



[DONATE](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

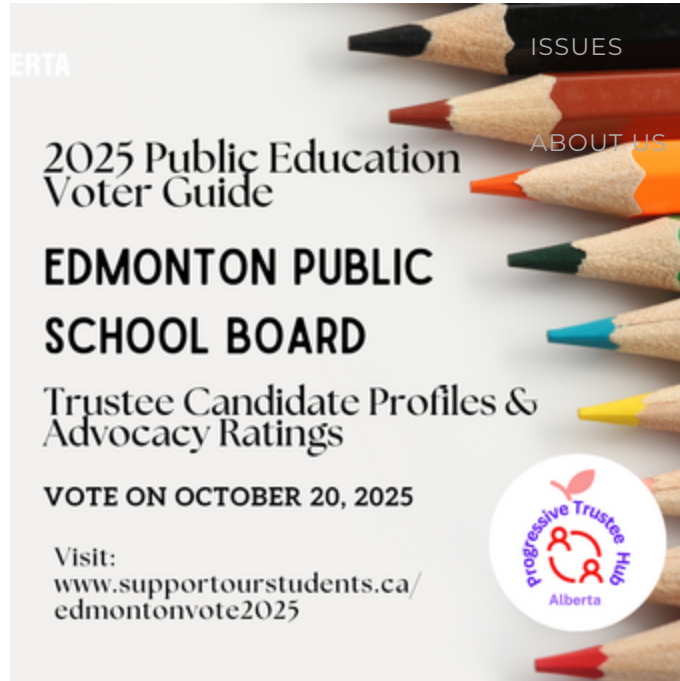


**Vote For Public Education
Edmonton Public School Board
October 20, 2025**

2025 EPSB Election Voter Guide

2025 School Board Trustee Voter Guide

Edmonton Public School Board

[DONATE](#)[PRESS ROOM](#)[ISSUES](#)[RESOURCES](#)[ABOUT US](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)

In collaboration with the [Progressive Trustee Hub](#), this 2025 Public Education Voter Guide is a resource to help Edmonton voters find out who is running in their ward for public school board (EPSB) trustee, and how these trustees align with the values and goals of public education advocacy ([listed here](#)).

Where contact information was available, nominated candidates were sent a two-part questionnaire.

**We provide a Public Education Advocacy rating
(out of 5) based on:**

- (1) candidates' questionnaire responses (if provided)
- (2) platforms
- (3) experience (related to education, lived experiences, partisan politics, governance)
- (4) advocacy track record (previous public education advocacy particularly for incumbents)
- (5) effectiveness & accountability potential

Our **Public Education Advocacy** ratings were scored through extensive consultation with a broad network of diverse advocates and activists. Background information was gathered based on candidates' engagement with partner organizations, their online content, and their participation at forums. The goal of our rating system is to evaluate candidates who

are best positioned with the values and qualifications to work collaboratively as a progressive Edmonton Public school board to vocally advocate and openly defend public education both within and outside chamber doors.



ISSUES

RESOURCES

(Candidate order follows Edmonton Elections Official List.)

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Disclaimer: The opinions and evaluations expressed below are summarily aggregated from a broad range of Progressive Trustee Hub partners. These comments are being shared to highlight general trends and impressions from our organizations' perspectives but we encourage all voters to engage with candidates themselves if possible. At the time of publication, the information below is a snapshot of candidate information gathered among a dynamic election environment and so is prepared to the best of our ability. This voter guide is being offered with the lens of advocacy as the main focus. We also feel it is valuable to flag concerns as candidates could potentially make decisions overseeing the wellbeing of children and students.

EPSB Ward A

KOSMAN, Marcelle



Marcelle Kosman
EPSB Ward A

Email: Marcelle4trustee@gmail.com

Website: <https://marcelle4trustee.ca/>

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Champion openness and transparency. Prioritize fairness. Reinvest in our public schools."



Experience: PhD English, university instructor, connected to K-12 public education, parent and ongoing activist for 2SLGBTQ+ rights and social equality

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, actively vocal in education political advocacy and activism

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate's policy proposals are public education focussed. Kosman shows deep understanding of trustee role. Kosman demonstrates commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education. Kosman espouses progressive values that champion social justice and human rights with an open record of ongoing and current involvement. Kosman shows strong potential to be an advocacy leader. Candidates shows deep understanding of issues facing marginalized students and public statements have been consistent.

Marcelle Kosman's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5



Hassan Mohamed
EPSB Ward A

MOHAMED, Hassan Tukade

Email: Vote@hassanforwarda.ca

Website: hassanforwarda.ca

Questionnaire Responses: Candidate did not respond

Platform: Emphasis on transparency (cutting waste on bureaucracy), academics, support, resources

Experience: Social worker & cultural coach, worked extensively alongside educators

[DONATE](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)



Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, previous education advocacy experience unclear in details

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate provides a relatively limited advocacy profile while proposing some sound policies. But it is unclear how candidate is familiar with trustee role and how they would logistically implement policy proposals. Candidate did not attend forums hosted by public education advocates.

Hassan Mohamed's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2/5



Sherri O'Keefe
EPSB Ward A

O'KEEFE, Sherri

Email: electokeefefortrustee@gmail.com

Website: www.electofkeefefortrustee.com

Questionnaire Responses:

[Part A](#)

[Part B](#)

Platform: Accountability, collaboration, equity, integrity

Experience: Retired educator & principal, Incumbent EPSB trustee for Ward A

Advocacy Track Record: As trustee, O'Keefe has a mixed



voting record from an advocacy point of view. As Chair of the Governance and Evaluation, the Trustee Handbook was changed to limit registered speakers' scope and length of participation at board meetings, thus limiting democratic participation from the general public. The Caucus Committee approved the changes, which came into effect for the May 23, 2025 Special Board meeting. O'Keefe also represented the board at part of collective bargaining negotiations with support staff of CUPE 3550; the union of education workers ultimately went on strike for 9 weeks.

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Despite possibly different intentions, O'Keefe's record of closed-door advocacy resulted in an impression of overall government compliance. In the Budget 2024-25 meeting, O'Keefe voted against a proposed motion to decrease funding for seclusion rooms. O'Keefe also voted in favour of re-instating the School Resource Office (SRO) program. Compliance with harmful government policies without simultaneous visible trustee pushback could contribute to destabilization of public education. Moreover, continued deference of accountability to the un-elected superintendent is concerning.

Sherri O'Keefe's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2.5/5



Nicole Renaud
EPSB Ward A

RENAUD, Nicole

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

Email: nicole.renaud.for.trustee@gmail.com

ISSUES

RESOURCES

Website: nicolerenaud.ca

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: Inclusive education, smaller classes, strengthening democracy, building community

Experience: Research & policy analysis, economic & community development, parent

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, ongoing work in disability & human rights advocacy

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate could be strong voice for specific marginalized student groups; but candidate's publicly posted trans-exclusionary positions on "women's sex-based rights" are potential liabilities for genuine advocacy impacting trans student, specifically trans girls.

Nicole Renaud's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2/5

EPSB Ward B



Ahmed (Muruh) Ali
EPSB Ward B

ALI, Ahmed (Muruh)

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

Email: donate@ahmed-ali.ca

ISSUES

RESOURCES

Website: <https://www.ahmed-ali.ca>

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Questionnaire Responses: Candidate did not respond.

Platform: "Build schools, promote wellness, better education, school lunch program."

Experience: Past president of United Conservative Party EDA, engineering & political science, former chair of TDSB parent council

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate; lists advocacy for public education, equality, and social justice on website

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Minimal education policy details provided. Candidate's Conservative party affiliations are not conducive to advocating for progressive public education policies. Most alarmingly, candidate responded with transphobic and discriminatory statements at public education forum.

Ahmed (Muruh) Ali's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 0/5



Linda Lindsay
EPSB Ward B

LINDSAY, Linda

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

ISSUES

RESOURCES

Email: lindalindsaypublictrustee@gmail.com

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Website: lindalindsay.org

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Defending and supporting public education. Strong funding support, inclusive education, community focus, progressive leadership."

Experience: Over 30 years professional experience as teacher, reading coordinator, and assistant principal, community volunteer, active public education advocate

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, actively vocal in education & political advocacy and activism

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Lindsay's proposals are action-driven, public education focussed, shows deep understanding of trustee role. Candidate demonstrates commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education. Ongoing and current involvement shows strong potential to be an advocacy leader. Demonstrates deep understanding of current issues while promoting public education as a priority. Lindsay will bring relevant experience in navigating board and trustee dynamics as well.

Linda Lindsay's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5



DONATE

PRESS ROOM

ISSUES

RESOURCES

OLESEN, Erik Scott

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Email: Could not locate.

Website: www.erikfortrustee.wixsite.com/erikolesen

(Under construction as of Oct 1)

EPSB Ward C

CLOW, Amyjoy



Amyjoy Clow
EPSB Ward C

Email: amyjoyclow75@gmail.com

Website: www.amyjoyforwardc.com

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Platform: "Supporting teachers & students, strengthening parent partnerships, transparency in school spending"

"Every child and parent deserves a voice - and every dollar should go where it's needed most."

Experience: Parent, co-owner of local business

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate. Candidate's public education details are unclear from online materials.



Effectiveness and accountability potential: Candidate emphasizes parental involvement as one of their central platform points. Clow's position on "legal" immigration is concerning. Clow's social media content also raises many alarms including anti-vaccination beliefs, far-right political affiliations and conspiratorial anti-science ("flat earth") positions. Candidate seems to be concealing problematic positions. Clow did not attend public education forum.

Amyjoy Clow's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 0/5



Holly Nichol
EPSB Ward C

NICHOL, Holly

Email: HollyForTrustee@gmail.com

Website: hollynichol.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Every student, every need, every school. Every student deserves a fully-funded public education, no exceptions. Every child in Alberta has different learning needs. Firm advocating to the province for adequate funding to address this crisis is desperately needed. In the meantime, collaborating on creative solutions to alleviate these pressures across the division must start now."

Experience: Regular engagement at EPSB meetings, post-secondary professional, active public education and inclusion



advocate, school council and community volunteer, parent

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, currently active and vocal in education & political advocacy and activism

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Nichol's platform is action-driven with robust, detailed public education policy offerings which shows deep understanding of trustee role. Candidate demonstrates commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education. Ongoing and current involvement shows strong potential to be an advocacy leader. Nichol consistently demonstrates deep understanding of current issues while promoting public education as a priority

Holly Nichol's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5

EPSB Ward D



Nickela Anderson
EPSB Ward D

ANDERSON, Nickela

Email: nickela.anderson@gmail.com

Website: nickelaanderson.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Protect public education, include every student, look beyond the usual measures of success, listen and lead with care." Provided a survey to engage voters. Self-identifies

as progressive choice.



DONATE

PRESS ROOM

Experience: Parent, over a decade of public education involvement, multiple parent and leadership organizations, professional background in research, evaluation and public engagement

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, actively vocal in education & political advocacy and activism

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Thorough and thoughtful public education policy proposals, shows deep understanding of trustee role. Candidate demonstrates commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education while navigating governance duties. Longtime and current involvement shows strong potential to be an advocacy leader. Anderson consistently shows deep understanding of current issues while promoting public education as a priority. Anderson brings relevant education experience to navigating the board and trustee responsibilities.

Nickela Anderson's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5



Colette Bachand
EPSB Ward D

BACHAND, Colette

Email: vote@colettebachand.ca

Website: colettebachand.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: Supporting educators, arts advocacy, 'social entrepreneurship'

DONATE

PRESS ROOM



Experience: Teacher, art teacher at Classical Charter & Catholic & public schools, business owner and operator

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate. Active advocate for arts and general community building. Limited record provided of recent public education political advocacy work

Effectiveness & accountability potential: From various reports, Bachand has not proactively disclosed their past or current connection to the controversial Classical Charter Academy. Candidate states they would advocate for public education. Bachand has provided inconsistent responses to several key education issues such as SROs, inclusion, public funding for public education, past advocacy experience, etc. Bachand's lack of transparency calls into question future reliability if elected and ongoing or future charter school employment presents significant conflict of interest from an advocacy perspective.

Colette Bachand's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 1/5

HUNT, Nancy



Nancy Hunt
EPSB Ward D

Email: nancy@nancy-hunt.ca

Website: nancy-hunt.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B



Platform: Lower class sizes, student/staff wellness, build/fix schools, support all students. Released a 20-point plan as part of platform.

ISSUES

RESOURCES

Experience: Music teacher, business owner, community & neighbourhood development advocate

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Advocacy Track Record: Previously ran as EPSB Trustee candidate in 2021, co-founder of Edmonton Public Schools Advocacy Network (EPSAN)

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate has broad range of experience in long term advocacy for public schools. Hunt provides detailed and public education focused proposals. Hunt brings experience in data-based decision making. Some questions remain regarding whether candidate is thoroughly versed in issues facing marginalized and underserved students from a social equity perspective.

Nancy Hunt's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 4/5

RANON, Rufino Comia

Email: rufino_ranon@yahoo.ca

Website: unlisted

Questionnaires:

Part A

Part B

Platform: Could not locate as of October 1.



Experience: Healthcare worker

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

Advocacy Track Record: Could not locate as of October 1.

ISSUES

RESOURCES

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Based on

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

questionnaire responses, candidate shows support for advancing the public education system. Candidate seems to understand key issues from an equity lens. Unclear track record of previous education advocacy or depth of knowledge of concrete trustee policy implementation.

Rufino Ranon's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 3/5

EPSB Ward E



Sarah Doll
EPSB Ward E

DOLL, Sarah

Email: dollfortrustee@gmail.com

Website: sarahdoll.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Integrity, inclusion, investigation, impact.

- Advancing inclusive education that meets the needs of all learners
- Restoring transparency and public voice in school board decision-making and board meetings



- Using data and community feedback to guide meaningful, informed decisions

[DONATE](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)

-Delivering real, lasting improvements in learning conditions and student outcomes"

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Experience: Regular engagement with EPSB, communications, active public education and inclusion and disability rights advocate, parent, and politically engaged with education policy and current issues

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, actively vocal in education & political advocacy and activism

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Doll provides thorough and thoughtful public education policy offerings, shows deep understanding of trustee role. Candidate demonstrates commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education while navigating governance channels and duties. Ongoing and current involvement shows comprehensive understanding of relevant issues. Strong potential to be an advocacy leader. Doll's responses to key issues have been consistent and demonstrates strong convictions with progressive positions.

Sarah Doll's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5



Jodi Howard
EPSB Ward E

HOWARD, Jodi

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Email: trustee@electjodihoward.com

Website: www.electjodihoward.com

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Defending education as a birthright, fighting for future of public education." Candidate provides positions on respect for teachers, gender identity, integration education, and book ban on website

Experience: Music teacher, business owner, parent

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate. Candidate's history of public education specific political advocacy unclear.

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate declares support for public education and outlines positions on some of the current harmful provincial policies. Candidate shows understanding of several key issues but does not appear well-versed in trustee role or implementation of infrastructure or governance decisions. More alarmingly, candidate's position on pronoun policy and likening it with "Family Law, State is Sentience" which sets age groupings for privacy allowance is problematic from multiple facets. Candidate's proposals of needs-based segregated classrooms also raises grave concerns about inclusion. Howard proposes a cap on students with complex needs in each classroom but unclear how this could be implemented equitably.



Chuck Smit
EPSB Ward E

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

SMIT, Chuck

Email: chucksmit@epsbtrusteewarde.ca

Website: epsbtrusteewarde.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "School space that works, curriculum done right, access to public education, inclusive education, balancing fairness and inclusion in school sports."

Experience: School council chair, also involved in Catholic school system, in-school supervisor, retired firefighter/paramedic

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, active in volunteer and school council roles, unclear whether candidate has been vocal on education policies outside of local spheres prior to campaign

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate is actively involved at the local level but it is unclear how they would enact logistical change or resistance to harmful policies. Smit does not appear to proactively disclose Catholic school involvement indicating connections to both divisions. Smit's social media content raise questions about candidate's privilege lens and his commitment to advocating for racialized and marginalized students is inconsistent. Smit seems supportive of ban on trans students playing sports and



is a clear proponent of the SRO program. Smit also invokes Alberta flag in campaign material raising questions of political affiliation, or at minimum awareness of its symbolism.

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Chuck Smit's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 1.5/5

TURNER, Raine

Candidate has personally requested to cease contact with Progressive Trustee Hub.

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate's conduct was abrupt and not conducive to providing further information or collaboration. Candidate likely not open to accountability based on their conduct.

EPSB Ward F



Julie Kusiek
EPSB Ward F

KUSIEK, Julie

[DONATE](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)

Email: julie@juliekusiek.ca

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

Website: juliekusiek.ca

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Questionnaire Responses: Candidate did not submit responses.

Platform: Fostering relationships with superintendent and other elected officials

Experience: parent and community volunteer, Incumbent Trustee for Ward F and D, Board Chair

Advocacy Track Record: Kusiek was elected to the board in 2021 on progressive values. However, Kusiek's voting record and decisions as Trustee and Board Chair have not always aligned with progressive positions from her campaign. In the Budget 2024-25 meeting, Kusiek voted against a proposed motion to decrease funding for seclusion rooms. She presided as board chair when the Governance & Evaluation Committee made changes to the Trustee Handbook which limited registered speaker's scope and length of participation at board meetings, thus restricting democratic participation from the general public. The Caucus Committee approved those changes, which came into effect for the May 23 Special Board meeting. Kusiek also voted in favour of re-instating the SRO program.

Effectiveness & accountability potential: From an advocacy angle, Kusiek's past campaign supporters have raised concerns regarding progressive accountability. Regrettably, Kusiek's adoption of closed-door trustee advocacy has not yielded concrete and visible results in terms of increasing



public awareness. There have been reports of board dynamics becoming fragmented and conflicted. Through these changes, the reputation of the EPSB as a progressive board in Alberta have perceptibly diminished. Racialized and marginalized students' have reported feeling discounted by the board's approval of re-instating the SRO program as many were counting on Kusiek as the swing vote. As chair, Kusiek was a frequent validator of UCP government policy releases, although she brought forward concerns about infrastructure to the press and to the public. Overall, Kusiek's continued outward approach of compliance with harmful government policies without simultaneous vocalization of steadfast convictions could perpetuate ineffectiveness. Advocates also raise concerns about continued deference of public accountability to the un-elected superintendent.

Julie Kusiek's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 1.5/5



Alex Marshall
EPSB Ward F

MARSHALL, Alex

Email: alexmarshall4trustee@gmail.com

Website: alexmarshall4trustee.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: Public funding for public schools, protecting marginalized students, supporting parents & communities.

Experience: Former K-12 teacher, worked with school boards



developing policies, educator

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, actively vocal in education political advocacy and activism with organizations like FyreFly Institute

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

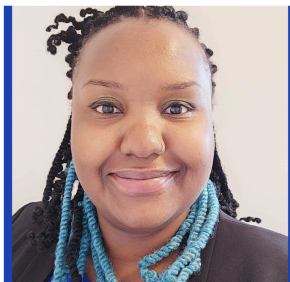
SUBSCRIBE

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Proposals are public education focussed, shows comprehensive understanding of trustee role. Candidate demonstrates commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education. Ongoing and current involvement shows strong potential to be an advocacy leader. Marshall brings important educator and lived experience lens in critical policies facing marginalized and LGBTQ2S+ students.

Alex Marshall's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5

EPSB Ward G



Aleen Lenana
EPSB Ward G

LENANA, Aleen

Email: aleen4trustee@gmail.com

Website: aleenlenana.com

Questionnaire Responses:

Candidate retracted their responses.

Platform: "True inclusion, parents as partners who are fully involved in decisions that affect their children, representation,

wages for support staff."

[DONATE](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)



Experience: Certified Child & Youth Care Counsellor, Master's degree in Interdisciplinary studies, community development

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, limited information about previous public education advocacy work

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Lenana's platform discusses transparent parental involvement and anti-racism proposals to promote cultural change on the board. However, candidate is a proponent of public funds being directed to schools of choice such as charter, magnet, specialized schools, as a way to "promote innovation and accountability." This is antithetical to our values of public dollars staying in public schools. While candidate proposes important anti-racism perspectives to promote inclusion, Lenana's emphasis on parental involvement raises concerns related to "parental rights." Lenana also supported P3s (public-private partnerships) and gave conflicting responses regarding union support at public education forum.

Aleen Lenana's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2/5



Pranshu Patel
EPSB Ward G

PATEL, Pranshu

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Email: pranshufortrustee@gmail.com

Website: pranshu-patel.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Candidate did not respond.

Platform: Overcrowding, funding equity, transportation access, inclusion & belonging, parent partnership in education.

Experience: Civil engineering, Canadian Air Force, business owner

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, does not provide record on education governance and policy

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate has a relatively superficial platform and provides a limited advocacy profile. Their platform shows several positive education policy proposals but lacking details on logistical policy implementation as trustee. Candidate showed an introductory level of knowledge on key issues at public education forum.

Pranshu Patel's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2/5



Corrine Rondeau
EPSB Ward G

RONDEAU, Corrine

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Email: info@rondeaufortrustee.com

Website: corrinerondeau.com

Questionnaire Responses:

Candidate did not respond.

Platform: "Focussing on the essentials"

Experience: Ran for trustee in 2021; parent, has worked to alleviate barriers for language instruction

Advocacy Track Record: Previously ran as EPSB Trustee candidate in 2021, does not provide record on education governance and policy, previously answered Parents for Choice in Education survey

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate's outsized focus on "back to basics" raises concerns about their narrow view of the goals of public education. Candidate promotes fundamental educational reform which are regressive in nature.

Corrine Rondeau's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 1/5



Saadiq Sumar
EPSB Ward G

SUMAR, Saadiq

DONATE

PRESS ROOM

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Email: sumarwardg@gmail.com

Website: saadiqsumar.org

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: Adequate funding, high quality education for all students (anti-racism policies), expanding learning and community spaces

Experience: Civil engineer, Incumbent Trustee for Ward G

Advocacy Track Record: Sumar has shown steadfast commitment and persistence while working on a conflicted board. By using his voice to speak up for students where permitted, Sumar has often served as a dissenting vote against complying with harmful policies. Sumar was one of the few trustees who responded to constituents on contentious issues like bringing SROs back into schools. Sumar voted against Edmonton Police Service having a formal role in division schools (School Resource Officer program). In Budget 2024, Sumar put forward a motion to decrease funding in order to phase out seclusion rooms but his motion was ultimately voted down.

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Detailed platform with focus on concrete policy actions and deep logistical understanding of board governance and current issues. As a current trustee, Sumar has continually demonstrated commitment to be a vocal supporter of public education. Sumar's ongoing and current track records shows



he has navigated complex dynamics while staying true to his values with integrity. Sumar shows deep understanding of issues facing marginalized students and also carries a deep body of knowledge with his experience as an incumbent.

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Saadiq Sumar's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5

EPSB Ward H



Joshua Akom
EPSB Ward H

AKOM, Joshua Boateng

Email: unlisted

Website: unlisted

Online flyer: [Posted on Facebook](#)

Questionnaire Responses: Contact info not available

Platform: "Cut the Politics, More Funding - Cut Excuses not funding, Back to learning -put students first, Fix the lottery system"

Experience: Parent, engineer, solving complex problems

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate. Flyer lists "consistent advocate for strong education" but remains unclear which avenues of advocacy he has worked in previously.

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate places heavy emphasis on "cutting politics" and "removing political ideology." These are concerning focusses since the trustee



role is by nature political. It raises concerns whether candidate fully understands the role of trustee. Also questions remain on tangible paths to attain said goals like fixing the lottery system when EPSB is out of physical space. Candidate's reference of "back to learning" invokes possibly regressive educational reforms. Candidate did not attend public education forum.

Joshua Akom's

Public Education Advocacy rating: 1/5



Dr. Melanie Hoffman
EPSB Ward H

HOFFMAN, Melanie

Email: dr.mel.for.trustee@gmail.com

Website: www.melaniehoffman.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "Fair education for all, Resourced teachers = thriving students, safe & sustainable schools, community voice"

Experience: PhD Chemist, long-time educator, City of Edmonton's Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC), parent, Community Climate Solutions at King's University, EcoSchools, community organizing

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, actively vocal in climate change & environmental political advocacy and activism, has shown collaborative approach to effect change

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate shows willingness to collaborate with community from a social justice



lens. Candidate shows deep understanding of current equity challenges facing public education. Hoffman's priorities are consistently public education focussed. Candidate provides thoughtful analysis and would bring relevant data-informed decision making to the board trustee role.

Dr. Melanie Hoffman's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 5/5



Rajesh Kumar
EPSB Ward H

KUMAR, Rajesh

Email: rajesh4trustee@gmail.com

Website: kumarrajesh.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform:

- Be the voice of Parents, Educators, and Students
- Public Education - Funding and Resource Allocation
- Transparency and Accountability
- Advocacy for Supports for Inclusive Education
- Enhance Collaboration among all levels of Governance

Experience: IT consulting, engineering, MBA, MicroMasters in Supply Chain management

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate. Kumar has served on the Board of GRIT (Getting Ready for Inclusion Today), co-led the Inclusive Education Committee for Inclusion Edmonton,

advocated for fair wages for Educational Assistants, has represented parents' concerns to the school board and media



Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate shows current and ongoing advocacy for inclusion and disability rights. However, Kumar's moderate positions on gender diversity and trans rights raises some questions of knowledgeability. Questions remain in whether candidate possesses thorough understanding of the downstream implications of the suite of harmful educational policies or how he would tangibly advocate against legislations.

Rajesh Kumar's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 3.75/5



Edison Li
EPSB Ward H

LI, Edison

Email: voteedisonli@gmail.com

Website: voteedisonli.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Candidate did not respond.

Platform: "Reflect the diversity of the communities they serve; Prioritize mental health and student well-being; Ensure teachers and staff have the resources they need; Build bridges between parents, educators, and trustees—not walls"

Experience: Recent EPSB graduate, relevant lived experience of learning conditions, youth group leader, co-founded of AideLink for newcomer families, most experience linked to their church



Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, does not provide record on political advocacy although some interfacing with school board

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate offers a relatively superficial platform and provides a limited advocacy profile. Some concerns regarding their proposals of introducing business contracts into board governance. Meanwhile, Li's recent graduation as a student affords important lived experience of learning conditions. Much of Li's volunteer work tied to religious groups. Overall, Li demonstrates introductory level of knowledge regarding key issues and moderate positions not consistently progressive in nature.

Edison Li's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2/5



Dhaval Patel
EPSB Ward H

PATEL, Dhaval

Email: info@dhaval-patel.ca

Website: <https://www.dhaval-patel.ca/>

Questionnaire Responses:

Candidate did not respond.

Platform: "Inclusive education, parents' involvement, supporting teachers & students, enrollment planning, shorter commuters, academic programs."

Experience: Mechanical engineer, Master's Political Science,

parent

DONATE

PRESS ROOM



Advocacy Track Record: New candidate, does not provide record on education governance and policy or advocacy

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate offers a relatively superficial platform and provides a limited advocacy profile. Limited education policy proposals or descriptions of how they would translate platform into policy. At a public education forum, candidate expressed introductory level of knowledge about current issues and it remains unclear how candidate plans to enact concrete change within the Trustee role.

Dhaval Patel's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2/5

Ward I

CHOHAN, Gursharan Singh



Gursharan Singh Chohan
EPSB Ward I

Email: gursharan.s1699@gmail.com

Website: www.gursharanchohan.ca

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Platform: "Student success, community engagement, kids' mental health, safe and welcoming schools, inclusion builds stronger communities"



Experience: Master's in Business Management, Human Resources diploma, volunteered as social worker, worked closely with student organizations

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate; candidate has not listed detailed public education specific advocacy or activism track record

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate's platform has some positive offerings. Candidate seems to be engaging voters broadly. However, Chohan does not provide details on current or ongoing advocacy or political work. Candidate did not attend public education forum.

Gursharan Singh Chohan's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 3/5

MANI, Tamilvanan

Email: yegtmani@gmail.com

Website: unlisted

Questionnaire Responses: Candidate did not respond.

Platform: Could not locate directly.

Experience: Could not locate.

Advocacy Track Record: New candidate; unknown advocacy experience



Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate's responses at a public education forum highlighted their support of "parental rights." Candidate was not adequately knowledgeable about trustee role, budget process, or navigating key issues. Alarming, candidate also responded with inflammatory comments to a youth audience member.

Tamilvanan Mani's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 0/5



Sanjay Patel
EPSB Ward I

PATEL, Sanjay

Email: electsanjaypatel@gmail.com

Website: www.electsanjaypatel.com

Questionnaire Responses: Candidate did not respond.

Platform: Building bridges for parents and schools, proper budgeting and resource allocation, provincial standards, re-evaluate policies and standards

Experience: Former United Conservative Party MLA Candidate for Edmonton-Ellerslie

Advocacy Track Record: New trustee candidate, previous advocacy in conservative partisan politics

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Candidate's United Conservative Party affiliations are not conducive to advocating for progressive public education policies. Candidate did not

attend public education forum.

DONATE

PRESS ROOM



Sanjay Patel's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 1/5

ISSUES

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

SUBSCRIBE



Jan Sawyer
EPSB Ward I

SAWYER, Jan

Email: sawyerfortrustee@gmail.com

Website: sawyerfortrustee.com

Questionnaire Responses:

Part A

Part B

Platform: "More and updated schools, better funding, support for staff & student wellness, defend public education, celebrate diversity"

Experience: MEd Educational Leadership, Retired educator & principal, Incumbent EPSB trustee for Ward I

Advocacy Track Record: As trustee, Sawyer's voting record did not always align with progressive values. Sawyer represented the board at collective bargaining negotiations with CUPE 3550 (the union of education workers ultimately went on strike for 9 weeks). She voted in favour of Edmonton Police Service returning to a formal role in division schools (School Resource Officer program)

Effectiveness & accountability potential: Despite possibly different intentions, Sawyer's focus on closed-door advocacy



resulted in few instances of open advocacy that was readily accessible to the public. Sawyer also failed to honour racialized and marginalized students' lived experiences by voting in support of re-instating SRO program. In Budget 2024-25 meeting, Sawyer voted against a proposed motion to decrease funding for seclusion rooms. Advocates believe the approach of compliance with harmful government policies would further contribute to destabilization of public education. Moreover, continued deference of accountability to the unelected superintendent is concerning.

Jan Sawyer's

Public Education Advocacy Rating: 2.5/5

Support Our Students Alberta is a non-partisan public education advocacy organization with chapters across Alberta. We are run by passionate volunteers and community donations.

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Subscribe

Subscribe

Media and press comment requests:

yegsosalberta@gmail.com

SOS acknowledges that we advocate in Treaties 6, 7 & 8, traditional territory of the Cree, Blackfoot, Metis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene and Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe.

We are grateful to work on their
land and we pledge that this
organization will actively work to
mic racism and pursue
truth and reconciliation.

[DONATE](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)

[ISSUES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

© 2023 Support our Students
Alberta Foundation