

2025 Election Candidate Biography – Mark Klemp

Vision and goals/platform

Listen to the needs of the residents of Ward 7 in PWPSD.

Encourage and support quality teaching practices through mentorship and PD.

Address the need for strong student achievement results across all grades and schools.

Develop solid communication between board members, parents, teachers and students.

Local community involvement

-Coached soccer, badminton, hockey, table tennis, handball and baseball from 1988-2019.

-Supported 4-H from 2008-2018.

-Director for REA (Rural Electrification Association) from 2019-2020.

-Volunteered for Alberta Winter Games (2024) in Grande Prairie.

-Active member of Mayerthorpe Agricultural Society from 2007-2017.

-Volunteered to drive school bus to transport students to various sporting events.

-Advisor for high school graduation from 1996-2012.

-Teacher liaison for school's parent council from 1998-2018.

-Fund-raising coordinator for 15 years advocating for local procurement of supplies.

-Student's Union advisor for 20 years.

-Contributed to the planning and development of school expansion in Mayerthorpe.

-Volunteer in the Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge areas for various fairs and events.

-Victory Church on the Rock congregation member in Grande Prairie.

Education, career and/or experience

- Substitute teacher for PWPSD, GPPSD, NGPS, and Holy Family for the past three years.
- Supply teacher for PCS (Peace Collaborative Services) working with students with a variety of learning challenges.
- Tutoring a variety of math and science courses from 2020-2025.
- Taught every math and science course grade 7-12, except biology, with primary focus on mathematics, chemistry and physics in grade 11 and 12 from 1988-2019.
- Operated our family farm, Klemp Cattle and Grain, for over 40 years located south of Mayerthorpe, Alberta.
- Published article in Canadian Teacher Magazine on motivating students to achieve.
- Sponsored scholarships for over 25 years for perfect scores on diploma/achievement exams and most improved students in my own classes.
- Marker and Exam Item-Writer for diploma exams (Physics 30, Chemistry 30 and Math 30-1) periodically over a 25 year period with education department in Alberta.
- Contributed to the development and implementation of new Alberta math curriculum from 1990-2005.
- APEGA Award Recipient in 2012 (Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta) for excellence in teaching.
- Formed a company, Farmer Direct Beef Sales, with a local farmer friend in 2003-2008 in response to the BSE crisis.
- Periodically drove highway tractor trailers and tandems for myself and big companies across North America and on our farm hauling cattle, grain, pipe, cement, equipment, etc.
- Class of 1984 co-valedictorian in Mayerthorpe.

Biography

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and announce my intention to put my name forward for the nomination of school trustee for Ward 7 in PWPSD. As you can see, I arrive here with a considerable amount of experience in a number of different areas focusing on education, agriculture and industry.

I was raised in Mayerthorpe on a family farm. My interests were in teaching, farming and trucking so I decided to do all three. I obtained my class 1 licence in 1985 and earned my Bachelor of Education degree in 1988. During the years I attended university, I worked on our family farm, Blue Ridge Lumber, Paddle Valley Alfalfa Products and a cement company. An interesting note is that I did my student teaching under Barry Edgar (Principal) and Dennis Fedeyko (Teacher) at the Grande Prairie Composite High School in 1988. I spent a lot of time in Grande Prairie growing up as a lot of our extended family live in the area. Soon thereafter, I began my teaching career in Watson Lake, Yukon in 1988. The next year I returned to Mayerthorpe and taught, in my hometown, for the next 30 years. During that time, I was married for 32 years and helped raise a family of three great kids, taught high school math and science courses (last 20 years being half time), volunteered in a variety of areas and ran a successful farming business. In 2019, I retired from teaching and, in 2022, I retired from farming and then moved to Grande Prairie. Over the past three years, I have tried to keep myself healthy and active. I enjoy riding my motorbike, traveling, kayaking, watching live GP Storm hockey, pickleball and gardening. I continue to work on local farms to help out during the busy times, as well as substitute teach, tutor students and drive trucks when I feel a need to "shift gears".

The opportunities, advice and experiences that I have received over my lifetime have given me a solid foundation on which to build a position as a school trustee. I know what it takes to run a successful business and the value of our hard-earned tax dollars. Having gone through the 1980s with high interest rates and the challenges that the BSE gave to the cattle business, I understand what being "fiscally responsible" is all about. Holding a school board, including myself, accountable for the spending of public funds and making sound workable decisions on policies are high priorities.

Having been a teacher myself for 31 years and recently being a substitute teacher, from kindergarten to grade 12, in over 25 schools within a 200 mile radius of Grande Prairie has really made me aware of some of the current challenges facing teachers and students that may need to be considered:

- Large class sizes
- Lack of resources to help out beginning teachers
- Rapid student population growth
- Ballooning expenses of technology

- Challenges with implementation of new curriculum
- Shrinking budgets
- Staff being expected to do more with less
- Students arriving from other countries with little or no english language exposure
- Expectations placed on classroom teachers with high needs
- Busing concerns

With the amount of work facing the school boards in Alberta, I fully understand that the task is not an easy one. If I am the successful candidate, I would welcome the challenge to address these concerns. With my variety of work and life experiences alongside my willingness to learn and listen, I feel I can contribute in a positive way to the PWPSD board. From what I see happening within the division, there are lots of great things to be proud of happening in the schools and classrooms. With your support on October 22, I hope I can continue to help make things even better for the Division. In the meantime, take care, be safe, exercise your right to vote and May the Force be with You!!!

Contact

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