

School District 23 Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire is prepared on behalf of 2SLGBTQ+ voters and parents of 2SLGBTQ+ students in SD 23. The questions are based on community input regarding issues that are important to them regarding the October 2022 election. All candidates for School District 23 are invited to complete the questionnaire. Results will be published on Advocacy Canada's website as well as on social media. In the spirit of transparency, results will include a mention of any candidates who do not complete the questionnaire.

The deadline for completion is September 30, 2022. Thank you in advance for your response.

Email *

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Your First and Last Name *

Wayne Broughton

What do you believe are the most critical issues for local 2SLGBTQ+ students and their parents? If elected, what work would you do as a trustee to address these issues? *

In broad terms, the lack of acceptance of 2SLGBTQ+ students by a vocal segment of society or (too often) even their own families is the root of the biggest issues they face. They can sometimes be made to feel like they don't belong, resulting in mental health and psychological problems.

One of the most frequent concerns we hear from parents is about their children at school not being able to use the washroom that matches their gender or having to ask for a key to use a single-user washroom. This is an example of what makes 2SLGBTQ+ students feel marginalized and forced to "out" themselves, and it can feel so unsafe (or logistically infeasible) to use the washroom that they suffer medical distress by not doing so all day. As a shorter term solution I would push for policy to make sure that all students have access to an unlocked single-user washroom, and as a longer term solution I would advocate for funding from the Ministry to build new gender-neutral washrooms in schools. I did speak up at the BC School Trustees Association AGM this year to help persuade them to advocate for such funding too.

Another concern I hear about from parents are instances of their transgender children being misgendered or "deadnamed" by the school. Although this is not very common in our inclusive schools, it is concerning that something this traumatic (and potentially dangerous) is still happening at all. I would continue to ensure appropriate training was provided to school staff and administration, and that if needed new policies were made to protect students across the district.

Finally, bullying by other children (especially at the middle school level) is an ongoing problem. I will address this in my response below.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQ+ cultural competency or equivalent training? *

I have actually helped lead such training in talks and presentations, as a result of my experience working with parents of transgender youth, participating and volunteering with numerous Pride events, and being the parent of trans kids myself.

I have also been a member of UBC Okanagan's Positive Space committee since 2018 helping to make the campus a more welcoming place to 2SLGBTQ+ students and staff, and have been a member of my department's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee since 2020.

Homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in Kelowna schools, resulting in significant harm to marginalized 2SLGBTQ+ students. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in SD 23? *

Bullying in schools due to homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia is still a significant problem, with complex social causes that require a multi-faceted approach.

- Trustees should ensure school staff and administration have up-to-date training to be able to intervene appropriately when such incidents occur, and to promote a school culture day-to-day that is safe and is accepting of everyone.
 - Education should incorporate representation of the diversity of our students and community, including for example same-sex parents and gender-diverse individuals, to foster understanding of each other.
 - Schools reflect their communities: negative attitudes toward 2SLGBTQ+ students generally originate outside the schools. As a trustee I would continue to speak out against homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia, and as voters we all need to elect trustees who support 2SLGBTQ+ students and provide a Board of Education that inspires inclusivity and diversity across the district.
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Do you support the BC Education Minister's [recent statement](#) on SOGI? If not, why? *

Yes, fully. I am happy to see this strong statement from the Ministry and provincial associations representing school trustees, superintendents, principals, teachers, support staff, parent advisory councils and First Nations.

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Do you agree with the statement that "trans rights are human rights, and must be protected as such?" *



Yes



No

If elected, how will you ensure that school dress codes are equitable for all gender identities? *

School dress codes are set by the individual schools and in my opinion should not be gender-based at all. I believe most schools are updating dress codes to be inclusive of everyone, but if there are problems with dress codes at some schools then I would introduce policy to ensure reasonably consistent and equitable standards across the district.

Do you support gender-diverse media in school libraries? If not, why? *

Yes, this is essential, and also in classrooms and curriculum. 2SLGBTQ+ students should be able to see themselves represented in their educational materials to reduce their marginalization, and all students benefit from learning more about the diversity of their schools and community. This extends to all under-represented groups of people as well.

Do you support all schools having gender neutral washrooms? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

If elected, how would you support non-binary and trans students' participation on school sports teams and physical education classes? *

Although I have not heard of this being as large a problem in our district, I will continue to advocate for inclusion of trans students at every level. I believe that many or most schools are already becoming much more inclusive of all genders in their sports and physical education classes, but where there are problems with discrimination I would encourage senior staff to work with school administration to find ways to include all students in sports and classes.

This form was created inside advocacy-canada.lgbt.

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