

Questions:

1. The three priority areas of focus for me as a trustee are: 1. Ensure that the students have what they need to succeed. Board members should visit each school and talk to students, teachers and staff so that we can advocate for their needs 2. Ensure that every dime of instructional funding reaches the classroom. 3. Establish transparency in the Board's decision-making process regarding issues such as spending, infrastructure, and staffing. This is crucial to maintain trust and confidence between the elected board, teachers, school administrators, parents and children.
2. My view on education funding in Alberta and our school board's role in funding decisions is to make sure that instructional funding is spent to benefit the students in the classroom. Funding should support the Grande Prairie Catholic School Board mission statement to provide a student centred innovative Catholic education for our community.
3. I feel that the current surplus be spent to benefit the children in the classroom. We should consult with teachers, administrators and parents to determine the best use of this money to help students to receive a superior education. I would love to see funding used to provide additional Educational Assistants and full time Librarians. A library is an educational social hub where students learn to find the resources they need and it's a place where long lasting relationships are formed.
4. We are living in an evolving technology driven world. I would like the students to learn how to use this technology properly in the school environment and develop the skills to apply this technology in the real world. On a specific note, I would like to see the ratio of students to computers be 1:1. We see this in other schools in Grande Prairie. It's hard to teach the use of technology if you do not have the actual technology in the classroom. I feel that qualified librarians can help guide students navigate their use of technology. Such guidance is necessary for many reasons, but to choose just one example students need help with web-based research; we know that while there is a wealth of information on the web, not every thing you read online is true.
5. Our mission statement is to provide a student centred, innovative Catholic education for all our community. To me God loves all people regardless of ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. The majority of our students are minors, and parents have the right to know about Gay-Straight Alliances, but who attends or visits the meeting of the GSA is a different matter. A Gay-Straight Alliance (as I understand it) is simply a place for students to meet and support one another. As such, no notification would be necessary for simply visiting or taking part. To the larger question of when parents would be notified about issues at the school, the safety and well being of the child comes first.
6. What I would like to do to make the Grande Prairie Catholic schools an even better place for students to receive their education is through fostering an environment of trust, transparency, compassion, respect and open communication between the school board, administrators, teachers, students

and parents. *The board may choose to take a look at the mission statement in order to make sure that it is in alignment with the current vision.*

7. What I would like to do to make the Grande Prairie Catholic schools an even better place for employees is exactly the same as for the students. An environment of trust, transparency, compassion, respect and open communication works just as well for school employees as it does for students. If the teachers and support staff are happy and motivated the students will be the beneficiaries!