



## **FMPSD Trustee Q&A**

### **1. What can be done to help 2SLGBTQ+ students and families feel welcome in FMPSD schools?**

#### **Tiffany Bennett**

Every student deserves to feel safe, seen, and supported at school, including our 2SLGBTQ+ students and their families. To make our schools truly welcoming, we need more than policies, we need action. That means ensuring schools uphold existing protections, supporting GSAs and QSAs, and creating spaces where students can be themselves without fear. It also means ongoing staff training, open communication with families, and clear procedures that respect student dignity and identity while staying consistent with legislation and school policies.

As Trustees, we have a responsibility to lead with compassion, promote inclusive practices, and ensure that all students know they belong in every part of school life. When kids feel safe and valued, they thrive, and that should always be our goal.

### **2. The new Provincial legislation requires school authorities to notify parents when a student requests that teachers, principals and other school staff refer to them by a new preferred name or pronouns related to gender identity, and requires that parental consent be provided for any student under 16 before their gender identity-related preferred name or pronouns are used by any school staff. This may put many 2SLGBTQ+ students who are not safe or ready to be outed to their families at risk, and cause significant distress for gender diverse students if their preferred name or pronouns are not able to be used. How will you ensure 2SLGBTQ+ students are safe and respected at school?**

#### **Tiffany Bennett**

Student safety and well-being must always come first. The new legislation sets requirements for parental notification, but it also recognizes that schools must ensure supports are in place before those conversations happen.

As a Trustee, I will work to make sure our policies and practices are clear, compassionate, and consistent with legislation while prioritizing student safety and dignity. Students should know they will be respected in our schools, and staff should have the tools and training to respond appropriately.



- 3. The new Provincial legislation requires school authorities to ensure students are provided with counselling or other assistance prior to parental notification of a student request to use a new preferred name or pronouns related to gender identity, if the notification is reasonably expected to result in psychological or emotional harm to the student, or at the student's request. In light of this requirement, how will you ensure that appropriate mental health counselling and additional resources are in place to support school staff, students, and parents?**

**Tiffany Bennett**

The legislation requires schools to provide counselling and supports before parental notification where harm may be possible, and that is something I strongly support. Students need access to mental health services and caring adults they can trust, and staff need clear training to navigate these sensitive situations.

As a Trustee, I will advocate for strengthened school-based mental health resources, and for partnerships with community organizations that can provide additional support. Families also deserve access to resources that help them have these important conversations in a safe and understanding way. This approach meets the requirements of the legislation while ensuring no student feels alone.

- 4. Given the public health concerns that result from a lack of comprehensive sexual health education, how will you ensure students remain healthy and informed on consent and their bodies?**

**Tiffany Bennett**

Accurate, age-appropriate sexual health education is essential for student safety and well-being. Students need clear information about their bodies, consent, and healthy relationships so they can make informed choices.

As a Trustee, I will support evidence-based and medically accurate education that equips students with the knowledge they need, while staying consistent with curriculum requirements and legislation. Silence or misinformation only creates risks for students, and our priority must always be to protect their long-term health and success.

*"Students need to understand consent, boundaries, and their bodies in a safe, age-appropriate way. I'll work to ensure our schools provide accurate, respectful education that protects health, involves parents, and empowers young people to make safe choices."*



- 5. Ministerial Order #30/2025 outlines new standards for school library materials and requires school boards to implement policies to support these standards. How will you ensure students will have continued access to diverse representation of identities in school library materials? How will you ensure that the board policies for selecting, managing, and reviewing library materials under these new standards remains fair, equitable, and transparent in their implementation?**

**Tiffany Bennett**

Libraries are the heart of our schools, and students deserve access to resources that help them learn and see themselves reflected in stories. Under Ministerial Order #30/2025, boards must implement new standards for library materials.

As a Trustee, I will work to ensure our policies for selecting and reviewing materials are transparent, equitable, and consistent with legislation. That means making sure families can trust the process, while also protecting diverse and inclusive representation in our libraries. Fair and balanced policies strengthen trust, while ensuring all students can learn in an environment that values dignity and belonging.