

Prairie Land Public School Division – Starland Ward; Subdivision 2: Delia

School Board Trustee Candidate – Carol Lenfesty

Bio

I am married to Tim Lenfesty, and we live on our farm in the Craigmyle area. Together we are proud parents of 4 adult children and 2 young grandchildren. We have been living in the local area for over 55 years with generational families on both sides for over 125 years. Tim was born and raised in the Hand Hills and continues to farm in both the Hand Hills and the Craigmyle area, operates a butcher shop, and completes a variety of welding and building projects. We have been involved in community events held in the Hand Hills, Delia, Hanna, and Craigmyle areas.

I was born and raised in Hanna and graduated from J. C. Charyk Hanna High School. I completed an Education Degree with a minor in business education from the University of Lethbridge in the early 90s. After 30 years teaching in various positions in Prairie Land, I officially resigned from the public system in 2019. I have continued to advance my teaching skills through my participation in various educational programs, through presentation of reading and math skills to a variety of teacher and family audiences, and through privately teaching numerous children residing in communities within the division and abroad.

Platform

My aim is to bring an educator's understanding of the system to the board level. While Prairie Land teachers report the highest satisfaction levels across all years, ranging from 94.6% to 97.9% which reflects confidence in the quality of education being delivered by teachers (according to the 2024 Prairie Land AERR report), a strike vote of 89.5% of teachers within Alberta suggests that problems exist within the system. My experience as a teacher of almost every grade and subject, and a private tutor for many students who struggle with their studies for a variety of reasons, would be an asset to my work on the school board.

Over the last 3 years, I have been actively following the current school board by attending meetings, learning about the governance and education of the students and their families from a board level, asking questions to learn and challenge how a school board operates, and listening to children and their families, teachers, and support staff regarding their valuable insight into beneficial and unpleasant aspects of their individual learning and teaching experiences within the division. Through these interactions, I remain committed to strive to ensure that children and families will have a voice for the betterment of their children's education and growth for years to come.

I will advocate for:

- enhanced instruction for children so they will achieve a strong foundation and mastery in reading, writing, and math in the early years to become independent, competent learners and critical thinkers throughout the remainder of their lives
- the continual search for and retention of suitable, strong subject educators with a passion to enhance all students' abilities
- local governance and leadership to further develop and grow our local rural values
- enhanced and timely communication and understanding of achievements, results, and board matters to the parents and community
- strong schools that provide a welcoming atmosphere for positive student growth and interactions which may assist in attracting and retaining new students and their families
- stewardship of public funds to ensure resources are allocated effectively and responsibly
- adherence to appropriate policies and procedures

I would welcome the opportunity to represent Delia and area residents as a trustee on the Prairie Land Public School Division board to assist in furthering any enhancements possible at the board level to ensure the children and teachers receive support in their endeavours to learn and grow. I would advocate for those, who may be the silent majority, seeking the voice of a trustee to stand for learning and supports that are required for the successful futures of our children and families.