

What has inspired me to run for trustee in the Oct. 20, 2025, municipal election?

I'm running because **I believe you.**

Parents: Things aren't like they used to be. You're not making it up.

Teachers: Our students ARE worth striking for. You're not exaggerating.

Students: You shouldn't grow up where equal opportunity requires a parent's credit card.

Years of provincial underfunding have pushed our schools past the breaking point. We're amputating programs to keep the system alive: libraries, interventions, subject-matter specialists, mental-health teams. Then we're told the phantom pain we feel is a sign of "progress" and "efficiency."

This is engineered scarcity.

The province cuts everything around teachers: specialists, supports, and resources, and then brags about 'protecting classrooms.' School divisions are forced to determine where to make the cuts, triaging curricula on top of everything else. Communities hurt. Families who can afford it often look for alternatives, such as private schools, charters, or homeschooling, further weakening public education.

The province blames boards because they have "autonomy." And trustees are bound by rules designed to value "red ink vs black ink" over classroom conditions. Speaking the truth has consequences. But so does staying silent.

The budget damage is provable. The human cost runs deeper. The cuts look manageable on paper. But we feel them in the classrooms, in the staff rooms, in our kids.

We're not just short-staffed.

We're short on joy.

We're short on expertise because we treat professionals like interchangeable parts on a timetable, rather than as individuals with specialized skills. We're losing the spark that initially drew educators and students to this work, and we're asking them to continue showing up without it.

I've watched emergency measures become permanent policy. I've been impacted by these choices too many times as a teacher and as a parent.

Watching isn't enough anymore.

I believe you.

What skills or experience do I have that I feel would make me a good fit for the role?

I've been advocating for public education in the 'wrong' rooms for years.

I've served on school councils and the constituency boards of MLAs. I've written to and spoken with Ministers and the Premier with detailed analyses of how provincial funding decisions violate the Education Act's promise of equal opportunity. I cited sections, ministerial orders, and funding formulas. I asked specific questions about accountability.

The response? "Talk to your school board."

MLAs redirected me to boards. Parent councils wanted to focus on fundraisers, not funding. Boards stayed diplomatic to avoid making waves. No one wanted to talk about provincial decisions that affect everyone.

Finally, I heard it from all sides: 'If you want to talk about this, run for trustee.'

So, I am.

I know how to read the budgets trustees face. I built an international business managing complex budgets across multiple countries. I know how to read financial statements and spot waste.

I serve on Camp Tamarack's board, where we achieve real inclusion through honest accounting and by removing barriers. Good outcomes don't require endless money. They require removing barriers as step one, honest priorities, and refusing to balance budgets on the backs of kids. We also protect quality through enrollment caps and staffing ratios based on need (basic safeguards schools have lost).

I also know what it's like inside the classrooms those budgets affect. I was elected as substitute teacher rep. I know what it's like to be marginalized inside the system. I spent over a decade teaching junior high, and each year I was the budget cut. I left for the same reasons teachers are striking now: chronic underfunding and being treated like replaceable labour instead of professionals.

I've been the parent who has become the squeakiest of wheels, trying to balance advocating for my kids while not asking too much of the people I know personally, who are barely holding on. I am that parent.

I've seen the shell game. I've read the budgets. I've stood in the classrooms.

I believe you.

And I'm ready to fight for what I hope is still a societal value: a world-class public education system.

What are the key or main election issues in our community, and what are the issues of priority for me?

First: Prioritize expertise. We have teachers delivering curriculum outside their training (generalists teaching music, art, French, and specialized content like higher-level math and sciences). This increases teacher burnout and decreases student outcomes.

We're down to one elementary music specialist in our division, which means most K-6 classrooms can't properly deliver the music curriculum the province legally requires. We need to staff specialized positions and protect expert teaching. Asking every teacher to teach any subject is deprofessionalization, and it's a symptom of inadequate staffing and funding.

Second: Transparent communication with our community. This isn't just good practice, it's a legal requirement. Section 33 of the Education Act requires boards to be accountable to students, parents, and the community for student achievement. Parents deserve honest data about class sizes, wait times for assessments and supports, and the gap between student needs and available resources. Without transparency about the challenges, we can't build support for solutions. Reports full of averages aren't good governance when they hide the human experience.

Third: Build community partnerships to support our schools. The province needs to fund education adequately; that's non-negotiable. But while we advocate for that funding, we can mobilize community support. Reading buddies to work with students. Lunchroom volunteers so teachers can actually take a break. I don't mean replacing professionals, I mean creating "some" capacity so educators can focus on teaching. Grande Prairie has people who want to help. Let's organize that energy.

These priorities aren't aspirational. They're responses to what you're already experiencing. I believe you when you say things have gotten worse. And I'm ready to fight for the resources and accountability our community deserves.