

Erin Stabler – Ward 1 & 2 – Calgary Board of Education

Education Priorities

1. What specific steps would you advocate to improve the quality of education?

Better Communication between Parents, the Provincial Government and the City of Calgary. Accountability and Transparency- ensuring that we know where tax payer money is going, especially for specific funding such as our special needs students. Any budgets cuts should be from the top down and schools should be the very last to be affected.

2. What are the main directions we need to take to develop the full potential of all students?

We can't just focus our efforts to have all students go to University, we have some very talented future tradespeople and we need to give them the same opportunity to succeed in their endeavors.

3. Please indicate if you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree or have no opinion on the following statements

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	No opinion
Schools currently have enough specialized staff and resources to develop the full potential of all students.		X			
Increased class sizes will hurt the high school completion rate.				X	
The board should provide support for community schools rather than expanding alternative programs.				X	
The school board should make sure that students with special needs should be provided additional supports.					X
School boards should work with the provincial government to assure access to early childhood education and quality before and after school care programs.					X
School boards should advocate for the Alberta government to fully fund junior kindergarten and full-day kindergarten as recommended by the Alberta Commission on Learning.				X	
School boards should advocate for the Learning Commision recommendation on class sizes at all grade levels.					X
School boards should advocate for renewed emphasis on the arts, trades and language learning in their schools.					X
School boards should advocate for appropriate					X

programs and supports for ESL students.

Please comment on any of the above statements: for question 3 I agree that alternative programs are necessary to enrich then students that are excelling, however the essentials of learning for the general population need to be taken care of first and then expand from there. All of this depends on budget which I feel should be enough to cover both if done properly.

The Roles of the Trustee

1. What are the most important changes that need to be made regarding the role of school boards in Alberta?

Better engagement with the public. Stop the blame game with the Province and start working with them to solve the issue that all boards face. Be accessible and approachable to the public for questions and concerns

2. How can the school board and you as trustee most effectively influence the financial and policy decisions made by the provincial ministry of education?

By working with the Ministry of Education instead of blaming them for all the problems, each have duties to the tax payers. To have open and respectful communication will allow us to engage in better negotiations to solve issues on both side.

3. Please indicate if you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree or have no opinion on the following statements

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	No opinion
A trustee must be a team player and always defend the decisions of the board, even if the trustee disagrees with those decisions.				X	
All business of the board should be dealt with in open public sessions except when the board is required to protect the privacy of employees or students.				X	
Trustees should actively consult with constituents and school councils on important policy matters.					X
At times, school boards need to take more active public stands on education issues, even if it means being critical of the provincial government.				X	
The provincial government has seriously undermined the power and authority of trustees and school boards.					X

Please comment on any of the above statements: Being a team player doesn't mean that you have to stay quiet when you disagree, not everyone is going to agree on the same items, everyone has different opinions and that needs to be respected. If the board goes one way and has the majority vote that decision must be respected as well.

Education Funding

1. In light of the current funding situation, what strategies should the board use to meet the needs of students and the community?

We need to look at the administrative and operations of the CBE. Small improvements such as possibly leasing their fleet could add up quickly in cost saving measures that can be directed back to the schools.

2. What changes respecting the funding of education would you advocate for?

Better Special needs funding Better Vocational funding Reducing or freezing fees once a review is done on the budget to find better cost saving methods

3. Please indicate if you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree or have no opinion on the following statements

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No opinion
Education is adequately funded. School boards can live within their means by "cutting fat".			X		
If a school board cannot balance its budget without harmful cuts to education programs, it should be prepared to run a deficit.		X			
Provincial funding for building and maintaining schools is adequate.			X		
Provincial funding should be sufficient to cover increases to teacher and staff contracts.			X		

Please comment on any of the above statements: Running deficit only leads to more deficit and more funding issues. We need find a way to better manage the budget just any household would. Essentials first then the luxuries.

Privatization and Commercialization

1. Should the provincial government continue to use Public Private Partnerships (P3s) for building new schools, what guidelines would you propose be placed on P3 contracts?

Better involvement in design and placement of the schools.

2. What limitations, if any, should the school board place on the involvement of private firms in schools?

There should be some limitations but what are those are right now, I am not sure of. But I would love to see more discussion around this topic.

3. Please indicate if you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree or have no opinion on the following statements

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	No opinion
Private sector businesses can operate schools more cheaply and efficiently and should be allowed to do so.		X			
The financing, construction and maintenance of a school should be undertaken as a public private partnership.			X		
Parents should be expected to contribute towards the cost of their children's education by paying school fees and fundraising.			X		
School boards should ban commercial advertising in schools.					X
Students should be provided with all necessary books and learning materials at no cost.		X			
The public interest is best served by schools that are publicly owned and operated.			X		
To address funding shortfalls, schools should be allowed to have corporate sponsors, including naming rights.			X		
<i>Please comment on any of the above statements: I haven't heard enough on the subject of commercial advertising to have an opinion on it, it would depend on what type and to what extreme. To be able to provide everything free of cost would be wonderful but I don't think it is realistic at this point. Partnering with corporations could be looked at as a possible way of funding. Naming gyms, or Libraries for example would be acceptable. All of this would have to approved and appropriate for a school environment.</i>					

School Infrastructure

1. What reasons, if any, might you vote for the closure of a school?

If was at quarter capacity or beyond repair and no longer a safe environment for the students.

2. Please indicate if you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree or have no opinion on the following statements

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No opinion
Additional government funding should be provided to address the infrastructure deficit.				X	

Community schools with small enrolments should be closed so that larger schools can offer more programs.			X
The school board should work with the province to provide wrap around services in schools.		X	
Some schools should be closed so that the province will build new schools in new neighbourhoods.	X		
Schools are a part of the community and should be open to other community activities.			X
Boards should advocate for changing the province's school utilization formula to account for space used in after school care and other community uses.			X

Please comment on any of the above statements: Small enrollment is such a broad brush as mentioned above if a school is at quarter capacity, for instance capacity is 500 and there are only 125 students, then yes it should be looked at to either improve enrollment or close as maintaining a school built for 500 is expensive when only a portion is being used.