

Delta School Trustee Candidate Responses

Name: Umendra Singh

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

I want to provide a safe, secure, sound, accessible and inclusive school system for Delta students, parents, teachers and support staff

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

I will listen to Delta staff and support them in ensuring all children and families are included. Inclusiveness is very important to me. Having inclusive school communities is one of my aims. I am committed to including all children and families.

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

I will support Delta staff by joining them in learning more about decolonization and reconciliation.

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?

I will be an advocate for reducing underfunding. School violence can take many forms, including physical, emotional, mental, bullying, etc. A multi-layered approach combining clear policies, staff training, student engagement, mental health support, and strong security measures is essential to combatting school violence. We must establish clear policies and expectations and schools should implement a well-defined code of conduct that outlines acceptable behavior and consequences for violations.

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

One of my children works as an EA and I have friends working as EAs in Delta. I am well versed in issues facing EAs. The easy answer is to "hire more EAs". But this position needs to be made more attractive, with a higher pay and benefits. The position needs to be publicised positively, for more young people to be interested and training provided for future EAs. Perhaps a school district sponsored training program for new EAs and a joint initiative by all school districts in Metro Vancouver to have a comprehensive program

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in conjunction with a local university or college, to train and hire EAs should be looked at.

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

I will constantly advocate for more funding from the province. My priorities would be to provide funding for a safe, secure, sound and accessible school system for all.

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?

Decision making should always be more transparent to the public. I will consult with the public, teachers and staff representatives on major issues.