



## 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM

# SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE RESPONSES

## ROBERTA SKOKO

**Question:** *Why do you want to become a school board trustee?*

**Answer:** I have two beautiful toddlers and so I have a natural interest in the vitality and revival of Catholic education. My hope is that when students graduate from this board, they will know and understand the beauty and divinity of Jesus' Church, rooted in Christ as they move forward in their lives. Second, I feel strongly about increasing focus on academics and critical thinking. Third, I will create transparency via a digital forum; trustees will hear directly from parents/guardians and students.



**Question:** *What is the single greatest impact you plan to make for students?*

**Answer:** I will spearhead the revival of Catholic Education. The famous St. John Paul II quotation, "There is no freedom without truth" reminds us that Christ is the path to living as our most authentic selves. It is my duty as a Catholic disciple, parent, teacher, and—if elected—trustee, to assist educators in teaching the faith so that our young people know their options. This is the only real distinguishing quality of Catholic Education versus the Public Board.



**Question:** *What are your thoughts on community use of schools? Should this be a priority?*

**Answer:** When I worked as a youth coordinator, I utilized Community Use often. It assisted in strengthening the home/school/parish triad; students were proud of their school facilities as we used them for parish events. Should this be a priority? I'm not sure; I'll have to speak with the people who know better and have more of an opinion. I have experienced the direct benefit of community use of schools, so this topic will be addressed if I am elected Trustee.



**Question:** *How can school boards support equity, diversity, inclusion, and human rights initiatives like Indigenous Reconciliation and 2SLGBTQ+ rights and safety?*

**Answer:** Through proper teaching of the faith, students will be inspired to become the best version of themselves. Our best does not involve belittling anyone—ever—based on race, gender, religion, etc., so my dedication to Catholic education will make the world of a difference for our schools. In recent years we have seen division, and I promise to focus on what unites us: the deep desire in every human heart to be loved.



**Question:** *What is the biggest challenge schools in Grimsby face, and how do you propose to address it?*

**Answer:** It appears the challenge is similar everywhere: many teachers seem drained; students are behind and bogged down from reaching their full potential by a combination of societal influences and the effects of the past two years; some parents feel uncertain with what they can do to help. I keep coming back to the faith for a reason: Jesus restores and inspires. If St. John Paul II can bring Poland out of Communism through preaching the Gospel, then God—if worshipped—will guide us, as well.

