

West Vancouver School District Candidate Survey Responses - November 2014

Name	If elected, what priority would you place on ensuring children's' access to healthy, fresh, and local food in school?	If elected, what priority would you place on strengthening food skills (growing and cooking) and food literacy education in elementary and secondary schools?	If elected, what priority would you place on supporting procurement policies that encourage the purchasing of local fresh foods in schools?	In the last year, all North Shore municipalities and School Districts formally endorsed the North Shore Food Charter. If elected, what opportunities do you see for schools to contribute to the community's implementation of the Charter?	Why do (or don't) you think that participation in the local food system (ex. food security, urban agriculture, food recovery) is important for the school district?	Please use this space to elaborate on any of your responses.
Edward Desaulniers	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	For example: -Onsite school/community composting and gardens at most schools. -Environmental horticulture classes -A district steward who could work with all the schools at building their own action plan.	Any efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how people can manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to live sustainably is not just important to school district 44 and its' students . It is important to our society and the health of the world since sustainability is the greatest issue the world faces.	The school budget is my primary concern however I do believe strengthening earth stewardship and food literacy should be a priority.
Yael Drinkle	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	1. Community Gardens at schools where students can be part of growing and harvesting fruits and vegetables 2. Field trips to local farms to help students understand where food comes from 3. Partnerships and grant applications for the sole purpose of creating hampers of healthy food that Principals can distribute to families in need at their discretion and with privacy and confidentiality 4. Healthy option for Food Days programs 5. Partnerships with local charities that promote and implement Community Kitchen models that bring people together to prepare and share a family style dinner while bringing together people of different ethnic backgrounds	It's very important that the School District participates in the local food system because food is an essential aspect of health. We can help students be successful by implementing physical activity, supporting lowered class sizes and better class composition - but if a child arrives at school without proper nutrition, their learning will be significantly affected no matter how many supports we put in place. In addition, it is important to educate children about where food comes from and what it takes to get food to their tables (ie. more than just going to the grocery store), as it teaches respect and appreciation for the food they have.	
Barry Forward	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	Provide educational opportunities to introduce and make students aware of the issues outlined in the charter. Support the expansion of food recovery programs that involve our schools, and support development of community gardens on our school lands.	It is imperative that our schools play a major role in raising awareness around our food system.	This is a major issue (and opportunity) for our students, and our communities. We as school trustees must make this a high priority!
Cyndi Gerlach	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I'd like to see more community gardens at all of our schools to grow fruits and vegetables year round to be used by our students in our schools. Too many of our children do not know where fruits & veggies come from.	We have an obligation to educate our future citizens, not only academics, but also about agriculture. We have an abundance of land that can be used for growing food for our community. If we can educate children that food doesn't need to be perfect to be nutritious, then we can help with food recovery and security. There is nothing more wonderful than watching children's faces when they pull a carrot of the ground and it is perfect.	I'd love to see more educational opportunities for providing skills to our students on how we can provide for ourselves with the land we have or how to grow food in containers if we live in condos or apartments. It doesn't take much space to grow food. It just takes a desire to want to. I'd like to see us working with our community to create more opportunities for students to work with our seniors on gardening. Food brings us together and this is a way to create a more inclusive community.
Megan Higgins				Children having the opportunity to try a variety of fruits and vegetables, and learning their names. Children learning about food waste and composting. Children learning about how to reduce hunger in our community.	It is terrific when children learn habits at a young age that are healthy for themselves and the community as a whole.	I am not really comfortable choosing from your options in the multiple choice questions. I need to know what is already being done in each area first. And what age range the question refers to. We need to build on what is already being done in the schools (for instance fresh fruit and vegetables are already offered to elementary children in some schools, cooking is already offered in high school, etc)
Dave Jackson	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I believe that every school should have an active greenhouse attached and a plot of land set aside to learn about organic soil care and crop rotation. This wisdom was known centuries ago and implemented in publicly funded schools in Prussia by Kaiser Wilhelm. We are re-discovering this wisdom in task-based learning.	I believe that supporting the local growing of healthy, organic food has benefits well beyond food security and people should be encouraged to have vegetable gardens, if at all possible. However, I also recognize that quality control is a concern for schools when purchasing food in bulk to feed students.	
Tanya Lahulek	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	I think that schools can offer classes on sustainable farming and the impact that some of the current farming practices have on the environment ie. the carbon cost of trucking/shipping in fruits and vegetables, pesticide run off, GMO seeds. Teaching the students about the farm to table process would enlighten them as to exactly where their food comes from and the environmental and economic impacts. Having an edible garden will teach students the science of plants and create an excitement about getting to eat something they have grown themselves.	I think it is important because we need to teach children about their food and where it comes from. As obesity rates rise and physical activity decline, the health of our children is at risk. By participating in the local food system we would be encouraging healthy life long behaviours. Eating a healthy, balanced diet consisting of locally grown foods benefits not only the student themselves, but the local economy and, if grown sustainably or organically, the environment. The best way to teach is thru actions and example. We need to ensure we are teaching children lessons that will benefit them long after they have left the public education system.	Having worked at a Canadian organic distribution company I know the impact of supporting local farms, of using sustainable organic farming practices, and the health and taste benefits of eating organically grown fruits and vegetables. I believe it is important to teach children about where their food comes from and how it gets from farm to table. One of the first things we did when we moved into a home with garden space was to plan, with our children, what we would be growing in the summer. Watching the excitement on their faces when they came home to see how much their plants grew, watching their enjoyment when they picked and ate the veggies they had spent time growing, was wonderful. It would be amazing to see edible gardens at schools, and to provide fresh local produce for students to enjoy.
Susan Lockhart	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	Schools are in a very strategic position to contribute to programs that strengthen the community's implementation of the charter. Fresh nutritious foods grown locally made available to students, programs increasing the student's knowledge of nutritious foods are examples of such opportunities.	Students who are aware of the local food system will have life long health benefits. The school district support of programs that teach about the growing, shopping, and preparation of foods in addition to understanding food recovery will ultimately benefit students now and in their future.	My over 35 years in health care including Director of Child and Youth for Fraser Health contributes to my concern and support for the provision of healthy foods in schools. Child hood obesity and other health issues can result from lack of nutritious foods and knowledge regarding nutrition. The availability of nutritious foods in schools addition to knowledge gained about food enhances both the health and the educational experience of students.
Shane Nelson	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	I'm new to North Vancouver, having moved here from Cortes Island. My first surprise, moving into a town-house in Lynn Valley, is there is no composting program. We live on the second floor and have no yard access and haven't yet setup a worm-bin system. Although this is the first I've heard of the North Shore Food Charter, I'm very happy to learn of it's existence and agree with the goals of the charter. I'd like to see the local schools make some surplus space available for local community and school gardens as well as use local organic suppliers for hot lunch programs and other school food needs. Although there would be some complications, it would also be great if each school could maintain a small flock of chickens so children can learn about the process of collecting eggs and caring for hens.	The food system is an unavoidable part of life and has wide ranging implications for our health and the health of the environment. Living on the North Shore puts us in a somewhat more risky situation in the case of an earthquake. Much of our food comes from across the bridges - if the bridges were closed after an earthquake, grocery store shelves would empty in a few days and we'd be left eating only what's in our cupboards. Food would likely be delivered via water and air, however emergency services will likely be very busy and it would be a great thing to have our own small food production capability.	I've studied permaculture and organic gardening at Linnaea Farm on Cortes Island and have gardened as well as raised hens, pigs and cows. I understand the risks and rewards of raising our own food and would be excited to create opportunities for North Shore kids to learn about food production and food safety.
Bill Papandreu	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	EDUCATE. The more information students have, the more passion they develop. Community or school gardens, experts that can come in and educate on the process, nutritionists that can come in and educate on the health benefits are just some of the programs we can implement to educate students of everything around food.	It all stems back to education. The food system includes production, processing, distribution etc. To have a healthy and sustainable local food system, our students need to be educated on the benefits of present and future approaches, they in turn can become advocates of what our charter stands for.	As a past athletic programmer, certified nutritional consultant and now a restaurateur, food is my passion. Hippocrates said it best "let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food" and also being Greek, I am a firm believer in that. there are a number of issues on the table at the moment but when elected I WILL put forward proposals for programs on food education

<p>Christie Sacre</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>The messages and goals of the Charter just seem logical to me, common sense. How this unfolds within the school district can look many different ways and the New Board will need to look at how we can champion these ideas. North Vancouver has always prided itself as being an environmentally friendly school district and I think there is room for the Board to take the lead in some areas. Discussion with partners groups will be key so that barriers or questions can be looked at right from the beginning to avoid later frustrations. Funding or lack of funding is always an issue in situations like this but I think there are many directions we can go that don't involve cost at all.</p>	<p>I think that Participation in the local food system is very important! What we teach our children today will influence their beliefs and way of life in the future. It seems only logical that we give students a balanced look at how important food production is AND how we can prevent food waste. I do think that there are schools and teachers who are already teaching many core messages of food production and the food charter. Examples: Ridgeway's "Refuge" and harvest garden, Brooksbank's connection to the Loutet farm, Queen Mary's connection to the community gardens, Sutherland's goal to create their own community garden and Global Initiatives Academy. Mountainside already has connections to food recovery within their kitchen and cafeteria. I would like to take some of these ideas and expand them and encourage the ideas that were introduced at the Table Matters recent event. I would like to see partnerships introduced so that all students have access to healthy food in schools. I can see rescued food being used to teach students how to cook, as well, and I think these conversations need to be had.</p> <p>Recycling, harvest gardens, composting and learning outside are just a few of the things already happening in the school district but I would like to see the Board take a more leadership role in some of these basic sustainability initiatives.</p>
<p>Susan Skinner</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>I believe there is so much more we could be doing at the school level.</p> <p>Supporting local food production and urban agriculture is something I have supported since before I was first elected in 2005. At that time, I was unable to garner much interest in this issue. However, I continued to gather information and champion the cause.</p> <p>I am thrilled with the work that has now been done, the success of the Food Charter being fully supported, Loutet Park, the public awareness brig built by Table Matters.</p> <p>I think we should be planning for all schools to have an educational component comprised of hands on urban agriculture, academic work on nutrition, food transportation concerns, our agricultural land reserve, health issues, local food security and global food security.</p> <p>From where food comes from, to how it is produced, how natural food and junk food effect our bodies and minds, the politics of food and food recovery. These concepts should be included in the curriculum.</p> <p>There are so many benefits on so many levels for education to be moving in this direction - for personal health, community health and global health - as well as the health of the next generation and the health of our environment. Another important benefit is that when kids eat better, they learn better and by learning to grow their own food and recover food this could be one of the most empowering pieces of their educational experience.</p> <p>Including this topic in the curriculum has social, environmental and economic sustainable cost efficient implications - to our health care budget in the long run, to the health of our communities and education system. So many of our provincially mandated prescribed learning outcomes can be covered from this subject.</p>	<p>See answer above :)</p> <p>I welcome these initiatives, and I believe there is no time to waste in fully embracing the responsibility and opportunity to create a generation with renewed health knowledge and responsibility. Thank you for all you are doing for our community and your interest in making a difference with our kids!</p>
<p>Jessica Stanley</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</p>	<p>As coordinator of the Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden, one of the features that I am most proud of is our educational plots. I believe that teaching children how to grow their own food, about where food comes from and what real food looks like is of vital importance for many reasons including increasing their willingness to eat healthier food and educating them of the relationship between our earth, our food and our bodies. Regarding educational opportunities to contribute to the implementation of the Food Charter, I would like to see more school yard gardens like the proposed Sutherland Schoolyard Market Garden and the one that currently exists at my children's school, Ross Rd Elementary. As well, I'd like to see an enhancement of the educational programs like the Experimental Outdoor Environmental Leader program and the creation of programs in which curriculum is taught through involvement at settings like Loutet farm. Charter principles #1 and #2 are clearly met through these endeavours. I believe that educational programs such as these will inform our youth and future adults about food security and it's role in our economy leading them to have more awareness of these issues when voting and in creating community values. To the extent that we can create a local food economy by teaching food growing skills through the process of actually growing food, we are more likely to be able to foster sustainable, food centered enterprises, including selling the food to our local community.</p>	<p>I think participation in the local food system is of the utmost importance and benefit for our children. Although I touched on this issue in the previous answer, I can add further that participating in the local food system is an important educational opportunity. Large portions of science curriculum can be taught to our kids through hands on work that produce food for our community; not only do kids get an education in a meaningful way but they also learn life relevant skills, and have pride in the product of their work and their contribution to our community. In doing so, children also experience being meaningful contributors to our community and develop a sense of being a community member. Besides the clear educational benefits of local food system involvement, children increase their identity as community members which further enhances their sense of belongingness and self-esteem. Plus the more local food we produce, the less food that is shipped in, and the less pollution and personal cost that is associated with buying non-local food.</p> <p>Besides my family, I have two main passions: education and the environment. If elected as School Trustee, I will support with a keen interest any educational programs similar to those I've discussed. Just as when I spoke to council in pursuit of the creation of our community garden, I understand the multifaceted benefits of food security and environmental educational programs, and would be open to hearing new ideas about how to implement these programs.</p>

Franci Stratton	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	<p>1. As of this past year we now have trustee representation on the Table committee so that is helpful in communication sharing.</p> <p>2. focus on two of goals in our own 10 year strategic plan which are provide leadership in environmental and sustainability practices and strengthen and expand reciprocal community relations and dialogue and work with our municipalities and community partners..</p> <p>3.our schools are implementing food gardens as part of the environmental learning. The Board established an outdoor spaces policy in this last term.</p> <p>4. Cheakamus Centre -(Outdoor School) farm to table initiatives. & Sutherland school edible garden project. At OS - The culinary professionals will provide leadership through daily food preparation, workshops, and sustainable skills apprenticeships. Eating what is grown locally and an understanding of the connections between farming and other natural systems.</p> <p>5. Ministry curriculum partner group committee relooking at draft provincial science curriculum as it doesn't include enough on environmental sciences.</p> <p>6. Create board authorized courses for credit that focus on transforming food systems through urban agriculture and the connection to better health and well-being.</p> <p>7. Suggest a possible forum or workshop through NVPAC to bring more awareness to the initiatives driving the North Shore Food Charter.</p>	<p>I do..... for the following reasons;</p> <p>1. Teaching students to use their environment wisely and to take care of their surrounding is good for them to learn and protect their the environment. Positive impact on future generations.</p> <p>2. Learning how to use their own property or school property to gain access to healthy food choices.</p> <p>3. Raises local awareness of some of the social issues families face and supports bringing communities together regardless of need.</p> <p>4. In practice it supports sustainability leadership and builds capacity amongst students , staff and parents as responsible contributors to their own environmentally -sustainability future</p> <p>5. Respects green space through responsible stewardship – support through community partnerships.</p>	<p>Through the MOE there is a commitment and direction to promote healthy choices that support a child's physical and healthy well being. Initiatives such as daily physical activity requirements, act now BC and the healthy foods initiatives are but a few. We take those initiatives and transform them into our own reflecting our local community needs</p> <p>Through positive leadership and partnerships the school district can support local initiatives that address and support urban agriculture and food safety that align with the values and vision for the North Vancouver school district.</p>
Mary Tasi	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	<p>As a School Trustee, I am able to put priority on initiating school policy on local organic gardens where produce could be used in the cafeterias, learning about sustainable agriculture, etc.</p> <p>As a former Trustee in 2008 to 2011, I continually advocated to include urban gardens, food gardens in to the schools.</p>	<p>My understanding is that if there is any kind of "incident" we only have food on the supermarket shelves for three days. Schools have large outdoor spaces that could be converted to local food production. I am also concerned that many people cannot afford fresh fruits and vegetables. Children learn better and can focus better if they have eaten healthy nourishing food. I would like to see students spend more outdoor time working on school gardens, volunteering at Loulet farm, etc. If they can learn gardening and cooking skills from produce they grow and pick themselves, this is a huge valued sustainable skill that is needed.</p>	<p>I have been involved with the Table Matters forums for the last few years, most recently attending the Metro Vancouver event about urban agriculture. I am trained as an urban planner, and am therefore particularly aware of the need for these Food Charter initiatives. Keep up the good work, and keep forwarding your findings and concerns!</p>
Antje Wilson	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	<p>Where feasible I think school gardens, composting, and building connections with the community to provide food are excellent learning experiences for students.</p>	<p>I think that participation by children in the local food system can be an excellent learning experience. As well, it can be the hands on experience that aligns with many aspects of the curriculum.</p>	<p>I fully support our schools having gardening plots and producing crops for the cafeterias, selling to the community or donating to the Harvest Project. I do think it is an initiative that has to come from the schools and shouldn't be mandated top down.</p>