

BIA Trustee Questions

1. What do you think are the three top issues affecting Surrey Schools today?

The three major issues are listed in our platform at www.surreystudentsnow.com/our-platform

- I. **Overcrowding and portables:** There are 347 portables costing the district 8 million dollars to maintain each year. This is money that should be spent in our classrooms so students can build connection in their school community and better access the shared spaces (music rooms, libraries, gyms and teams) that help us develop.
- II. **Funding:** Surrey students are missing out on funding available to other BC students, we need to ensure our students are fully funded and resourced. Vancouver students get \$200 more, which is \$14 million.
- III. **Safe and supported** students: Not all of Surrey students are receiving a full and equitable access to education.

2. What are your priorities if elected and how will you implement your plans.

I will work with the Province and Minister of Education to:

- hold them to account on their promise to rid Surrey of portables.
- determine and correct why Vancouver students receive \$200 more funding than Surrey students.
- have a strong voice at the BC Public Service Association table during upcoming contract negotiations.
- reduce the gap between the needs of our students and the mandatory balanced budget.

I will work with district staff to:

- expand community use of our facilities outside of school hours as a means to safeguard our students from gang recruitment and drug activity.
- use our budget to ensure students have full supports, especially those with special needs.
- utilize Indigenous targeted funding in consultation with community leaders.

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

I will work with the City to ensure:

- Land is set aside for future schools,
- Permits for schools are expedited
- District participation takes place at City Council meetings
- the School Site Acquisition Charge is updated to reflect current market values
- city frontage and street improvements in front of schools are paid for by the City, not the District.

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?

I do support utilizing schools after house. I believe schools are public buildings and should be available to the public after school hours. There is a need for increased access before and after school care, as well as a need to keep youth busy and active. Having access to a variety of quality athletics, service, and arts programs after school benefits students, creates jobs and helps cut down on parent driving to evening practises. Too often we are too busy and too tired to engage where we are needed most. By using the neighbourhood school as the community hub we can provide much needed value added service to many more citizens.