

TRUSTEE ALL CANDIDATES FORUMS – QUESTIONS FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidate Name: **Chris Gorman** (www.votegorman.ca)

Riding for which you are seeking election as a Trustee: (Please check one)

Kelowna West Kelowna Peachland/RDCO West

Please provide us with a brief biography, including any previous experience in the public education system and why you wish to be elected as a Trustee within the space provided below.

I have extensive work and volunteer experience in education management, business, politics, and not-for-profit organizations. I hold a UBC MBA degree, am a Director at the UBC Faculty of Management, and in my tenth year serving on UBC's academic governing body. I will advocate for our children who have the right to quality public education, am committed to getting things done, and can provide leadership, energy, and a fresh perspective. With two children soon to enter elementary school, I want to ensure that public education is relevant in the 21st century and prepares them to contribute to society. For more info: www.votegorman.ca.

QUESTIONS: Please respond to the following questions within the space provided below.

1. What would you do to improve literacy in our schools?

Our children need to be more engaged in reading. If learned early, students will be more likely to succeed throughout K-12 and beyond. To do this, I would encourage parents to read to their children and use technology, such as Accelerated Reader (renlearn.com/ar) and Storybird (storybird.com), to engage them.

2. Would you, as a Trustee, support and be willing to work with the City of Kelowna to see 'Safe Routes to School' implemented at all schools in School District #23 similar to that which is proposed/happening at Glenmore Elementary?

Yes. I learned about this important initiative at the last COPAC meeting. As a parent, I want to know that my daughters will be getting to and from school safely. Working constructively with the City of Kelowna is critical to eliminating barriers to walking, crossing busy streets, riding bikes, or using other modes of transportation.

3. We see that our district will receive funding for a few of our urgent projects such as a new school in West Kelowna and an expansion of OKM. We have many more areas such as upgrades to Rutland Senior School, additional elementary/intermediate/middle spaces in the Mission that critically need funding. Would you support School District 23 selling some of the rich accumulation of property that they own to fund some of these urgent projects?

Each case must be carefully evaluated on its own merits. As long as there are no long-term needs for the property and selling it is financially advantageous to the District, it could be sold to fund urgent projects. However, it would remain important to continually remind the government of its responsibilities in this regard.

4. In relation to parental involvement in schools and at the district level – What do you see as the biggest challenge for Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC) and how would you work with each group to help address this challenge?

Getting more parents involved in PACs and COPAC is the biggest challenge. A recruitment drive and open school events throughout the year may be key to increasing parental involvement in schools. I would encourage the use of school communications and principals' appeal to parents to support their schools.

5. The School Act currently contains very little in terms of Trustee accountability – Would you like to see this changed and if so, what changes would you make?

The accountability obligations are implicit in the Act. Trustees are accountable to the community that elects them. Trustees make decisions ensuring children have a rewarding experience and that monies are spent responsibly. It is up to the public to ensure the right people are elected every three years.