

**Oxford County Trustee Candidates: Municipal Election – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 Survey Results (\*denotes incumbent)**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>School Closure Issue</b>	<b>One Public System</b>	<b>Violence in Schools</b>
<p align="center"><b>Bill McKinnon *</b></p>	<p>“If the school moratorium is lifted by the province, the first issue is there are no job losses as a result. Then we must look at programming for our students to make sure everyone can receive the same level of education across the valley. We must also at transportation times for our students and staff. All communities, unions, and levels of government must be heard so that there is no fear of hidden agendas. Having a school system because of religion is not right.”</p>	<p>“I am in favour that there should be only one publicly-funded system. With declining enrolment it only makes sense. I would also advocate that there would be no job losses for our staff if we moved to such a system. We need a long term solution for our broken down funding formula, merging would start the process.”</p>	<p>“I feel school violence can be prevented. The Board should be using data to show how school violence is being created, either on a relationship level, or individual level. The follow-up process should include peers, teachers and families. These can all be critical in promoting our students well-being and preventing more school violence.”</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Mental Health</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Education Privatization</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Bill McKinnon *</b></p>	<p>“Schools are a great place for children and youth to learn about mental well-being. Our teachers notice signs of mental health challenges far before parents. In my current role, we have been successful in funding many new projects for mental health. I would continue my support in funding these projects and continue to speak with other forms of government to ask for help for students and staff.”</p>	<p>“I believe that public education must remain in the hands of the government and that private education must remain independent. Privatization of education only erodes the equity and quality. A for-profit education system could for teaching purposes open up evaluating teachers on EQAO results and include merit pay. Principals would be business managers instead of instructional leaders.”</p>	<p>“For the past eight years I have had the pleasure to work with our Student, Parents, Staff and community partners. This position is not for the money – it is seeing the faces of students on their first day of school, or walking across the stage receiving their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. I cannot see doing anything else for my community.”</p>

	<b>School Closure Issue</b>	<b>One Public System</b>	<b>Violence in Schools</b>
<b>Daniel West</b>	“School closures should be the last option explored. Boundary reviews, community partnerships, and programming changes should be considered before removing a school from a community.”	“I believe it is time that move to a one school board solution. Right now we are splitting students, communities and resources, leaving us unable to properly serve our students.”	“I do not know how the current process works. I do believe that whatever process is used should collect usable data that allows us to track and work towards reducing violent incidents.”
	<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Education Privatization</b>	<b>Why do want to become a TVDSB Trustee?</b>
<b>Daniel West</b>	“Mental health is an important issue in Oxford County, particularly over the last couple years. I would advocate for funding from the province to provide the properly trained support staff as well as working with local groups and agencies to provide additional supports.”	“Privatization has a place outside of the primary purpose of educating. It makes sense for things like landscaping and specialized repairs. Within the core mandate of educating and the daily operation of facilities, those functions should remain publicly controlled.”	“I have attended Board meetings for six years now. In that time, I’ve seen many instances where a stronger voice to advocate for the needs of students and communities would be of value. I believe my experience and involvement with the board prepares me to be that voice.”
<b>Graham Hart (no response)</b>			

Candidate	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Barb Yeoman</b></p>	<p>“I believe school closures are one of the most difficult challenges facing school boards and the committees they serve. In my opinion, there are two main points to be considered and those considerations would be priorities in all decisions I would make as a TVDSB trustee:  <b>SAFETY:</b> a major concern for students, teachers and other staff members. We must consider if the physical characteristics of the school are sub-optimal for safety, and other considerations such as potential asbestos removal, heating/cooling etc. These of course will have a significant impact on budgets as we bring the school up to the acceptable, optimum standards.  <b>QUALITY OF EDUCATION:</b> I believe it is important to work with municipalities to take population numbers, both present and projected into consideration, as these trends will affect funding to the school, potential staffing and resources to help our educators deliver the quality of programs they strive for. A balance between effective management of resources and the impact on school staff and programs must be always taken into account.”</p>	<p>“We are privileged in Canada to have an increasingly diverse culture. I believe respecting all religions is important from an ethical and educational standpoint as we can all benefit from respecting and learning from one another. From a fiscal standpoint, I also believe the public educational funding should be equal for all and be focused on providing quality of education to prepare our students for their future academic and employment skills. Therefore, I would support a task force to examine the feasibility of merging Catholic and Public boards to create a secular, non-partisan public system of equal opportunity and funding.”</p>	<p>“This is a sensitive and timely issue, and one of increasing importance. Due to my healthcare background, I understand the need for confidentiality. Unfortunately in this case, this need can sometimes be in conflict with the reality of public information from a safety perspective. I believe transparent reporting should be available, but without the public’s access to information that would identify any involved parties. The other aspect of violent incidents as to do with the impact they present for mental and emotional health. This affects not just students, but all those involved with their care and guidance. In my opinion, part of the follow up for these incidents should also include access to adequate counseling and support for all involved.”</p>

Candidate	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a Trustee?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Barb Yeoman</b></p>	<p>“As I commented to the Sentinel Review in an article on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I firmly believe mental health is every bit as important as physical health. We have a crisis situation in Oxford County and I am encouraged by the awareness that has been brought to this very serious issue. We all know that our society has changed dramatically in the last 10-15 years and this has partially been responsible for some of the mental health issues we see today. As research also shows the link between unrecognized/unresolved mental health challenges resulting in increased and negative physical health diagnoses, we owe it to our communities to keep the importance of open, encouraging dialogues and constructive mental health programs in the forefront, to support our students and also the teachers and support staff who interact with them in their daily activities.”</p>	<p>“This is an interesting discussion point. Having worked in both the Public and Private healthcare sectors, I can see both opportunities and potential challenges with this concept. On the whole, I believe this approach can continue to benefit our education system, but the need for ethical, complaint boundaries is essential with effective documentation and accountability.”</p>	<p>“My husband and I own a 4<sup>th</sup> generation agricultural business and farms north of Woodstock. We raised 3 children through our rural and urban public school system and they were well prepared to go onto higher learning and are successful in their careers. One is farming with us after following his father’s steps of graduating from U of Guelph Agricultural program. I served as Chair of the Scouts Parent Council in Hickson and then served as Secretary and then Chair of the Huron Park School Council for 4 years while my children attended HPSS. I learned much about school budgets and programs, and the excellent staff and commitment to the quality education our children receive. Due to the excellent information provided on the TVDSB website, I have enjoyed following decisions made by the board and always felt that at some point in my life, it would be my goal to give back to my community. I am now at a point in my career that I have flexibility of time and I feel my skill set, experience and desire would be of benefit to the TVDSB. I would consider it an honour to represent Oxford County at the board level.”</p>

Candidate	School Closure	One Public System	School Violence
<p><b>Kelly Bairos</b></p>	<p>“When deciding whether or not to close a school, I believe that there needs to be information provided from several different sources, including, but not limited to, parents, communities, school board and demographic data, senior administration, and research. We need to investigate if a school truly needs to be closed or if a boundary revision (or other alternative) could satisfactorily right-size the school in question and nearby schools – with long-term planning in mind, which also includes working with our municipalities. Fiscal responsibility is important but so are student outcomes therefore all of the available evidence needs to be clearly examined to see what the right choice for our students may be.”</p>	<p>“I support the merging of the Catholic and Public boards into One Public System. I believe that many of our current issues, including empty pupil places, bussing, and the teacher shortage, could be rectified if the competition was reduced. More students would be able to attend schools in their communities and long-term planning would be able to be done more efficiently since all students in an area would be attending the same board. This of course would not be without difficulties; aside from the question of the constitution, some things we would need to consider include what staffing requirements there would be at the board level, what to do with the multitude of school buildings, etc.”</p>	<p>“This is not an area I have had much experience with but I did recently have a conversation with a parent who noted the importance of this issue and brought it to my attention. In one instance that she mentioned, there was a public statement made about an incident, where in other situations, there was no public mention made. The issue of transparency is a great one – I believe that the board, being funded by public dollars, is accountable to the public and that any violent (or unsafe) incident that puts our students at risk should be shared with the public. As the representatives of TVDSB residents, trustees – and the Chair in particular to represent the Board – should be responsible for reporting back to their constituents. With the limited information that I currently have, I would say that improvement is needed in the way information is communicated to parents and the wider community. There are policies and procedures in place and trustees need to ensure that they are actually implemented and that all those affected are notified with dangerous situations arise.”</p>
	<p><b>Mental Health</b></p>	<p><b>Education Privatization</b></p>	<p><b>Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?</b></p>
<p><b>Kelly Bairos</b></p>	<p>“I would advocate using the avenues available to trustees – through policy and procedure development, budget allocation, advocacy to my fellow Board members and senior administration after consulting research and other evidence, and consultation with the public. I believe we</p>	<p>“This is not an issue that I have much information about, but I will answer the best I can. When I think of privatization of services within a school board, I think of bringing in external consultants, hiring researchers for specific projects, doing building repairs and hiring private contractors, etc. I believe in these circumstances, that privatization is fine. By “these circumstances”, I am</p>	<p>“I want to be a positive influence in education and be part of preparing our students for life as a contributing member of society. When deciding to run for this position, I kept in mind what the actual role of a trustee is and what they can do for their school boards and constituents. Trustees contribute through their responsibility of budget oversight (nearly one billion</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kelly Bairos</b></p>	<p>need stronger connections to our community resources as well, including mental health organizations who are already trained in the areas we need support in. As a trustee who is responsible for responding to public concerns, I would also make sure that I have information ready about those community supports that are available to residents outside of our schools. I would also promote mental health professional development and training for our frontline staff, especially teachers, but also including principals and other key staff involved on a daily basis with students. For example, there are currently mental health resource packages available for principals that were developed by School Mental Health ASSIST, for which training is to be provided by mental health leads and follow-up provided. These packages were created by school leaders, for school leaders, with support from mental health leaders and implementation coaches. They will soon be making a similar package available for educators.”</p>	<p>referring to situations that are generally a ‘one-time’ service that hiring someone as an employee of the board wouldn’t be the most efficient use of resources. I will look into this issue further so that I am better informed for the future and can provide a more knowledgeable view in the future.”</p>	<p>dollars in TVDSB’s case); the multi-year strategic plan; being stewards of the board’s resources and ensuring responsible use of those resources; keeping the Director of Education accountable; and seeing and maintaining policies and procedures.</p> <p>I believe that I have the skills and experiences to be an excellent leader and board trustee. My background includes a masters’ degree in educational policy, with practical experience as a project manager for a provincial education network. In my professional role, I deal with public dollars and fiscal responsibility, developing short- and long-term plans, connecting education stakeholders all over the province, and evidence-based decision-making. I want to bring my knowledge and critical thinking skills to the board table to contribute to the conversations about education in TVDSB and help give our students a stellar education. I firmly believe that trustees need to take a neutral position until we have examined as much evidence as possible, which can include data, current research, history, consultation/voice (of parents, students, teachers, staff, and community), what’s happening in other boards/areas, and municipality input. I will be an engaged trustee who knows her responsibility to her community and will be transparent and accountable at all times possible.”</p>
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