1. **What is the role of a Public School Board Trustee?**

A Public School Board Trustee ("Trustee") acts as a liaison on educational issues among stakeholders in the educational sector including students, parents, teachers, superintendent, community and the appropriate government agencies. Trustees must ensure they advocate for and support issues that would advance the quality of educational outcomes for the students. The underlying driver should always be what is in the best interest of the students.

2. **What do you see as the main issues facing public education today? Of these which is your priority? How will you address that priority?**

The predominant issues facing public education within our district include: spacing and overcrowding; putting a stop to the decline in our math stats; the educational needs of special needs students; need to improve collaborative efforts among stakeholders (communication gaps between government and stakeholders) to name a few.

I will prioritize the issue of spacing and overcrowding given that it is an imminent issue that may explode in the next few years if not attended to as a matter of urgency. We need to keep pace with increasing students’ enrolment and I will work with the incoming board members to lobby the government to increase allocation for new high school buildings.

3. **Do you believe that education in Alberta is adequately funded? If you answered “no”, what will you do to advocate for more educational funding?**

It has been stated that even the richest countries in the world do not provide enough to meet the needs that Education has. Education allocation in Alberta can use some increase given the diverse learning needs that we face in Alberta compared to other provinces.

4. **What will you do to support the success of FNMI students from K - 12? Please indicate goals and objectives, and also action steps.**

Equality should be our target goal in ensuring success of FNMI students. The aim should be to bridge the educational gaps between our FNMI students from K-12. This should be measured by the increase in high school completion rate among FNMI students.

5. **What is the appropriate level of government funding for private schools? (For comparison, funding of private schools in Canada ranges from 0% in Ontario, to 70% in Alberta.)**

Like all other areas of education, government funding for private schools should be determined based on what is the best interest of all students in Alberta viz a viz available resources. It should be need based. The current funding system appears to be working in the best interest of all students. If there is no evidence showing it is inadequate, I support retaining it. We should not be seen to be cutting funds allocated to education. We need to realize that when we fund any form of education, we are not funding school. Rather we are funding a child's educational needs. I do not think we should deprive our children of an educational setting they have chosen that is meeting their needs. I view funding private schools as a way of driving the quality of public education up. Those other educational options will create incentives to drive
our public education to be competitive. A monopolistic educational system muzzles innovation and progress.

6. **Do you support the right of students to keep their sexual orientation or gender identity as private information (information that can be shared by teachers only with express consent of the student)?**

The gender identity of our sexual gender minority students is a very important area that must be handled well. We must ensure we prevent risks of bullying, harm, abuse to name a few. Our Sexual Gender Minorities students need the full support of all stakeholders within the educational sector to attain the targeted educational outcome like all other students within a healthy, supportive and conducive environment. We should not advance a culture of secrecy or make them feel like they have something to hide. Students succeed when we all work together to support them. It is in the best interest of students for them to have adequate support at home to help them navigate the various struggles they will face. Every child needs the support of their parents. For those families struggling to communicate openly and honestly, we need to do our best to provide support for them through building bridges and fostering skills in mediation and communication. Building stronger families will help ensure the long-term health and success of our students. If any child is suspected to be in danger because of abusive home circumstances, school staffs are legally required to report such abuses and so should neighbour and the community at large. The *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* prescribe what to do in those situations.

7. **Do you support inclusion in the classroom? If so, what supports would you consider necessary to make inclusion successful?**

According to Alberta Education, inclusive education advocates for acceptance and a sense of belonging for all our students. All our students should have a conducive learning environment that meets the full range of learning needs they have. My focus will be on promoting and advocating for programs that meet this full range of learning needs in accordance with the principles of inclusive education set out by Alberta Education. Doing this will advance the educational outcome for our students, including focusing on improving the skills, knowledge, attitude and values that students need to be successful members of the society. Our public education will definitely be robust when we effectively offer support and diverse options to meet the needs of all our students.