



Langley

DPAC

*"We Are Your Voice"*

**Trustee Candidate Survey 2018**

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# DPAC Survey Introduction



The Langley District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) is recognized by the Langley School District as the collective voice of the parents at the district level. Our mission is “to educate, inform, and empower parents to be true partners in the education of their children” and our purpose is to be the collective voice of parents in the Langley School District.

We requested Trustee Candidates to complete 10 survey questions, in which they were provided 3 days to respond (plus extension if requested).

We hope the following information is informative and we encourage parents to vote on election day or at any of the advance polling opportunities.

The Langley DPAC thanks all Trustee Candidates for their time and we wish you the best of luck with your campaign.

# Survey Responses: Township Trustee Candidates



**Langley**  
**DPAC**  
*"We Are Your Voice"*

*Displayed alphabetically by last name*

- 1. Megan Dykeman (incumbent)**
- 2. Brent Larsen**
- 3. Suzanne Perreault**
- 4. Rod Ross (incumbent)**
- 5. Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy**
- 6. David Tod (incumbent)**
- 7. Marnie Wilson**

*Celebrating Inclusion & Diversity in Langley*

# #1

Approximately how many Langley DPAC and School Board Meetings have you attended since Fall 2014? (please provide a number for each)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DPAC 3 and School Board Meetings (all types) 144</li></ul>
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2</li></ul>
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All except 3</li></ul>
<b>Rod Ross</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All School Board meetings</li></ul>
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2+ for School Board Meetings; 0 for DPAC</li></ul>
<b>David Tod</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100 school board meetings and 37 DPAC meetings</li></ul>
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have attended 3 DPAC meetings since 2014 and 33 School Board meetings since 2014</li></ul>

# #2

I have or have had children that attend Langley public schools. (multiple choice options: yes, no or can't answer)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Megan Dykeman	Yes
Brent Larsen	Candidate chose not to complete survey
Suzanne Perreault	Yes
Rod Ross	Yes
Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy	Yes
David Tod	Yes
Marnie Wilson	Yes

# #3

I support SOGI curriculum in the K-12 school system. (multiple choice options: yes, no or can't answer)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Megan Dykeman	Yes
Brent Larsen	Candidate chose not to complete survey
Suzanne Perreault	Yes
Rod Ross	Yes
Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy	Can't Answer
David Tod	Yes
Marnie Wilson	Yes

# #4

**If you are elected trustee: could you, in good conscience, swear the trustee’s oath of office to uphold the School Act? (multiple choice options: yes, no or can’t answer)**

*Candidate was asked to read statement before responding: Section 76 of the School Act provides that: “All schools must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles” and “no religious dogma or creed is to be taught in a school”. The BC Court of Appeal has ruled that “Non-discrimination is a core value of the public education system”.*

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Megan Dykeman	Yes
Brent Larsen	Candidate chose not to complete survey
Suzanne Perreault	Yes
Rod Ross	Yes
Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy	Yes
David Tod	Yes
Marnie Wilson	Yes

# #5

**If you are elected trustee: would you put aside any personal views to meet your obligations as a trustee to ensure an inclusive educational environment, even if your constituents had inconsistent personal views? (multiple choice options: yes, no or can't answer)**

*Candidate was asked to read statement before responding: Section 76 of the School Act provides that: “All schools must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles” and “no religious dogma or creed is to be taught in a school”. The BC Court of Appeal has ruled that “Non-discrimination is a core value of the public education system”.*

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Megan Dykeman	Yes
Brent Larsen	Candidate chose not to complete survey
Suzanne Perreault	Yes
Rod Ross	Yes
Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy	Yes
David Tod	Yes
Marnie Wilson	Yes

# #6

## What are some of the contributions you have personally made to public education that you are most proud of? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	As a parent of two children in public schools I have: Served on DPAC as a member at large and President. Served as a trustee for the past 7 years I currently serve as vice chair and policy committee chair I serve on my provincial organization as a Provincial Council representative. I have also served on the Provincial Conflict of Interest Review Committee and the BCSTA Governance Review Committee.
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	Some of the areas to which I was responsible for impacting &/or being present for, are: • Inclusive Education Committee • Background work on SOGI/LGBTQ throughout the summer • KPMG District Audit • Community Partnership Mtg • Attend all School Board Mtgs • Attend 1:1 Meetings with the Superintendent, Gord Stewart • Parent/School Advocacy • Represent at TEDx Langley • LTA Retirement DPAC Representative • Aboriginal Awards Night • Yorkson Creed Middle School Orange Shirt Day Ceremony • District Awards for our Educators • District Wellness Conference • BCSSA Conference • Implementing & guiding DPAC towards the Truth & Reconciliation Agreement with SD35 • Establishing the LAT Committee relationship • Advocacy into the District for speed zones in Summer Session schools • Chair meetings

# #6

## What are some of the contributions you have personally made to public education that you are most proud of? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Rod Ross</b>	Founded the Langley School District Foundation Revenue Generation via Int'l Students Program Founded; Emergency Preparedness Committee
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	I have worked in the public school system for over 25 years. During that time, I have been on the CUPE 1260 executive. I have attended workshops to further my contribution to the school district. When my boys were in school, I worked on fundraising and was active in assisting in contacting absentee students' parents; as well as working on grad committees.
<b>David Tod</b>	I have taught for 35 years. I have been a school trustee for the past 4 years and I am an advocate for safe and inclusive schools. I have served on the Youth Action committee and the LGBTQ committees. I moved that we have a "Diversity and Respect" week in Langley schools in February.
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	My work as a Special Education Assistant has been very rewarding, I have helped countless students achieve their goals. My work as Union president afforded me the opportunity to advocate for safer schools and often that translated into more classroom supports. I was given the opportunity to work on the Enhancement Agreement that is a step towards reconciliation.

# #7

The Province of B.C. has opened up many funding initiatives to encourage the cities and school districts to open up space for childcare and before and after school care. Do you see a need for childcare on school sites and if so, is this something you are willing to pursue to support families who require care beyond the typical school hours? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	I believe that wherever possible, day care, as well as before and after school care should be offered on school sites as a way to support families. As a trustee I have personally advocated for this and supported this. I will continue to do so.
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	Yes.
<b>Rod Ross</b>	Serving the NEEDS of families is what we do. I would see a need for a service and would be supportive of using school space to assist in meeting those needs.

# #7

The Province of B.C. has opened up many funding initiatives to encourage the cities and school districts to open up space for childcare and before and after school care. Do you see a need for childcare on school sites and if so, is this something you are willing to pursue to support families who require care beyond the typical school hours? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	The majority of families are 2 income families. Yes, I am willing to support families who require childcare on school sites to enable their parent/guardian the ability to have their child(ren) in a safe facility.
<b>David Tod</b>	Yes. I used one at Alex Hope. We need funding to help keep and build spaces into our neighbourhood schools.
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	I most definitely will pursue using the opportunities that have currently been announced for child care spaces. Langley is in desperate need of before and after school care and I believe with proper planning every new school could have childcare included. It is such a struggle for families to access this care and the perfect setting is where your child is already spending their day so that parents have a single drop off and pick up point. I also feel that many of the existing schools have empty classrooms after school hours so investments can be made into those spaces to make them easily converted into before and after school childcare.

# #8

## How will you advocate for increased public funding? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	<p>As a trustee I have worked tirelessly to advocate for increased funding, with the board and in my capacity as our school district provincial council representative. I would continue to advocate as I have, as well as look at ways to increase communication with the Minister of Education in order to build our relationship further. I would also like to work with our partner groups to examine ways to enhance advocacy in a coordinated way. As a BCSTA provincial council representative I have had the opportunity to advocate for changes in how the funding is generated, to move away from grant funding and advocate for increased block funding for our students. One time grant funding creates uncertainty and inequity in the system. If re-elected I will continue my advocacy for these changes.</p>
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	This is a collective Board approach that I would fully support with motions to advocate with our collective partner groups to pursue successful negotiations.

# #8

## How will you advocate for increased public funding? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Rod Ross</b>	I believe we need to create our own wealth. We generated \$14M last year from International students tuition. Langley must take care of itself. I support asking for increased funding but would not hold my breath. If you look at all the \$ created via ISP revenue in BC the government has a long way to even meet current needs.
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	Working with my fellow trustees, I would approach the Ministry of Education to release funding that is at least adequate to meet our needs. This has not been done efficiently and I would like to learn how to make this happen.
<b>David Tod</b>	As a Board, we have written letters to the Ministry for capital funding. We also use the BCSTA to advocate for better funding of your public schools. I have presented to the select standing committee on Finances for increased funding for our schools.
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	School Boards need to work more closely with all levels of government to highlight the need for more funding. The student funding formulas are grossly inadequate and the budgets for capital funding for new schools are sparse. I believe if all boards turned their voices to this and made it their number one priority they could make change.

# #9

## What do you feel are the top priorities for PARENTS in the Langley School District? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	I believe that there are many priorities for parents in our district, but three of the top priorities I hear from parents are: 1) Safety for their children is one of the top priorities, sidewalks, traffic control, safe and livable communities which their children can navigate safely. 2) School buildings/learning spaces which are modern, safe and not over crowded. 3) Equitable access to educational opportunities. Including proper support in schools for learners and the ability to access a wide range of opportunities.
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	Communication of how we navigate change • Inclusive Education • Emergency Preparedness & Safety • Having continuity in the classrooms w/teachers & SEA's
<b>Rod Ross</b>	Raising your kids the best way you can. Love them unconditionally.

# #9

## What do you feel are the top priorities for PARENTS in the Langley School District? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	The responsibility of parents to ensure that their children are receiving the best unbiased education possible in a safe and caring environment. This requires involvement in knowing about the school(s) their child is in and what their child is being taught. A parent/guardian cannot just send off their child(ren) to school without ensuring that he/she is well nourished and clothed appropriately and prepared academically for school. A parent also needs to attend DPAC meetings to ensure their ideas are heard.
<b>David Tod</b>	Parents want safe, caring and inclusive schools. We want capital funding for schools and improved funding for our students with diverse needs.
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	Staff, Schools and Programs. Over a month into the new school year and there are classrooms that are still without a teacher. The shortage of teachers and support staff must be addressed immediately. We need to work with the township to plan schools where we know development is happening. It is to late if we wait until those developments are built and families have moved in before we begin to plan for a new school. We need programs to support special needs students who often need more intense programing and programs to address mental health issues that are becoming so prevalent in society today.

# #10 What is your plan to consult with stakeholders in your decision making process as a Trustee? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	<p>My three core values as a trustee are accountability, communication and respect. From the time I was first elected until now I have worked to increase the communication and consultation with our partners and stakeholders and ensure that we are accountable and respectful as a board. Just this past year I moved the following motions, to enhance communication, which were supported by the Board: The first was to strike a communication committee. Although I believe that overall the board has worked hard to ensure that true consultation has taken place over this term, improvement is always possible and I am looking forward to hearing from our partner groups how this can be improved. The second was a motion which I have moved continuously since being elected. Implementing web streaming of School Board meetings. This was important to me for two reasons, the first being that many parents in the district cannot make the times when our meeting are held. The second being that governing in an open and transparent way is so important. Finally after 7 years, the Board supported this motion, and the regular meeting are now web streamed.</p>
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #10 What is your plan to consult with stakeholders in your decision making process as a Trustee? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	There are systems in place that allow communication to flow; however, I would like to see stronger governance understanding for the stakeholders so they are aware of where their voice can impact policy making. I would also like to see DPAC as a presence increased in conversations and flow of communication.
<b>Rod Ross</b>	Bi annual meeting with stakeholders.
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	I plan to attend DPAC meetings. I also plan to attend schools. As I know many employees in the School District from my time working in various schools, I can be in contact and visit with various departments to discuss their concerns.
<b>David Tod</b>	I am on the AD-hoc committee for Communications and I eagerly wait our stakeholders feedback on how we can improve. We are getting better on our school consultations (middle schools conversation, LSS consultation). I hope I am considered approachable and willing to listen.
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	This is a big part of my platform because as a former stakeholder I did not feel included in any of the decision making processes. I am a firm believer in consultation and transparency and will make it my goal to arrange for more consultation with all stakeholders.

# Trustee Candidate Contact Information: Township



NAME	EMAIL	PHONE	WEBSITE	FACEBOOK	TWITTER	INSTAGRAM	YOUTUBE
<b>Megan Dykeman</b>	megandykeman@gmail.com	604-763-5019	megandykeman.com	@trusteemegandykeman	@megandykeman	@meganmdykeman	N/A
<b>Brent Larsen</b>	Brentlarsenbc@gmail.com	N/A	brentleadership.com	@brentlarsenschooltrustee	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Suzanne Perreault</b>	suzanne.perreault007@gmail.com	604-366-4212	suzanneperreault.me (to be launched)	Suzanne Perreault for Langley School District Trustee	N/A	N/A	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu5XFdT7q8k&amp;t=79s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu5XFdT7q8k&amp;t=79s</a>
<b>Rod Ross</b>	rodross@shaw.ca	604-866-6895	rodross.ca	N/A	@rodross	N/A	N/A
<b>Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy</b>	cherylsnowdon@gmail.com	604-230-1240	N/A	Trustee Candidate Cheryl Snowdon-Eddy	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>David Tod</b>	davidtodfortrustee@shaw.ca	604-857-2843	davidtod.ca	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Marnie Wilson</b>	marnie.contact@gmail.com	778-999-5069	marniewilson.ca	Marnie Wilson for School Trustee	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Celebrating Inclusion & Diversity in Langley*

# Survey Responses: City Trustee Candidates

*Displayed alphabetically by last name*



- 1. Candy Ashdown (served prior to 2014)**
- 2. Marshall Austin**
- 3. Shelley Coburn (incumbent)**
- 4. Sindy Jeffrey**
- 5. Tony Ward**

# #1

Approximately how many Langley DPAC and School Board Meetings have you attended since Fall 2014? (please provide a number for each)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Candy Ashdown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 School Board (2 in person and 4 live streamed watching from my office), 0 DPAC</li></ul>
<b>Marshall Austin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (1)- I am aware of the proceedings through my network and contacts and have read and am abreast of all the minutes from the board meetings over at least the last 3 years</li></ul>
<b>Shelley Coburn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Board- approximately 120</li></ul>
<b>Sindy Jeffrey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>
<b>Tony Ward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidate chose not to complete survey</li></ul>

# #2

I have or have had children that attend Langley public schools. (multiple choice options: yes, no or can't answer)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Candy Ashdown	Yes
Marshall Austin	Yes
Shelley Coburn	Yes
Sindy Jeffrey	Yes
Tony Ward	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #3

I support SOGI curriculum in the K-12 school system. (multiple choice options: yes, no or can't answer)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Candy Ashdown	Yes
Marshall Austin	Yes
Shelley Coburn	Yes
Sindy Jeffrey	Can't Answer
Tony Ward	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #4

**If you are elected trustee: could you, in good conscience, swear the trustee’s oath of office to uphold the School Act? (multiple choice options: yes, no or can’t answer)**

*Candidate was asked to read statement before responding: Section 76 of the School Act provides that: “All schools must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles” and “no religious dogma or creed is to be taught in a school”. The BC Court of Appeal has ruled that “Non-discrimination is a core value of the public education system”.*

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Candy Ashdown	Yes
Marshall Austin	Yes
Shelley Coburn	Yes
Sindy Jeffrey	Yes
Tony Ward	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #5

**If you are elected trustee: would you put aside any personal views to meet your obligations as a trustee to ensure an inclusive educational environment, even if your constituents had inconsistent personal views? (multiple choice options: yes, no or can't answer)**

*Candidate was asked to read statement before responding: Section 76 of the School Act provides that: "All schools must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles" and "no religious dogma or creed is to be taught in a school". The BC Court of Appeal has ruled that "Non-discrimination is a core value of the public education system".*

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
Candy Ashdown	Yes
Marshall Austin	Yes
Shelley Coburn	Yes
Sindy Jeffrey	Yes
Tony Ward	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #6

## What are some of the contributions you have personally made to public education that you are most proud of? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Candy Ashdown</b>	<p>I served for eight years on the PAC Executive at both of my children's schools (Langley Public schools). Six of those years, I held the position of either PAC President or Vice-President. It was an honour to represent the parents at our school and I have such wonderful memories of all of the great work we did together. I also served on the DPAC Executive for two years. In 2011, I made the decision to step back from my position on the DPAC Executive and I put my name forward for a Langley City seat on the Board of Education. In 2011, I was honoured to be elected by Langley City residents to the Board of Education. I served until December 2014. I am very proud of what our Board accomplished in those three years. We paid off a \$13 million-dollar deficit (from a previous Board's term) a year early, hired a new District Leadership team, developed a much-needed Long-Term Facilities Plan, developed a Communications Plan, as well as a new Mission, Vision and Values Statement and also formed Liaison Committees with both the Township and City. Our Board made it a priority to repair broken relationships with partner groups and regain the trust the district had lost in the community. Transparency and true public consultation were always at the forefront of our work.</p>

# #6

What are some of the contributions you have personally made to public education that you are most proud of? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Marshall Austin</b>	<p>I am proud to have served as the Director for Community Outreach with the Aldergrove Business Association. The focus was on engaging at risk youth in the Aldergrove region to support them to be successful in school and then ultimately in the community. The goal was to create support mechanisms and safe opportunities for the kids to make education a priority when facing other life challenges. Additionally I fully support intern programs through my work and partner with several organizations to allow students preparing to enter the workforce to have mentoring and hands on experiences to supplement their formal educations.</p>

# #6

## What are some of the contributions you have personally made to public education that you are most proud of? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Shelley Coburn</b>	<p>Prior to becoming a Trustee, I was very active in the school community. I am especially proud of the work I have done as a parent in initiating food programs in two schools. As a group of dedicated parents, we were able to start food programs that are currently still in operation. We recognized a need and we collaborated with an entire community to meet this need. Another contribution that I am proud of has been my work on the Policy Committee. Soon a recommendation will be coming forward to the Board on how, as a district, we respond to substance use. Substance use is a real problem in our district, and early intervention, in the right way, with the appropriate actions, is crucial. This has not been an easy policy to develop and I appreciate the very hard work of the District staff and my fellow trustees for their support on this very important initiative. And finally, although I am super proud of my public stance on SOGI123 and recognize it as a very important contribution, I believe my greatest contribution that I have made to date is the graduation address I delivered to the graduates at Vanguard Secondary last June. I believe that through sharing my story and encouraging them to be proud of theirs and never being ashamed of who they are and where they have come from, that I made a meaningful difference in their lives that night. Even greater than this, I believe that each one of these graduates will in turn go out, share their stories, and make a difference in the world around them.</p>

# #6

What are some of the contributions you have personally made to public education that you are most proud of? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Sindy Jeffrey</b>	I have been a Pac President and also a DPAC rep in Surrey. Also continued in the development of the Parent Driven School in surrey.
<b>Tony Ward</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #7

The Province of B.C. has opened up many funding initiatives to encourage the cities and school districts to open up space for childcare and before and after school care. Do you see a need for childcare on school sites and if so, is this something you are willing to pursue to support families who require care beyond the typical school hours? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Candy Ashdown</b>	<p>The cost of living has increased significantly in Langley. With more and more parents having to work to makes ends meet, daycare spaces are so important and needed more than ever. However, our City and Township are both growing quickly and extra space in our schools is becoming limited or non-existent. I 100% support child care on school sites, if there is room. However, if there's not room I believe we need to work with our Township and City to look at options in municipal facilities of close proximity to the school. This is one of the many reasons that it is so important to have a very good working relationship and communication with both the City and Township.</p>
<b>Marshall Austin</b>	<p>Yes, I see a need for childcare on school sites. We have an obligation to provide resources and tools as well as a safe environment to our students not just during school hours. Students need to know that there well being is top of our minds when not in the immediate care of their parents.</p>

# #7

The Province of B.C. has opened up many funding initiatives to encourage the cities and school districts to open up space for childcare and before and after school care. Do you see a need for childcare on school sites and if so, is this something you are willing to pursue to support families who require care beyond the typical school hours? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Shelley Coburn</b>	<p>Yes I do see a need for childcare on schools site and in the past, as a district, we had more space and were able to have onsite childcare. Unfortunately, with the restoration of the language by the Supreme Court back to 2002 levels, and the extremely rapid growth in parts of our district, we no longer have the space we once had. I am very much willing to pursue this with any level of government who is willing to work with us. I think that we need to look past the Province as the only government that we need to advocate. We need to get innovative and we need to expect more form our local governments and developers. Schools are an important and necessary part of our communities and development impacts us substantially. We are expected to accommodate the growth yet have little influence over how this growth happens. We need growth that we can sustain, and collaboration with local government is how we may best address this situation. If we no longer have space in our buildings for childcare because of growth, then it is time that we advocate for childcare centres in our new developments. We have mixed use residential with retail so why then can we not have mixed use residential and community amenities? Our capacity problem is complex, and we will need to be innovate if we want to meet the needs of our families and our communities.</p>

# #7

The Province of B.C. has opened up many funding initiatives to encourage the cities and school districts to open up space for childcare and before and after school care. Do you see a need for childcare on school sites and if so, is this something you are willing to pursue to support families who require care beyond the typical school hours? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Sindy Jeffrey</b>	On school sites would be best for Parents, this includes later hours. Problem there is not enough staff to man these sites. Putting the horse before the cart, we need more people trained in this area!!
<b>Tony Ward</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #8

## How will you advocate for increased public funding? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Candy Ashdown</b>	<p>Through the Board, I would encourage ongoing good communication and also support building a strong relationship between the Board of Education and the Ministry of Education. I would advocate for an increase to funding of public education, including funding for new schools. The Province needs to work on the funding formula. They also need to change the process in which funding for new schools is approved. A new school takes over two years to build. It's not at all appropriate that funding a new school is not even looked at until the students are already there in an overcrowded school. Much work and advocacy still needs to be done.</p>
<b>Marshall Austin</b>	<p>We need to have a strong voice and be heard with all vested partners in particular the ministry. This will include collaboration and attending key meetings with key stakeholders ensuring that Langley's specific needs are met, that our unique demographics are supported and that the current formula for funding is challenged based on our districts particular needs as well as contractual commitments. We must build strong business cases to advocate and be heard.</p>

# #8

## How will you advocate for increased public funding? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Shelley Coburn</b>	As a Board we are always advocating for increased funding. This term may require us to get somewhat more vocal and communicate more to the public exactly how pressing our capacity issue is becoming. As a Board we must be very honest about our situation, not just to the Province, but to the local community. The growth in Langley is rapid and our infrastructure cannot keep up. We need to forge very strong relationships with our local governments and we need to advocate to the Provincial government together. We need the support of our local governments when we go to the Province. Strengthening this relationship is something I have every intention of doing.
<b>Sindy Jeffrey</b>	As a district we will have to push for more Provincial funding. We would show the needs we are lacking and make our proposals.
<b>Tony Ward</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #9

## What do you feel are the top priorities for PARENTS in the Langley School District? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Candy Ashdown</b>	<p>Many parents in the Langley School District are concerned about overcrowding and space for their children in their neighbourhood schools and rightfully so. With underfunding of education, I also feel that there is an increased pressure on parents to fundraise, mostly through their school PAC. Most Parents are already stretched so thin financially and living paycheque to paycheque due to the cost of living. They can't afford to pay for playgrounds, computers, books, etc. and should not be expected to. Another priority which I feel many parents in the District struggle with is support for students with mental health challenges. I believe our District can do a much better job of supporting these students, including an increase in Counsellors and support for Teachers in the classroom. Mental health supports play a critical role in student success and their well-being.</p>
<b>Marshall Austin</b>	<p>In researching this topic and in consultation with many parents I heard that some of the top priorities are: Safe and inclusive environments for all students success is important. That the explosion of growth in our region will continue and we must look towards the future. investments and commitments must be made now to ensure we can succeed in the future. Students want even more opportunities then current in regards to technology, it is essential that technology is embraced and we allow our students to have opportunities to use and learn all types of technology so they can be successful in life after school.</p>

# #9

## What do you feel are the top priorities for PARENTS in the Langley School District? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Shelley Coburn</b>	<p>Wow this is a tough question because every family is unique. For the most part I think better communication is something that I hear often from parents, and really it is not just parents that I am hearing this from. Admittedly, as a parent I can say that there have been times I find myself frustrated with how the information is flowing. I have two sons at two different schools and I admit sometimes this can be overwhelming as every school is communicating differently. This may be necessary for somethings, however, there are many things that I would appreciate uniformity in how it is reported, and I know I am not alone. We need to make sure our communication is relevant, consistent, transparent, and timely. Another concern I hear often is around safety and mental health. I am hearing more and more from parents that this is a real issue in their families and they do not know how to support and advocate for their child, they just do not know where to start. They are unsure how to access resources, or where to even begin looking for the resources available to them within the district and throughout the community. This is something that as a district we can support our families in. Making this information easily accessible to our parent community is a top priority in my next term. Finally, I have been hearing more and more about development and how this impacts our existing issues around capacity. This is a priority, and to address it properly will require very strong relationships with our local governments. Here is where we need excellent communication so that we can work collaboratively to build strong communities. Communities that have schools with adequate space so that our children have a place to go to school in their neighbourhood.</p>

# #9

## What do you feel are the top priorities for PARENTS in the Langley School District? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Sindy Jeffrey</b>	All Parents have a voice. Parents are the Primary teachers for their children.
<b>Tony Ward</b>	Candidate chose not to complete survey

# #10 What is your plan to consult with stakeholders in your decision making process as a Trustee? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Candy Ashdown</b>	<p>As I mentioned in a previous question, I was a Trustee from 2011-2014. Our Board made it a priority to repair broken relationships with partner groups and regain the trust the district had lost in the community. I don't believe these relationships are as strong with the current Board and there is work to be done. My understanding is that the Communication with the City of Langley is not good. This needs to be made a priority. I will always commit to making decisions only after transparent and honest communication with partner groups and stakeholders. I will commit to also always encouraging and valuing dialogue / input from all partner groups and stakeholders and being approachable at all times.</p>
<b>Marshall Austin</b>	<p>That is the plan. To consult with the stakeholders, collaborate and invite them to the table for open discussions and be solution oriented. I will not operate in a silo, I will collaborate, consult and engage and then ultimately be decisive to support the boards decisions and implement.</p>

# #10 What is your plan to consult with stakeholders in your decision making process as a Trustee? (open comment response)

CANDIDATE	RESPONSE
<b>Shelley Coburn</b>	<p>At a Board meeting in June a motion to form a communication committee was passed. As a Board we recognized that our stakeholders were not entirely happy with our communication and we want to hear what they need. For communication to work it must go both ways and be relevant to the group receiving it. It must be done in a way that is meaningful to all parties. We want to hear what works for each of our partner groups so forming this committee was a priority. As a trustee who is at this table I can say that soon there will be a work plan that is reflective of the needs of each of partner groups. I can say with confidence it will be reflective of their needs as they are the people who are helping to develop it. This is one way we can improve- through consultation with all our stakeholders.</p>
<b>Sindy Jeffrey</b>	<p>I will partake in any consultations with all groups or associations that would enhance our students learning skills and development. I will meet with all parent groups and recognize all concerns and assist in implementing plans that fulfill healthy growth for our students.</p>
<b>Tony Ward</b>	<p>Candidate chose not to complete survey</p>

# Trustee Candidate Contact Information: City



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<b>Tony Ward</b>	Candidate chose not to complete	-	-	-	-	-	-

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