

Delta School Trustee Candidate Responses

Name: Tamara Laza

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

Running for School Board is important to me because the decisions made around the board table have a real impact on students, families, staff, and our entire community. Public education is one of the foundations of a strong community. Our schools should be places where every student feels supported, where staff are valued, and where families know their voices are heard.

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

Every child and family should feel safe, respected, and included in their school community. CUPE staff are often part of the everyday relationships that help students feel connected, whether through education assistance, youth and family support, office support, custodial work, or other roles. I would support CUPE educators by listening to their front-line experience, ensuring inclusion is considered in budgets and policies, and advocating for the staffing and supports students need.

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

For me, this work comes back to belonging. Every student should feel valued, respected, safe, and included in their school. In my community and labour work, I have tried to support respectful, inclusive spaces where people can speak up and where different experiences are heard. I also recognize that Truth and Reconciliation, anti-racism, equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging require ongoing learning, humility, and action. If elected, I would support Delta's ongoing work with local Indigenous communities, strengthen student-led equity and anti-racism initiatives, listen to students, families, staff, and front-line workers about barriers they experience, and ensure equity and belonging are reflected in budgets, policies, staffing, and Board decisions. Inclusion is not just a policy; it is whether students feel they truly belong when they walk through the school door.

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?

Delta School Trustee Candidate Responses

Name: Tamara Laza

Safety in schools has to include both students and staff. Increasingly complex student needs can create difficult situations, and staff should not be expected to work in unsafe conditions. I would support prevention, early intervention, clear reporting processes, follow-up when incidents occur, and adequate staffing and training so students receive the support they need before situations escalate.

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

CUPE staffing shortages are about more than wages. Workload, safety, scheduling, job stability, respect, training, supervision, and workplace culture all affect whether people choose to come to Delta and whether they choose to stay. Trustees can help by making recruitment and retention a budget and workforce-planning priority, supporting mentorship and training, reviewing vacancy and turnover data, and listening directly to CUPE members about what would make their jobs sustainable.

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

Funding shortfalls need to be addressed through responsible local budgeting and strong provincial advocacy. I would look for efficiencies and duplication before supporting reductions to front-line services, and I would prioritize protecting services closest to students. At the same time, the province must fully fund negotiated wage and benefit increases so districts are not forced to take money away from teaching, learning, and student supports.

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?

Open and democratic decision-making starts with transparency, early consultation, and clear communication. The public should understand not only what decisions are made, but why they are made. Budget information should be accessible, major decisions should include meaningful input from staff and the community, and the Board should report back on what was heard and how that input influenced the final decision.