

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.

I don't believe complex issues in education can be responsibly reduced to a simple yes or no. Parents are vital partners in education, and so are teachers and students. My focus would be on balancing these voices while ensuring decisions are grounded in evidence, fairness, and the best interests of students.

1. Who are trustees primarily accountable to?

Somewhat. Trustees are accountable to the public as a whole, which includes parents, students, and the wider community. Parents are vital partners, but trustees also uphold laws, policies, and the long-term interests of all students.

2. ATA support

Somewhat. I have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and community members. Input from the ATA or any other group will never replace my duty to act independently and in the best interests of students.

3. Funding priorities

Somewhat. Classrooms and teachers must be the top priority, but strong education also requires supports that address equity, inclusion, and student well-being. Administrative roles should always be evaluated for their direct impact on student outcomes.

4. Curriculum development

Somewhat. Curriculum should be built on subject-matter expertise and evidence-based practice, while also being responsive to classroom realities. The process must be transparent and free from narrow political influence.

5. Sexually explicit books

Somewhat. School libraries should be curated by professional educators and librarians to ensure materials are age-appropriate and relevant. Censorship based on ideology undermines learning, but care is needed to make sure materials fit the developmental stage of students.

6. Parental consent for sensitive topics

Somewhat. Parents should be informed about curriculum and sensitive topics, but students also have the right to access accurate, evidence-based information and safe spaces in schools. The balance must ensure both safety and transparency.

7. GSA secrecy policies

Somewhat. Students deserve privacy and safety, especially if home is not a safe environment. At the same time, open communication with parents should be encouraged when it can be done without risk to the student.

8. Open school board meetings

Somewhat. School board meetings should be open and transparent except when legal or privacy obligations require confidentiality. Public trust grows when people can see how decisions are made.

9. Trustee freedom to visit schools

Somewhat. Trustees should maintain open lines with schools, while respecting professional boundaries and the roles of school leaders. Engagement builds trust, but it must be balanced with governance responsibilities.

10. Parents' final say

Somewhat. Parents are essential partners, but decisions in schools must also respect student rights, educational standards, and the expertise of professionals. True partnership requires balance, not unilateral authority.

11. Clear, objective measures of student learning

Somewhat. Parents need clear and understandable measures of student progress. Standardized tests can be one tool, but they must be balanced with classroom-based assessments that reflect real learning.

12. Parental consent for outside facilitators

Somewhat. Transparency matters, and parents should be informed about outside facilitators. Consent processes should be clear and consistent, but should not block students' access to valuable educational experiences.

Thank you again,

Michelle