

Charlene Dobie

1. The three top issues affecting Surrey School today are:

- Safety and Support
- Funding
- Portables and Overcrowding

2. I have worked in public education for over 20 years as an Education Assistant. I have worked in many schools in Surrey and a neighbouring district. All students matter and need to feel safe and be safe in school. All Surrey schools need to be a safe place where positive conversations about diversity and acceptance are the norm, where students get the full support they need. Surrey schools need more after-school programs to keep kids active and free from gang recruitment, this can be done by connecting with more community partners.

Operating funding and capital funding are key to making sure Surrey students get the resources and support they need to become contributing members of society. Right now the school district spends \$8 million on portable maintenance which comes directly out of the operating budget. Surrey students receive \$14 million less than Vancouver students, this is unacceptable. I will hold the current provincial government to account on their promise to rid Surrey of portables and I will also determine and correct why Vancouver students receive more per student funding.

The overcrowding of Surrey schools and extensive use of portables has gone on too long. We currently have students who do not have access to libraries, gyms or playgrounds because the school population far exceeds the initial building size. Students are missing out on sports teams, fine arts and clubs because they can only accommodate a certain number of students. I will do my job as a trustee and work hard lobbying the Mayor, Council, Minister of Education and Surrey MLAs to get what Surrey students deserve because Surrey kids matter.

3. Surrey Students NOW will reduce the use of portables in SD#36 by:

- Working with the city to set aside land for future schools.
- Working with the city to expedite permits for the construction of schools.
- Having school district staff at public City Council meetings.
- Having a concrete, comprehensive, strategic plan moving forward.
- Lobby on an ongoing basis for the elimination of portables.

4. I definitely support the use of school facilities after hours for recreational programs. Schools are public buildings and need to be used as much as possible without disrupting the day to day school operations. Currently the school district does organize after-school programs through their Community Schools Partnership Program. These are great programs that serve the needs of students in certain areas of Surrey. The school district works with many partners through these programs but they need to bring on more partners so the programs can be

expanded. All Surrey students should have the opportunity to join after-school programs because Surrey kids matter.