

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

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

No

What role are you running for?

Public School Trustee, WRDSB

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?

WRDSB schools and other locations (including buses) need to be safe for all students and staff. I believe safety is the most critical issue for the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community. It is the responsibility of trustees to ensure there are policies in place that ensure all members of the WRDSB community are safe from harassment and discrimination. The Policy Working Group (a board-approved committee) has documented the process for policy development of which input from the local community is a critical component. Supporting the work of groups like Spectrum will broaden my knowledge of the issues facing the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

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

I have not have the opportunity to participate in this training. If I am re-elected, I intend to continue my personal professional development by attending this training. As well, I will bring forward a motion to require all trustees to attend said training.

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?

I am very early in my learning about how to identify homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. As a trustee, I will fight these systemic phobias using the WRDSB Human Rights Policy as my guide. As well, I seek out advice from staff and members of the EIAG committee.

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

As a trustee, it is important that policies are implemented such that barriers caused by homelessness and mental health issues are removed so all students can attend school with the knowledge that they are safe. When barriers are revealed, I will bring forward motions to revise policies that create those barriers and work with the Director of Education, the senior team and staff to ensure implementation of the revised policies are carried out.

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

I do agree with this statement.

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?

As it applies to my role as trustee, I will continue to work to align policies with the WRDSB Human Rights Policy.

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?

I agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical for students at all grade levels to understand the impact that they have on others who are marginalized. I support GSA clubs in the WRDSB. I was honoured to attend the raising of the PRIDE flag at Country Hills PS this past June.