

Trustee candidate answers from Christine Jolly

1. **It is acknowledged that poverty has a serious impact on student learning outcomes. As a Trustee, please list some of the ways in which you would advocate for the Division to support students in need on this issue?**

I would support targeted programming that addresses poverty and learning outcomes. I would look at the results and findings of how data is used to rank schools from high need to low need. This funnels more support (staff) into the schools that need them. I would also support data collection that identifies where money and resources need to be targeted. I am a big supporter of healthy and nutritious breakfast programs in schools that need them.

2. **In previous years, the Division has experienced a shortage of Substitute Teachers and as a result, positions have gone unfilled during a teacher absence. Which ideas do you have to address this problem?**

I would support the HR department with recruiting efforts and to ensure that substitute teachers are available when needed. They play a vital role in our schools in supporting students and teachers in ensuring that learning continues with consistency and without disruption.

3. **What are some practical ways in which you as a Trustee will foster and build relationships between the Division and the Teaching Staff?**

I would attend leadership conferences and make myself available to attend school events. I would use social media to keep up to date with the daily activities of Pembina Trails schools. Supporting different community events within the schools and classrooms are important to me e.g. reading, concerts, multicultural and other special events...

4. **The Manitoba government has released its Education review which raised issues around Division amalgamation, public education funding and improving learning outcomes. What are your concerns with the Education review? What is your hope?**

I would most definitely advocate for multi year funding to provide more stability to divisions. Public education funding is crucial for successful programming to ensure students' success. Amalgamation, if it happens, will have positives and negatives-I would continue to explore and learn more on this topic. However, I do value the ability to campaign in a smaller ward that allows me to financially launch a campaign and connect with the community.

5. **First Nations students are amongst the most vulnerable learners in the Division. What steps will you take as a Trustee to strengthen supports for First Nation Students? How will you advance and implement the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's Calls to Action 62 and 63?**

Data collection is key, I would support the division's continuing efforts to track indigenous graduation rates and keep improving them. Indigenous student voices should be heard and it needs to come from the students. Every opportunity should be given to hear and to listen to our indigenous student voices and support their calls, requests and or concerns, in a safe, nurturing and respectful environment. I would support the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's Calls to Action Bill 62 and 63. I would support the Divisions efforts to carry out and implement those practical ideas and suggestions in both Bills by:- creating age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools,

Treaties etc.. I would support developing an intercultural understanding and identifying appropriate teacher-training to address these issues.

6. **Some school divisions have chosen to deal with inadequate funding levels from government by increasing class sizes, cutting access to clinicians and intervention specialists, etc. These decisions impact student learning. How will you ensure services are preserved? What will you do as a Trustee to ensure education funding levels are stable, predictable, and adequate?**

I will work hard to use the available funding to maintain current resources. I will do everything possible to support school specialists and maintain reasonable class sizes.

7. **Recent shifts in social attitudes have led to conversations about systemic biases and racism. As a Trustee, how would you help ensure that the Division explores potential systemic biases within the Division? In your view, how should plans for examining and rectifying such matters be developed?**

I support diversity and inclusion within our schools and I would work to ensure that teachers and staff reflect the student body. It's my understanding that the division has hired a Divisional Principal of Learning and Inclusion. This is a valuable staff member and school administrator to support and promote diversity and inclusion within the schools and classrooms - building and fostering understanding and respect

8. **How will you ensure that the Division studies closely the idea of full-day kindergarten and other programs related to early childhood education to ensure a successful start for early learners?**

I will lobby the provincial government to financially support the program and other pre school programming. It's my understanding that due to lack of funding the division had to reduce their full day K classes from 5 schools to 1. I would like to use the data that the division has collected from those students over the years to understand if there is a benefit.

I have provided answers to these complex but relevant questions as best as I can. This is a learning and discovering journey and I certainly do not have all the answers but I will continue to strive to learn and understand (as an ongoing learner) how the division works to get results and to achieve its goals.