

Delta School Trustee Candidate Responses

Name: Nimmi Daula

1. Why do you want to be a school trustee? What do you understand the role of a trustee to be?

Having served as a trustee for a full term, I have gained a much deeper understanding of both the responsibility and the limitations of the role. I want to continue because I believe strong public education depends on thoughtful governance, responsible use of resources, and decisions that keep students at the centre. To me, a trustee's role is to listen to the community, ask important questions, set policy and direction, oversee the district's budget, and hold the system accountable for the decisions we make as a Board. It is also our responsibility to advocate to the provincial government when local resources are not enough to meet the needs of our students. I also understand that a trustee is not there to manage the day-to-day operations of schools. We work collectively as a Board, provide governance and oversight, and ensure that the voices of students, families, employees and the broader community are considered in our decisions. I want to continue bringing the experience I have gained, while still being willing to listen, learn and improve.

2. Delta staff are committed to including all children and families. How will you support Delta staff in creating inclusive school communities?

Creating inclusive schools has to go beyond words. As a trustee, I support continuing to identify and remove the practical barriers that prevent some students from fully participating in school. That includes improving accessibility in our buildings and playgrounds, ensuring students have access to appropriate learning supports and assistive technology, strengthening Inclusive Education resources, and making sure accommodation processes are clear and responsive. I also believe we need to keep hearing directly from students and families about where barriers still exist. Delta has already taken important steps through its Accessibility Plan and Justice and Equity Action Plan, and I want to see that work continue to translate into meaningful changes in our schools.

3. Delta staff are learning about decolonization and reconciliation. How will you support Delta staff in our supportive role?

As a trustee, I can support this work by making sure reconciliation remains a priority in our decisions and by supporting the resources and learning opportunities needed to continue it meaningfully. I believe it is important to give people opportunities to learn directly from Indigenous voices and knowledge keepers, to ask questions and to reflect on what we have previously been taught. Reconciliation also requires us to be willing to

Delta School Trustee Candidate Responses

Name: Nimmi Daula

unlearn assumptions and learn the truth about our history. My role is to support the policies, resources and conditions that allow this work to continue, while listening to Indigenous communities and to those doing this work in our schools.

4. Due to underfunding in the system, violence has become more prevalent. How will you commit to providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for students and staff?

Over the past four years as a trustee, I have heard directly from teachers, support staff, students and families about the challenges they are experiencing in our schools. Concerns about violence and safety are among the most serious, and I believe we have to listen to those concerns and act. We should not wait for something to happen before we respond. We need to focus on prevention by making sure schools have the staffing, counselling, behavioural and specialized supports they need. Staff also need proper training, clear safety procedures and confidence that when they raise a concern, they will be heard and supported. I also believe communication is very important. We should strengthen communication between schools, parents and the district so concerns can be identified early and addressed together. As a trustee, I will continue to advocate for the funding and resources our schools need. I will also continue listening to staff and students, asking questions at the Board table and working with district leadership to address safety concerns. We have to balance compassion and inclusion with the right of every student and staff member to feel safe. Every child should be able to learn without fear, and every teacher and staff member should be able to come to work knowing they are supported. After four years on the Board, I know that there are no simple solutions. But I believe we can make a difference by listening, advocating, investing in prevention and making safety a priority in every decision we make.

5. How would you propose to alleviate the current EA staffing shortage and improve recruitment and retention?

The EA shortage cannot be solved through recruitment alone; we also need to focus on why people stay or leave. As a trustee, I would continue to prioritize funding for Inclusive Education while working with CUPE and district staff to identify the biggest barriers to recruitment and retention. That means looking at more stable and predictable hours, opportunities for professional development and advancement, stronger support for new EAs, and making it easier for qualified casual employees to move into regular positions. We also need to maintain a strong pool of trained on-call staff so absences do not leave students without the support they need. At the provincial level, I would continue advocating for adequate, sustainable funding that recognizes the real cost of

Delta School Trustee Candidate Responses

Name: Nimmi Daula

recruiting and retaining EAs. School boards can make improvements locally, but long-term solutions require provincial funding that keeps pace with staffing needs and the cost of living.

6. Given that funding is limited, what are your budget priorities for the Delta School District?

Given limited funding, my priority is to protect the people and services that have the greatest direct impact on students, particularly classroom supports, Inclusive Education, student mental health and safety. I also want to recognize that Delta School District staff have done a very good job managing the resources available to us and making difficult budget decisions responsibly. Going forward, we need to continue looking for efficiencies while protecting frontline supports and avoiding cuts that directly affect students. At the same time, trustees must continue advocating to the provincial government for sustainable funding that reflects the real cost of providing quality public education and meeting the growing needs of students.

7. Currently, in Delta, decisions are made by trustees prior to the public Board meeting. Do you feel an obligation to make your decision-making process more transparent to the public and what steps will you take to ensure this?

Yes, I believe the public should be able to understand not only what decisions the Board makes, but also the reasoning behind those decisions. There are matters that must remain confidential, such as personnel, legal and individual student matters, and that confidentiality has to be respected. However, wherever possible, discussion on matters of public interest should be visible and understandable to the community. I would support clearer public explanations of major decisions, more meaningful discussion at public Board meetings, and making sure the information trustees rely on is available to the public whenever it can be shared. I also believe trustees should be willing to explain their own reasoning and hear from the community before important decisions are finalized. Transparency builds trust, and there is always room to look at how we can make the decision-making process more open and accessible.