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**Please limit yourself 100 words maximum for each response below.**

Brief biographical statement: I am a former student of Grande Prairie catholic schools. I have a diploma in sacred studies from the John Paul II Catholic bible school and B ed. from the University of Alberta. Physics major and math/music minor. For the past 15 years I have been self-employed. My wife and I are fervent Catholics and four children will be entering the catholic school system in the next few years.

Questions:

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

First I would like to see higher academic achievement for our students. Second, I am concerned about staff turn around and burnout. Third would be a stronger faith permeation throughout the district.

2. What are your views on education funding in Alberta and especially your view of the school board's role in making funding decisions?

Under the school act we get public funds to educate our students as a catholic school system. Our faith is the only thing that makes us different than the public system. There are a lot of strong voices and lobby groups that would like the school act changed so we do not receive any funds from the government. I think that the school board's role is to direct the funds to whatever is in the best interest for our students to get the best education that is possible. The role of the trustee is to keep the board accountable to the people (Students/parents/educators etc.)

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 accumulated as a surplus?

I did read last years Audited Financial statement. I do have a lot of questions about it. I am fiscally conservative by nature and I would rather see a surplus than a deficit. I do not know why the board approved a large surplus. I am not privy to enough information at this time to make a fair judgement.

4. What are your views about appropriate use of technology in school?

I believe that technology is a useful tool to help educators teach. I think that it should be up to the teacher to use or limit the use of technology in their classroom.

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 Gay-Straight Alliances and the issue of parent notification?

I think that every school needs to provide a safe environment for every student. In school I was bullied and was a bully to others at the same time. The national movement against bullying and empowering students to stand up for themselves is gaining traction but I don't see that problem going away yet. I think that the Gay-Straight alliance provides a safe environment for people to be themselves. I don't know what the issue is about parent notification.

6. What will you do to make Grande Prairie Catholic schools an even better place for students to receive their education?

7. What will you do to make Grande Prairie Catholic schools an even better place to for employees to work?

I like the vision, mission and core values of the district. It is an ideal to strive for. That being said I want to know what the next step is. What are the goals to achieve our vision? How are we emulating our core values in our schools? It should be a top down approach modelled first and foremost by the board and then by each school administration. For some students their teacher will be the only positive influence in their whole life