

DSBIA Questions to School Board Candidates

Martin Hilmer

1. What do you think are the three top issues affecting Surrey Schools today?
 - Providing a safe school environment for all youth
 - Pacing housing development to match available student spaces
 - Expanding the Career Education program into a broader apprentice program and including agrology as part of the Coop program

2. What are your priorities if elected and how will you implement your plans.
 - To ensure that the school district is consulted by City staff early in any residential development application. Application approval must be based on available student spaces.
 - To expand the Career Education program to include more technical based programs as well as trade programs.
 - To expand the Coop program to make Agrology an available option for students interested in large scale Production Agriculture. Our school can become a viable resource to create a new generation of farmers.

3. Surrey has too many portables. What is your plan to reduce the use of portables within SD36?

Housing development must be paced according to currently available student spaces until such time as new schools can be constructed in an area. The school board must be given the opportunity to provide recommendations to city staff and council on all residential development applications.

4. Children need activities and programs after school. Often recreation centres are too far from residential neighbourhoods and difficult to access. Do you support the use of school facilities after hours for recreational programs and would you advocate for this if elected?

The need to use school facilities after hours by community groups focused on youth is critical in our region. Rental of school facilities such as gymnasiums by youth groups is often the deciding factor if a group can continue. Rental of private facilities is often well beyond the means of many groups and other community facilities are also booked solid throughout the year. I believe the current rental of our school facilities must continue for the well being of our youth.