

Speaking Points

- Since Doug Ford came into government, he's cut education funding. Our schools have lost more than \$6.3 billion due to these cuts.
- There are very real challenges in our schools, like larger class sizes, lack of mental health and special education supports, and urgently needed repairs. But they're the result of funding cuts.
- Instead of addressing the funding challenges, Ford is trying to distract from his record by taking away your voice as a parent and as a community in decisions about your local schools.
- As trustees, we represent your voices. You elect us to consult with you, advocate for you, and make decisions on local budgets and community schools.
- When you don't like our decisions, you have the ability to hold us accountable by voting us out.
- As a trustee, I'm a bridge between you and your child's school. I help families all the time with questions like special education assessments, program enrollments, school transfers [insert other local examples].
- We can already see from school boards where the government has removed trustees, they've replaced trustees with handpicked representatives who aren't consulting or communicating with the community. They're not accountable to them – parents can't get rid of them.
- If Doug Ford proceeds with his plan to eliminate trustees, that's what will happen in our community and all across the province.
- Someone from downtown Toronto will make all of the decisions without listening to us. And you won't be able to hold them accountable. You can't vote them out.
- We've seen in places like Nova Scotia and Quebec that when the government takes away school board trustees, parents and students lose their voice. They no longer have a say in the decisions that affect their local schools.
- But we've also seen how in Manitoba, parents, students, educators, trustees, and communities came together to defend the right of parents and communities to have a say and they won.
- We can do the same here in Ontario. If we stand together, we can fight off this power grab and protect your right to have a say in your child's education.