I know the personnel of the district and would invite a broad representation of EAs and teachers and parents and others who are interested to create action plans. I could work well with any broad range of individuals. I know the issues of greatest need.

I have had the opportunity to reflect and consider how SD 61 could be improved as I have attended many Board meetings and tried to work with the current trustees.

I have an expertise in the area of special education and funding is a central issue.

I have attended many professional development workshops on research based methodologies and curriculum and I could bring this knowledge to the Board table.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

I feel that it is imperative to change the culture at the Board and district. It is my considered opinion that we will be much more effective with a culture of courage to speak out, culture of transparency to keep everyone informed and accountable and a culture of participatory democracy so everyone feels heard and valued.