

2026 School District Trustee Candidate Questionnaire

Submitted by **JOYCE BRINKERHOFF**

Core Responsibilities

- **Set Strategic Direction:** Create multi-year strategic plans and policies that guide student learning and district priorities.
- **Manage Finances:** Approve annual operating budgets and capital plans to ensure public funds support student success.
- **Hire Leadership:** Appoint and evaluate the school district superintendent (or chief executive officer).
- **Represent the Community:** Listen to local families, taxpayers, and Indigenous communities, bringing their concerns to the board table.

Questions:

1. What are your 3 main reasons for running for School Trustee?
(i) I feel I have something to offer. I am an excellent team-player, and have the time and energy to invest.
(ii) I have experience as a trustee (served 2011-2014) and in governance on several other boards.
(iii) I am passionate about the value of education and with 12 grandchildren living locally - I have a vested interest!
2. Do you support the replacement of RMS? Many new schools have been built and others renovated to accommodate more students while Rutland Middle School, that is now over 70 years old, has only been renovated. What efforts would you make as a Trustee to have Rutland Middle School replaced rather than 'renovated'? If so how is this going to be achieved?

Yes, I do support the replacement of RMS - I pushed for it during my previous term! There has been a recent commitment by the government to a boost in Capital funding but despite it being on the trustee request list - there is no guarantee. It is a Ministry decision. It is to the credit of RMS admin, staff and parents that the school is still functioning well as they have adapted and adjusted and have made the best of the situation. Student learning has remained the focus. Kudos!

3. Are you in favour of better administration of the rules around EV bikes and scooters?
Certainly - student safety (both riders and non-riders) is a priority.
4. Are you aware of the traffic jams on Rutland road as a result of uncontrolled crossing at RMS? If so what are your plans to alleviate the jams? **Yes, it is an ongoing issue at most schools but RMS is particularly dangerous and 'inconvenient' due to its location on a major traffic route. Consultation with City transportation and perhaps even Highways is**

needed. To be honest, I am not sure what actual power of decision the board has in this area.

5. We understand that bullying has become a major issue within School District #23 (Central Okanagan) resulting in some parents removing their child(ren) from one school and placing them in another or even resorting to homeschooling. What would you do to help ensure that the 0 Tolerance Policy is enforced throughout the school district and that victims are heard and not punished for standing up for themselves?

I sit on a community-based United Against Discrimination committee and I see how serious of an issue this is - and not just in schools! Despite best efforts, laws/rules/policies against bullying will be broken. Change of heart through knowledge and understanding is what is needed. We may not like everything or everyone but "Everyone deserves respect and reciprocally -everyone deserves to be respected." Victims need to understand their personal value and their responsibility to not accept a situation nor retaliate but work through it to restoration. Bystanders need to be taught appropriate means to advocate for others. Reporting mechanisms need to provide less 'exposure' to those reporting yet more accountability. Discipline needs to be restorative - building relationships through looking for common ground rather than simply suspension or removal.

6. Too often we hear that students with exceptional needs are not being allowed on school field trips because the support is not there. What efforts would you make as a Trustee to ensure that all students are able to participate equally?

A difficulty to be sure - and perhaps policies on private volunteers (or from service clubs) to assist in such situations need to be examined. Equal treatment is not always possible (I never got to ride the bus to a school-sponsored tournament because I was not a sports-gifted student) but equal in value is non-negotiable.