

1) Top three issues affecting schools today are:

- Mental health concerns among our children
- The shortage of learning support teachers or educational assistants within our school systems.
- Portable issues and concerns, and the need for funding to help eliminate or reduce the amount of portables within the Surrey School system

2) Priorities are to assess mental health and wellness at times during which we can intervene and assist in correcting any problems which may affect the child during their early years of schooling and then again as teenagers, also on an as needed basis. We can achieve this by implementing early intervention programs within our school systems with the use of Councillors or other Health Care Members in the community with the knowledge and expertise required. Hiring additional Learning Support Teachers as well as more hours for educational assistants so that children with special needs can be better assisted within schools with their learning needs. Increase funding for resources so that portables can be eliminated and healthy learning environments for our children are created. This may require the re-assessment, re-evaluation of budget and funding, and then allocate funds in areas where it's most required, as well as reaching out to different levels of government to assist in receiving those funds.

3) As mentioned, portables is one of the priority issues and would need to be dealt with by This may require the re-assessment, re-evaluation of budget and funding, and then allocate funds in areas where it's most required, as well as reaching out to different levels of government to assist in receiving additional/increased funds.

4) Yes, it's important for children to be involved in extra recreational activities after school. Definitely, this would be something that I would advocate especially for those parents who have low-incomes and don't have the means of putting their children in additional activities or for those families who live far from recreational centers, so that children can still continue to extra activities after school.

Dupinder Kaur Saran
School Board Trustee Candidate