

## Parents For Choice in Education – Candidate Responses

**Candidate:** Lory Iovinelli

**School Board:** Calgary Catholic Separate School District No. 1

**Wards:** 6 & 8

**Website:** [trusteeloryiovinelli.com](http://trusteeloryiovinelli.com)

**Social Media:** Facebook: Lory Iovinelli | Instagram: trustee\_lory\_iovinelli | X: @LoryIovinelli

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### **1. Who are trustees primarily accountable to?**

Trustees are accountable to the wider public, ensuring that all students and families are represented.

### **2. Have you received support from the ATA?**

No. My loyalty is first and foremost to the students and parents I serve.

### **3. Should funding prioritize classrooms and teachers over administrative programs?**

Absolutely. Our focus must be on classrooms and teachers. Every child deserves a supportive learning environment, and inclusion is a Catholic value. This means providing educational assistants, specialized teachers, professional development, and adaptive programming. Programs promoting respect, kindness, and belonging should reflect our Catholic faith.

### **4. Should curriculum be guided by experts rather than politics or bureaucracy?**

Yes. Academic excellence comes from expertise. Calgary Catholic students consistently exceed provincial standards, even with 40% of students having diverse learning needs. Educators should be trusted to teach, and school boards to govern.

### **5. Should sexually explicit books be excluded from schools?**

Yes. Teachers and school librarians are trained professionals who exercise sound judgment in choosing age-appropriate and educationally valuable materials. In Catholic schools, selections are also guided by faith values and a commitment to fostering critical thinking, compassion, and respect for all.

School divisions must comply with Ministerial Orders, which aim to protect young students from exposure to explicit sexual content while ensuring educational resources remain available for topics like puberty, menstruation, or breastfeeding.

The Calgary Catholic School District has dedicated Learning Commons Librarians, consultants, and teachers who consistently exercise excellent judgment in selecting materials aligned with our Catholic faith. Parents are encouraged to review learning materials during opportunities such as parent-teacher conferences, maintaining transparency while respecting educators' professional expertise.

**6. Should parents be notified before sensitive topics are taught?**

Yes. Parents are the primary educators. Family Life units in religion class align with Catholic teaching, and parents can choose to opt their child out of topics they do not wish them to participate in.

**7. Should secrecy policies around GSAs remain?**

No. All students, including 2SLGBTQ+ and trans students, deserve dignity, safety, and support. Parents are important partners, but each situation requires sensitivity and discretion. Students are children first — deserving care, not politics.

**8. Should school board meetings be open to the public?**

Yes. Only matters requiring confidentiality, such as legal, labour, land, or student issues, should be held in-camera. Transparency builds trust and accountability.

**9. Should trustees be free to visit schools and share their views publicly?**

Yes. Engaging with schools and families helps build understanding and trust.

**10. Should parents have the final say in decisions affecting their child?**

Yes. Parents are the primary educators and must have the ultimate voice in matters affecting their child's education, health, and well-being.

**11. Should schools provide clear measures of student learning?**

Yes. Assessment should reflect each child's learning style while ensuring knowledge outcomes are met. Standardized exams provide important benchmarks, but diverse assessment approaches help all students succeed.

**12. Should parental consent be required before outside facilitators access students?**

Yes. All facilitators are vetted and approved by the District. Educators know best which programs enhance student learning safely and effectively.