

My name is Michael Ouellette and I have been a board member for 2 Terms and I'm currently The Vice Chair of the School Board. Our Children attend Ecole St.Gerards school and I can say they have had a excellent Education at this school.

I am the Co -Owner of Currys Jewellers in Downtown Grande Prairie .

I am a active member of St.Josephs Parish, And a Member of the Knights Of Columbus.

I have the time and work schedule to give to be a affective School Board Trustee.

Question 1

What would you want to be the three priority areas of focus for the school board once elected?

We need to lobby government for a new 950 student school for O'Brien Lake West.

We also need to continue to make sure that we Fight for Publicly Funded Catholic Education In Alberta. Would Love Support from our local ATA on this Subject. Don't kid yourself there are school boards taking money from the classroom to try to get rid of Catholic Education!

We need to continue to make sure are Schools are Safe and Caring for our children, Parents need to Know that there children are safe In our schools.

And we need to lobby for funding for our schools and the programs in the schools.

Question 2

What are your views on Education Funding In Alberta and your view on the school boards Role in making funding decisions?

Education Funding needs to be Long Term and Predictable and we have enjoyed this with this Government, But we need new funding to deal with all the complex issues teachers and support staff are dealing with.

As a board we make decisions that we feel will help the Students and staff in our schools.

Question 3

Our district currently has a very large surplus and growing needs in our classrooms.What would you do to ensure that education dollars are spent in the classrooms rather than a accumulated as a surplus.

As a current Board Member when we found out about this surplus in our budget we instructed our superintendent to get this fixed and happy to report that we are now getting timely and correct information.

But we do need to retain a certain amount of surplus in our budget, A good example of this is the issue we had with St.Pats and what the government would not cover.

But if there is extra money we need to get it back into the classrooms.

Question 4

What are your views about appropriate use of technology in the schools.

As a trustee in our district I would leave that decision to the teacher and the Principal in the schools as to what is appropriate.

The last thing any school wants is a trustee to be thinking they can control a school.As Trustees we need to have faith that our teachers will make the best decisions for students.

Question 5

How can we make our schools the safest and most welcoming possible environments for all students, including sexual and gender minority students? What are your views about GSA and the and the issues of parent notification.

I think we can make our schools the safest and most welcoming possible by continuing our practices that we have in place...Zero tolerance on bulling and talking to the kids.Our teachers and support staff do a excellent job at this. I know this as a fact in the School my Children attend and the stories I hear from them. I like when I hear my children tell me how other children are stepping up and saying no bullying.

As For the GSA Question I am very happy to hear that we have a active GSA Club in our High School and they presented to the board in September.As for parent notification we will as a board and as elected officials uphold the letter of the law.

Question 6

What will you do to make Grande Prairie Catholic Schools a even better place for students to receive their education?

Something that is dear to my heart is we need to lobby government for more resources to be put forward to Mental Health Issues...Children are coming to School with more complex issues every day and our teachers are doing there best but they need more help.
We need to have more resources for our Teachers.

Question 7

What will you do to make Grande Prairie Catholic Schools an even better place for our employees to work.

I think our district is a great place to work and as I talk to the people that work in our district I hear that from them as well...Will everyone be happy ...I don't think so.

We are now in negotiations with the ATA at this time and we will come to a agreement that works for both of us. As the chair of our negotiating committee I look across the table and I see teachers who are looking out for the best interest of there members.

We also have a union for our support workers and have a signed agreement.....

So to answer your question I will continue to work with Teachers and Support Staff to make our district even Stronger.

Thank You...

Michael Ouellette