

ELECTION STATEMENT

Sonja Blank

I am proud to be a teacher.

Teaching to me is not just a profession. It is a commitment to my community. Supporting children to be critical and creative thinkers, open-minded, kind, and passionate promoters of justice and equity is an investment into advancing our communities, and my number one goal. I am committed.

I am equally proud to be a member of MTS.

Working with teachers *for* teachers has always been extremely rewarding for me. As a member of the Provincial Executive over the last two years, I have worked diligently to defend the rights of teachers. The dedication and passion of teachers to raise the bar of our profession (even during COVID), use our voices for change and step into action to safeguard the rights and welfare of our colleagues cannot be overstated. The defeat of Bill 28 is a result of our collective dedication. I am dedicated.

I am committed more than ever to defend the rights of teachers as a Member-at-Large on Provincial Executive.

Public education continues to be under attack in Manitoba. Bill 16, Bill 45, and Bill 64 have centralized all decision-making powers into one provincial body. Decisions around standardized testing and forcing the closure of school boards (causing multiple job losses and a devastating strain on local communities), are not cost-saving, do not improve learning outcomes and are not modernizing education. A united teacher force is needed to protect our students, teachers and communities. I *will* continue the fight.

BIOGRAPHY

Sonja Blank

Sonja currently teaches grade 5 in Dauphin where she considers herself a visitor on Treaty 2 territory. Sonja is the collective bargaining chair for the Mountain View TA. Throughout her involvement with MVTA she has acted as local education finance chair, resolutions chair, vice-president, employee benefits chair and workplace, safety and health school representative. Sonja has served on the MTS Ed. Finance Standing Committee, the Teacher Education and Certification Committee, and as member-at-large of the Provincial Executive over the last two years was chair of IVASC, YHA and a member of the Political Action Committee of the Society.



Sonja serves on the Indigenous Education Steering Committee in her division, where she advocates for indigenous perspectives, truth and reconciliation.

Among other issues, Sonja advocates on matters of:

- teacher workload,
- teacher and student mental health,
- 2STLGBQIA+ rights for students and staff,
- equity issues affecting rural school divisions and local autonomy
- effects of poverty on student learning
- obligation of the government of Manitoba to engage in dialogue and democratic discourse with MTS amongst others.

Born and raised in Germany, Sonja immigrated to Canada at the age of 18, where she had spent a year traveling and falling in love with the prairies. She completed her teaching certificate in Winnipeg in 1999 and attained her post-baccalaureate degree in 2014. Sonja is a proud educator with a passion for learning and teaching. She particularly enjoys studying history, politics, languages, and walking her three dogs.

Merci

Chi-Miigwech

Dankeschoen

Thank You