

RE-ELECT

CHRIS GORMAN
FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE



VOTE
NOVEMBER 15, 2014

**Responses to the Kelowna Capital News
Questionnaire to School Trustee Candidates**

1. Why do you feel school boards are still relevant today given how much control the provincial government maintains over education spending?

School boards hold a unique role in the governance of our education system and have very real responsibilities.

School Trustees are accountable to parents, taxpayers, the community, and the province to ensure good local governance and responsible stewardship of our resources.

School boards have defined financial and regulatory responsibilities to ensure community interests and values are integrated into school operations, such as the capacity to create specialty academies and approve Board authorized courses. Decisions made by School Boards support our educators to deliver quality public education and to improve student achievement.

2. What personal characteristics or background do you possess that make you an ideal candidate for school trustee?

I am a product of public education. It broadened my horizons by introducing me to new ideas and diverse communities. As a Chinese-Canadian, I have insights into the challenges faced by students who are trying to fit in and understand what it is like to be bullied and to overcome those situations with the support of caring teachers.

As a parent, I am committed to ensuring that my children attend public school, where they will receive rich educational experiences.

Since 2011, I have served Kelowna as a School Trustee and understand the fiduciary, legal and political responsibilities associated with the role.

3. Do you now have or have you had children enrolled in the public school system? If so, what has that experience as a parent taught you about what the school board's priorities should be?

I have one young child enrolled in our public education system, and another ready to enter next September. As a parent, I am deeply invested in their future and bring that perspective to the Board table. I am not only committed to ensuring that my children receive the best public education possible, but I am also deeply committed to ensuring that public education prepares all of our students for the 21st century and inspires them to be responsible and caring citizens.

"Committed to quality public education - today and tomorrow."

4. Enrolment overall in private schools has shown an increase in recent years both locally and provincially. What do you think the school board should or can do to restore what perhaps is a reflection of lost confidence in the public school system?

A parent's choice to enrol their children in private school is not a reflection of a loss of confidence in the public education system. It has been my experience that parents consider many factors when deciding to enrol their children in private school. These are personal choices that parents are entitled to make in the best interest of their children.

Having said that, a strong society and democracy rests on a strong public education system that is open to all students and I am proud that this is what we are doing here in the Central Okanagan.

5. Why do you want to be a school trustee?

I am deeply committed to public service – to making a difference in my community – and I can't think of another way to do that with greater impact than strengthening our school system. I believe in public education - I am a proud product of the BC public system - and I believe that every child should be given the opportunity to follow their personal path. I am proud to be associated with this Board of Education and would be honoured to continue in that role for four more years.