

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

Emily Duggan

Area you are seeking election

Slocan Valley, Bonnington

What motivates you to become a school board member?

My community and teachers.

What is your view of the purpose of public education?

To teach children to read, write and do arithmetic. It also allows them practice in getting along with and taking direction from different personalities.

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

By encouraging our teachers to teach the true history of what happened. All sides of the story. Listening to the First Peoples and encouraging them to continue speaking their truth. Also leaving space for other ethnicities who were also victims of similar treatment from the church and government.

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

Making sure all schools have clean drinkable tap water, the EA crisis, class sizes, and balancing budgets.

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

Advocating for their communities and speaking up about their concerns. A Trustee should be available to their community so that they are able to understand the needs and issues that are of greatest concern to the parents and teachers

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

My children and I walk our community each spring and clean up garbage along our roads. It cleans up our community for our wildlife

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

I spoke at rallies against the SD8 vaccine mandate. If a teacher was good enough in 2020, they are still good enough today. I also volunteer as much as I can with my child's class, donating supplies as well as my time.

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?

Yes I would commit to that. I also promise to answer emails with a human response rather than an insulting generic answer or a redirection which seems to be popular in the administration currently.

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

If there are too many children then the teacher is unable to give each child the proper necessary amount of attention and or guidance. Plain and simple. Class sizes are very important. Especially in the early years.

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

By being approachable, available and visible in my community

If elected, what are your top three priorities?

Clean tap water for Brent Kennedy Elementary Looking over the frivolous spending in all the budgets and making necessary changes such as cancelling catered lunches for trustees and other SD8 employees. We are adults we can pack a lunch. Taking a look at the administration and motioning to remove unnecessary positions. Its clear SD8 administration is top heavy and there are funds that could be made available by tightening up the ranks.

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

Change is due. The Board of Trustees has had the same faces and minds making our decisions for too long. Complacency is obvious. People in my community do not even know who their trustee is or how to connect with her. Our communities and children deserve people in these seats from all walks of life. Currently the Board does not represent all walks of life. As an 8.5 year recovered addict I represent a large part of our demographic that is not currently nor has it ever been represented. Parents such as myself make up a HUGE part of our communities and it's time we get representation as well.