

QUESTION #1

What do you perceive to be the three most important issues to the voters regarding public education and what is your stance on each issue?

Closures of schools and impact on children and families: in my humble opinion the current government went too far in setting up school boards to close schools and did not solve the real issue. Now it is trying to preserve some school lands with introducing full K programs because they have realized once a land is gone it is gone for good. That is just outright wrong, wasting Tax payer's money.

Class size and composition: Had it been properly funded, we would not be here. Currently, we are subsidizing wage increases, special needs and transportation costs. Just alone adding these up would give a few million dollars to the education. Early this year I have made the motion regarding Public education to be publicly funded and this motion was carried to BCSTA AGM and it got passed there as well. Much to my surprise the minister did not welcome this issue; she feels that we are to pay for private education from the public purse. I think my next motion will be that the government matches dollar for dollar as an extra bonus for school boards all tax credits those parents of children in private education to get to write off as a tax deduction.

Public consultation on future of SD68: It is time to have a real serious meeting and discussion with all partner groups. When we work collaboratively things will be done in fashionable manner to serve our children's best interest. Through this process we should come to an understanding of what is a solid good education needed for this district. Not to mention that the Facilities Audit that was requested by me over 2 years ago has not been completed yet!

QUESTION #2

South Wellington Elementary remains open after two consultation processes; following these processes the School Board has not provided any long-term certainty to our community that the board will keep the school open. These children and their future are the community's most important investment. In what way will you positively support this community school and what is your commitment to keep South Wellington Elementary open?

I am committed to all children. Although, right after the consultation process I made a motion regarding if a school stayed open to have a time frame where that school will be excluded from consideration for closure. I am committed to bring this back to the table with a time frame attached to it, just like in Ontario. This motion will help all schools.

ANDREA BONKOWSKI