

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: Barb Chrysler

Email Address: trustee@barbchrysler.com



Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

Prefer not to answer

What role are you running for?

Public School Board Trustee

What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community? If elected, how would you work with the local community to address these issues?

I believe it is the role of trustees to listen to the parents, students, teachers, and members of the community and to the issues they bring forward. Additionally, the role of the Trustees is to understand legislation such as the Education Act and to work with school boards to implement this act and bring forward community concerns to the Ministry of Education. Currently, I am a candidate and the issues that parents have contacted me about are violence and bullying in the schools, and to ensure that library resources are representative but that are compliant with legislation

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training?

No

Systemic homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in our community, resulting in significant socioeconomic disparities within 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia?

Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that all students are treated equally. The main role of the trustee is to listen to the issues brought forward to the Board, ask question, and seek understanding and solutions to the issues presented. The Education Act requires an Equity and Diversity Plan. The School has more information on the website <https://www.wrdsb.ca/about-the-wrdsb/indigenous-equity-and-human-rights-department/equity-and-inclusion/>

If elected, how would you address the ongoing issues of homelessness and mental health, especially as they disproportionately affect members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

I have worked in mental health, addiction and homelessness for many years and am aware of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community being disproportionately affected. I have a long-standing interest in these issues specifically studying the over representation of Indigenous people. Previously I worked with youth who were homeless, and I was actively supportive of assisting them to maintain their schooling while working to secure housing. I find that students can often be proactively identified when their academic performance is impacted. When teaching I asked students who were struggling academically if anything was impacting on their performance and if they needed any support. I would then make referrals and follow-up. There needs to be appropriate supports to assist individuals with mental health and homelessness. My experience has shown me that these supports are insufficient to meet the need. It is important to review the current resources and evaluate if they could be used more effectively and to advocate for additional resources.

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

Trans rights are protected under human rights legislation.

What is one motion would you bring to council that you think will improve the lives of specifically queer people, racialized individuals and/or marginalized residents and why?

It is my role to listen to the community, parents, teachers, and students, ask the questions required to understand the issues, search for solutions, and to represent the concerns of the community at the Board level and through the Board to the Ministry if appropriate. At this point I am a candidate and would seek to understand issues first.

When thinking about our schools, do you agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels? How would you support 2SLGBTQIA+ students in schools?

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, school boards, and trustees to respect and value diversity. Books and lessons should have age-appropriate material would material, which complies with legislative acts, policy, and criminal code. The Education Act - outlines certain standards that should be followed and has curriculum guidelines for specific ages.