

Tina Jardine – Ward C – Edmonton Public School District

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

(1) Full classroom resources: staff (teaching and support). (2) Infrastructure maintenance (safe and comfortable learning environment). (3) Variety of learning and participation experiences for students.

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

In addition to the points in #1 above, I think student engagement is key to developing their full potential. Also, full inclusion for students with developmental or other challenges.

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: Advocacy is key, and getting trustees across the province to work together on advocacy, I believe the chances of good results will improve.

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

Return the ability to tax to school boards, thereby stabilizing their revenues rather than being consistently under-funded to do their work. Further, this would make school boards once again accountable to the parents and community who elected them for their budget, policy and other governance decisions.

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?

As stated previously, I think it's imperative that school boards and trustees across the province work together as one unit. Additionally, school boards need to communicate to parents and community about potential impacts of Ministry financial and policy decisions, and urge them to advocate for decisions that will be good for their schools and community.

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	

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

Under the current funding situation, boards are struggling just to keep their heads above water, as it were. Working in partnership with community agencies to achieve full services for students, families, and community.

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

(1) Return ability to tax to boards. (2) Students in private and charter schools should not be funded at 70% or any percent. (3) Less reliance on the pure per-student funding. Consideration needs to be given to the needs of any community/municipality outside of how many students exist in the community.

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: On increases to teacher and staff contracts: For the province to force contracts on school boards and then not provide the funds to meet those contracts is not serving students well.

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 do not support using P3s to build new schools, but the provincial government has forced this on boards. Guidelines should include appropriate non-classroom learning spaces for students; that board staff will be used in all aspects of building use and maintenance; that the Private Partner will guarantee physical plant upkeep to a standard that will allow the building to still have worth at the end of the partnership agreement.

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

(1) No direct or indirect marketing of product or ideology to students. (2) No influencing student activities in any way. (3) Limit the private firm to a very arm's length role. (4) No labelling or naming rights.

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	X				

cost of their children's education by paying school fees and fundraising.

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: Please note that if P3s were not forced on boards, I would not support it in any way.

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

It would have to be as an absolutely last resort, with incontrovertible evidence that there is no other choice.

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: Re Utilization Formula - Not only should after school and community use be accounted for, but also students with special educational needs and their assistive/mobility devices, etc.