



# North Vancouver Teachers' Association

Local 44 British Columbia Teachers' Federation

L'association des enseignantes et enseignants de Vancouver Nord

## School Trustee Candidates' Questionnaire 2014

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Response deadline: October 24, 2014.*

Please respond to the following questions by email to [martin@nvta.ca](mailto:martin@nvta.ca) or by fax to (604) 980-8092, or by mail to:

North Vancouver Teachers' Association  
#100-133 West 17th Street  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
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### Candidate's Information

### District

- Name: Shane Nelson
- Occupation: Senior Analyst
- Education: Bachelors of IT leadership.
- Related Public Service

#### 1. **Why are you running for North Vancouver Board of Education trustee?**

I have three major themes as my purpose - government accountability and transparency through live streaming of public board meetings, increasing student engagement, and retaining school lands for current public assembly use and future schools. I'm driven to run for trustee as I'm very excited about the possibilities in education.

I'm most alive while learning about and discussing education best practices. I'm incredibly excited about community engagement, local government decision making and implementing new solutions to the old problem of how best to educate our children.

#### 2. **What do you believe to be the most important principles of public education?**

Publicly funded, equal access, giving all people an equal chance to succeed no matter their background.

#### 3. **What is your view of the Griffin Ruling?**

It bothers me greatly that the provincial government changed the rules after signing a contract. Collective bargain to improve working conditions is a basic right and this right should be given back to teachers.

#### 4. **What did you learn about public education during the teacher job action this year?**

I was surprised to learn teachers have had collective bargaining rights since only 1987 and the BCTF entered the scene in 1994.

5. **What can be done to enhance and improve our public education system?**

I'd like to work with teachers and parent to find ways to implement ideas from the BC Education Plan to help improve engagement of both teachers and students in the classroom. Engaged and inspired people learn and teach better, we need to put effort and funding into this process.

6. **What do you believe is the role of a trustee in advocating for increased education spending by the provincial government? If you are currently a trustee, what role have you played in advocating for increased education spending by the provincial government?**

Schools are underfunded for both capital expenses and operating expenses. We need to be clear with the public and the Ministry of Education about which programs are being cut or not offered due to lack of funds.

7. **The current level of funding in BC is \$1000 less than the national average. What are your thoughts about this?**

It doesn't seem like our schools are adequately funded.

8. **What are your thoughts about the role of the private sector in funding public education?**

The provincial government is responsible for funding our education system. If the system was running well we wouldn't need private sector funding. Donations intended to influence the education system should not be accepted.

9. **What processes could trustees establish to ensure all education partner groups have input into board decisions?**

This is my favorite question. Real consultation and real accountability is what we're after here. I'm strongly in favor of decisions being made as close to those affected as is possible. As many decisions and policies as possible should be pushed down to the school principals, teachers, students and parents. When the board must make decisions public input opportunities should be provided throughout the decision making process. The current system of a short comment period before and after a meeting is inadequate.

The technology currently exists so all partner groups can have easy, real time and unobtrusive input into every board decision. My first step would be to setup good quality live streaming of all public board meetings and have archives kept available online for future reference. Partner groups and the general public should have access to the stream from wherever they are. Partner groups should additionally have access to a system which allows them to send text-based messages to the trustees of their choice, during the meeting, in real time. Trustees would then easily be able to ask questions and make decisions based on the real time input of the partner groups.

These changes will result in better accountability for all board decisions and the public will see decisions which better match with their hopes and dreams for public education.

10. **Any other information you would like to add?**