



The following are the responses to the Parents for Choice Questionnaire provided by Matthew Powell submitted at 5/19/2023 10:00:57.

**The candidate's responses, including name, email address and comments, are presented below precisely as the candidate entered them on the questionnaire form. If you have questions about these responses, please mail them to Matthew Powell at Mpowell0419@gmail.com*

Parental Choice is upheld by four important pillars: Selection, Curriculum, Funding, and Parental Authority. We have asked questions pertaining to each pillar:

SELECTION

1a. Do you support the independence of school boards?

Answer: "Somewhat"

1b. Are you opposed to the formation of new Charter or Private schools?

Answer: "No"

1c. Do you support the right of denominational schools - including private Christian schools as well as Catholic schools - to insist on lesson plans and rules for student clubs that are in harmony with their stated religious beliefs?

Answer: "Yes"

1d. Do you agree parents should be permitted to choose the location, type and style of education (i.e. home-based, language, interest, faith-based, etc.) that best suits their child, free of bureaucratic, union or government coercion?

Answer: "Yes"

CURRICULUM

2a. Would you agree that the development of the curriculum should be driven by the Alberta Teachers' Association?

Answer: "Somewhat"

2b. Do you believe that the curriculum should leave room for local boards and schools to discuss local issues and concerns?

Answer: "Yes"

2c. Do you think that curriculum should focus on developing student skills over delivering information?

Answer: "Somewhat"

2d. Do you agree that curriculum development must be transparent and focused on clearly defined and foundational basic skill and knowledge outcomes in core subject areas?

Answer: "Yes"

FUNDING

3a. Do you believe that funding should quickly adjust to the needs of growing schools?

Answer: "Yes"

3b. Have you committed to removing or reducing annual funding to Private or Charter Schools?

Answer: "No"

3c. Do you believe that all students should receive the same financial support, regardless of whether they decide to attend a public, private, or Charter school?

Answer: "Yes"

PARENTAL AUTHORITY

4a. Do you agree that all education laws, school board policies and best practices in Alberta should comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Family Law Act when it comes to the right of parents to direct, and be fully informed about, all aspects of their children's education?

Answer: "Yes"

4b. Do you agree that the right of parents to decide the form of their children's education is superior to that of the State?

Answer: "Yes"

4c. Do you believe that should teachers act as agents of the parents, or as agents of the state ([Read this link](#) for a discussion)

Answer: "Teachers should act as agents of the parents."

4d. Would you be willing to ask school boards to remove any policies that force teachers to keep secrets about children from parents?

Answer: "Yes"

4e. Do you agree that a parent's legislated right to be informed of and allowed to opt out of material primarily and explicitly of a sexual or religious nature should be construed by the Board to extend to the use of sexual or religious instructional resources and online portals used across subject areas, such as the Prism toolkit?

Answer: "Yes"

4f. Would you support limiting the right of the Alberta Teachers' Association to pay for advertising regarding education policy?

Answer: "Yes"

Matthew Powell's added comments:

I answered "somewhat" to a couple of questions here because I believe the answer lies in the middle. For instance every child deserves an educational experience that is differentiated based on the students needs and learning style. A balance of both skills and information would be a prudent approach to ensure well rounded access to education. As for curriculum development I feel that any politicization of curriculum needs to stop! The curriculum should be based on what the students need to prepare them for adulthood, not what a political party or union deem desirable for their ends. A non partisan committee of learned professionals with a variety to expertise should be involved and each iteration of the draft should be published for feedback.