

# Trustee Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for putting your name forward to do the important work of School Board Trustee. The members of the Nelson and District Teachers Association appreciate you taking the time to complete the following questionnaire.

## **Your Name**

Tricia Braun

## **Area you are seeking election**

City of Nelson

## **What motivates you to become a school board member?**

My children are in the public school system here in Nelson and I personally know a few teachers throughout the district and province. I am in awe of the teachers and how they handled themselves throughout the pandemic. I serve the community on a daily basis in my day job and I would love an opportunity to give back to the schools who have supported me and my family.

## **What is your view of the purpose of public education?**

Giving every child the right to an education, a place to learn, to grow and perhaps find their purpose. Public Education is a place to facilitate achievement by nurturing the whole child and supporting the educators throughout their chosen profession.

## **How can you and the Board support the recommendations and calls to action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission?**

I humbly admit my own shortcomings surrounding Truth and Reconciliation and our family has set a goal of choosing a call to action, and following it, even a small one like finding out names of plants and their uses from elders in the community. I would hope as a board we can also walk through the calls to action, have regular discussions on our learning and humbly ask the educators in the community to guide us and learn from them.

## **What are the critical issues facing our local schools right now?**

Aging infrastructure - I heard from a young woman who refuses to use the washroom at Trafalgar- she says they are scary and gross- her words. She has a 15 minute bus trip then all day at school and the 15 minutes home before she will use a washroom. How does that affect her learning and her mental health? We need enough support in the classroom for teachers so that kids do not slip through the cracks.

## **What role do you see trustees playing in speaking up for public education in BC?**

Having a seat at the table is an important way to stay in touch with what is happening: what decisions are being made, how the budget is being spent and being able to bring that back to our teachers and the community is an important part of why I am running as trustee

**Describe an action, initiated by you, that resulted in a positive change for your community.**

During the pandemic at my place of work I got the team on board to follow a 30 day yoga challenge. We checked in daily to see who was doing it and who needed cheerleading to continue. Yoga to me is unity of mind body and spirit but it can also serve to unify a community which is how it affected my work life. Now, I am not saying I will make the NDTA join me in a yoga challenge, but I loved seeing how it brought a diverse group of people together to discuss health and mindfulness during a very stressful period.

**What specific action(s) have you taken in the past to show your support for Kootenay teachers?**

I have been a member of the PAC at Hume school and volunteered for events. And I will continue regardless of the results of this election!

**The NDTA and KLTF would like to have more regular communication with trustees. How would you improve the connection between trustees and the NDTA? Will you commit to meeting with the NDTA, in order to discuss issues of importance and share information?**

Of course I would commit to meeting with members of the NDTA. And sharing of information could happen at in person meetings and perhaps on social media, engaging with the teachers about the budget, policies and their concerns, and posting updates of trustee meetings.

**Explain the importance of class size and composition from your perspective.**

Keeping a classroom manageable for a teacher should always be in the forefront of planning. I love the idea of a split grade classroom in the younger years in order to foster independence and empathy. I would also love to see enough support in the classrooms, we have very talented Education Assistants in our district who do not get enough hours to make a living. The teachers need to be supported in their classrooms with by having extra EA's available.

**How do you plan to ensure that you remain current with what is happening in schools and in classrooms?**

As a member of my Hume school PAC I will be at each monthly meeting. I would like visit PAC meetings of the other schools in the district and meet the principals and parents there to ensure an open door policy for communication with me as their representative. I will also attend the DPAC meetings as they are a place where great ideas are shared between parents and the board. I would love to be able to attend staff planning days to meet teachers and chat with them about

their priorities in their own classrooms as well as their challenges. Having a regular check in with the NDTA would also be welcome.

**If elected, what are your top three priorities?**

Ageing infrastructure Food for all Enough support staff in each classroom

**Anything else you would like to share with the members of the NDTA?**

I am proud to be a member of our Nelson community, thank you for your time.