



ELECTION 2023 Let's talk education.



PARKLAND
SCHOOL DIVISION

Candidates will be out and about leading up to the election, so we've gathered some background information on important public education issues, including questions you may want to ask them.



School Builds to Address Population Needs

Spruce Grove Composite High School is at capacity, and feeder schools continue to grow. With new high school students each year and continued growth in the city, SGCHS cannot fit them all. We must start construction on the replacement school for SGCHS as soon as possible to ensure that we can accommodate significant student population growth. It is vital that construction funding be granted in 2024 so that the replacement school can open its doors in 2027. **How will you work to ensure that PSD students have the schools they need?**



Provincial Funding for Long-term Planning

The current targeted funding model overlooks valuable local context and the knowledge of our elected Trustees by not allowing our Board to decide the use of funds. The model also stifles long-term planning (we educate students for 12 years but funding changes yearly) and fails to address large-scale cost emergencies. As for school reserve funds, the Minister of Education controls spending limits and use—our school division has no say. **How will you ensure school divisions have more control over funding and that the model fosters long-term planning and addresses major cost emergencies?**



Cross-ministry Partnerships

By necessity, schools have taken on responsibilities and service matters typically addressed by various provincial government ministries. Significant need within our school communities compels us to assist with issues such as food scarcity, family discourse and access to medical care and other wellness needs. We cannot ignore the needs of our students, but we cannot maintain current service levels or a variety of supports without the help and cooperation of government ministries. **How will you support cross-ministry partnerships that address the expanding needs of students and families?**



Curriculum Development

This year's graduating class began kindergarten in 2010, and an incredible amount of information and innovation emerged in those 12-13 years. Some of what we teach our students today (including the tools we use to teach it) will likely be outdated by the time they graduate. We need a curriculum based on the foundations of learning that will serve our students over the long run, including how to navigate change, be lifelong learners and critically analyze information. **How will you provide a curriculum that respects the past, keeps up with innovation and ensures students have enduring skills for a successful future?**



Stability in Learning

Maintaining a comprehensive curriculum is a fundamental responsibility of Education. Development must consider the best interests of students and the need to provide a solid, long-term framework for educators. We cannot have each successive government overhaul curriculum to their party's favour. **How do you plan to restore the checks and balances necessary to guarantee a curriculum that reflects the needs and perspectives of all Albertans?**

Board of Trustees

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