

Gary Hansen responses

Candidate for Black Gold School Division Trustee Ward 3

1. Curriculum

On April 22, 2021, the Black Gold School Division released a position paper called, [*Black Gold Draft Curriculum Review Summary Report*](#). It summarised the findings of the School Division in regard to the proposed curricula and in regard to the piloting of it. The Report can be found on the Black Gold School Division web site.

I support the Black Gold School Board's decision not to pilot the proposed curricula. I also believe that the move forward on the development of new curricula should involve public education stakeholders. This should be the path forward when this assignment is redone.

2. Funding

Lobby Government of Alberta for stable, adequate and fair funding for school boards

3. Privatisation

P3s have been tried in various jurisdictions in Alberta and Canada. Many of these cases have been shown to be unsuccessful. As a rule, I would not support any P3s or privatization of services.

4. School Boards as Employers

A strong public education system is maintained through, amongst other things, respect, fairness and stakeholder collaboration. To the extent possible due to funding being provided by the Government of Alberta, living wages, full-time hours and job security should be supported by the school board.

5. The right to strike has been supported by the Supreme Court of Canada (<https://www.ehlaw.ca/supreme-court-constitutionalizes-the-right-to-strike/>). Moves to undercut employees pay and benefits do not fall into my perspective of respect and fairness.

6. Covid Safety

In regard to COVID and policies on keeping staff and students safe, I believe that best practices should be followed. We should look to other school divisions, provinces or countries and implement what seems to work best to keep students and staff healthy and safe. Further to this, I believe that the Government of Alberta should be setting policies for schools across the province to ensure consistency of communication and practice. Patch work solutions due to down-loading decision-making is not a good solution to this issue.