

## Susan Ketteringham – Ward C – Edmonton Public School District

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

My areas of advocacy would be based on what the residents of Ward C feel are most critical. Certainly Early Education and creating inclusive learning environments where all students feel safe, respected and honoured are priorities for me.

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

We need to meet students, and their families, where they are and seek first to understand their perspectives, hopes, dreams and concerns. We have a rich, diverse student population with a whole spectrum of needs and ensuring we understand where the student is (academically, socially, environmentally, emotionally etc) will allow us to serve them best.

### 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 Commission 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 programs and supports for ESL students.				X	

*Please comment on any of the above statements:* I believe we need to have balance between expanding

alternative programs and community schools versus it be an 'either-or' situation.

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

Returning their ability to bargain with the involved unions since that relationship is one of the most critical. I also believe school boards should be accountable to be more transparent and engaged in the schools and communities than perhaps has been in the case in some Wards in EPSB.

**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?**

We can effectively influence these decisions by being partners with strong relationships and a willingness to have honest, authentic conversations. We can also influence this by engaging and enlightening our communities and stakeholders.

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

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
A trustee must be a team player and always defend the decisions of the board, even if the trustee disagrees with those decisions.			<b>X</b>		
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.				<b>X</b>	
Trustees should actively consult with constituents and school councils on important policy matters.				<b>X</b>	
At times, school boards need to take more active public stands on education issues, even if it means being critical of the provincial government.			<b>X</b>		
The provincial government has seriously undermined the power and authority of trustees and school boards.			<b>X</b>		

*Please comment on any of the above statements:* I believe that healthy teams make decisions as a group; Trustees on the board are afforded numerous opportunities and venues for communicating their perspective. Once the decision is made it should be supported, ultimately the record and minutes will demonstrate the intention and effort of each Trustee. Transparency is critical!

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

Be creative with existing spending. Ask 'why' before purchasing or investing labour dollars into existing tasks. I believe there is some re-work that currently happens with the District that could take some of the pressure off if eliminated.

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

I would advocate for funding that we can count on a District. Funding that would allow for students to be successful; no matter where they are.

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

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

*Please comment on any of the above statements:*

**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?**

I believe that partnerships are critical provided everyone is operating with clarity and alignment relative to the vision, mission, and priorities.

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

They should be carefully vetted to ensure they have aligned values and priorities and are competitive in their offerings.

**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	

*Please comment on any of the above statements:* I indicated 'no opinion' in the items that I don't believe I have enough research to be able to answer honestly. I do believe some fundraising by parents help bring parents/schools together towards a common goal and can be a phenomenal experience.

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

I believe in thriving, vibrant community schools. We purchased our home in Edmonton based on the environment of the school that our youngest would attend. I would only vote to close a school if there was no other choice, a viable option for the students at the school, and an effective plan for the building as soon as it was closed. I would absolutely seek to find solutions to keep schools open versus making short term decisions in closures. We can find solutions if we work together!

### 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				X	

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to address the infrastructure deficit.

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Community schools with small enrolments should be closed so that larger schools can offer more programs.

**X**

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The school board should work with the province to provide wrap around services in schools.

**X**

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Some schools should be closed so that the province will build new schools in new neighbourhoods.

**X**

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Schools are a part of the community and should be open to other community activities.

**X**

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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**

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*Please comment on any of the above statements:* I was a parent who spoke at an EPSB Board meeting earlier this year in regards to utilization rates and ensuring wrap-around services are considered in the equation. We also need to consider that older structures simply have larger common spaces and this should not be used against them. We did manage to get the formula changed within EPSB and absolutely need to advocate to do this provincially so we are all talking the same language.