

Title: “School Board Trustee Candidate Whistleblower”

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Video Description: Whistleblower! School board trustee Candidate who ran in last year election in 2022, shares AI!

You will be shocked to hear what is happening in a school district. How the school board head office handled the issues she brought to the board!

She was arrested and then released, on being the voice for the children in that school district.

Tags: #education #classroom #schoolboard #schoolsystem #students #canadaschools #childprotection #parentalrights #teaching #whistleblower

Transcript

Herman: Hi, everyone. Welcome. Today we have Emily D. She is a stay-at-home mom with two homesteadings in rural BC, Canada. She also ran for school board trustee in last year’s elections. Today we’ll be discussing her story about her campaign, School District issues in her area, issues that are happening locally in her school, and quite more. This is going to be a jam-packed show that I want all parents to hear because I’m sure in this mom’s story—and it’s a brave woman coming forward—that you’re going to see some overlapping things that you might have heard or seen in your school. So just before we begin I’d like to ask everyone to please subscribe to my YouTube channel, Instagram, Telegram, and Twitter at *RH Media Standing 4 Children*. Just before we begin I’d like everyone to please like, share, and subscribe so we can get Emily’s story out there, give her lots of support because this is a big deal for her coming forward and sharing her story. Thank you, Emily, for joining us, and how are you?

Duggan: I’m nervous but I’m good. How are you?

Herman: It’s big. When you come out with something that is so personal, hits home, it's nerve-wracking, right? It’s nerve-wracking to come forward.

Duggan: Yeah, it is. It's not something a lot of people are doing right now either. So...

Herman: Absolutely. So let's start with—tell me a little bit about yourself.

Duggan: I'm a stay-at-home parent of two wonderful children in rural BC, Canada. We're giving it a great shot at the homesteading life. We've got a massive garden, dogs, cat, chickens. We're living the dream. [laughs]

Herman: That is so nice. It's nice to get out of the craziness of the city and all that noise that's happening here.

Duggan: Yeah. I don't—I'm a rural girl.

Herman: Love it. Love it.

So tell me a bit about—you were running as a trustee candidate just this last year and tell me about that. What made you decide, first of all, to run as a trustee?

Duggan: I kind of got swept up in it all. I have some pretty big opinions on what's going on in our district. As a stay-at-home parent, I have the time to pay attention to what's going on and I've got some pretty big concerns, and I started voicing those concerns publicly. And in the spring of 2022 I was approached by some local EAs and they—I had no idea that there was an election coming up. They let me know that there was a trustee election coming up in October and they thought that it would be great if I ran for it. And I really didn't know what that entailed but I spent the summer thinking on it, and in October—in September, October I took a leap and I did it. I ran for school board trustee. [chuckles]

Herman: That's awesome. Awesome. And it's great. I'm sure you had lots of community backing you and supporting you in running?

Duggan: I did. I had a lot of people supporting me. I'm actually still getting phone calls from people that I've never met before, employees of our district calling me. Sometimes they cry telling me what's going on and it's intense.

Herman: Yeah. Well, I think people are reaching out to you because you're being the voice for the community, right. And not as many people, like yourself, are brave enough to say this is what's going on and I'm gonna call it out, right?

Duggan: Well, that's exactly what I'm doing. This is what's going on, and I just—I'm saying it loud enough for everyone to hear.

Herman: Excellent. More people like you need to do that in their community, just find that courage to just to stand up and say it out loud. So let's get into the issues that you were finding in your school district before we get to your child. You know some of the school district issues that were happening, and is that what made you run as candidate?

Duggan: Yeah. There's a lot of issues in our district right now. Right now, at the forefront that I've been working on is SOGI. It's not a well-known program. It's implemented in all 60 districts of British Columbia and I would guess that over 80% of parents have no idea

what it is. It's called SOGI. It stands for Sexual Orientation Gender Identity. There is no opt-out option and, as I said, I think the biggest issue is a huge portion of parents and guardians don't know what the program entails, and there's very little effort to inform us.

Herman: Oh, no. There's none. I mean, go look on the website. And parents can read it. You read your newsletters and it looks like, "Oh, no problem. It's just introducing inclusiveness, diversity. And they label it like a family-friendly thing but it's far from that.

Duggan: Absolutely. I agree. When you log onto the website and you read about SOGI it sounds really great. It sounds like everybody's going to be holding hands and skipping down the playground [*inaudible*] and it's never going to be ugly ever again. But you start to look into it, and where it comes from, and how there's very little data on successes and failures that the program has to offer our communities, you start to realize that it's not well planned out, and it's not as diverse as it appears to be.

Herman: No, it's not. I mean, me being an educator and being *in* that, it's not. ...

Duggan: No.

Herman: ... It's all about segregation, division, pinning one against each other. And what we're knowing more so—not knowing, but *seeing* more so is that they're pinning the children against the families.

Duggan: Absolutely. Absolutely.

Herman: Right? And that's where they've overstepped their line.

Duggan: [affirmative] Mm-hmm. Well, and just the lack of information for parents is what does it for me. Is like [*sic*], if this program's so great why aren't we talking about it? How come you don't want me to know about it?

Herman: Yeah. The more that you know, the more you start asking questions, and they don't want us as a community asking questions, right?

Duggan: That's right. Another big issue that's happening in our district that's a massive deal is one of our elementary schools is going into its *seventh year* without drinkable tap water in the school.

Herman: So how do kids—like, what do they drink then if there's no drinkable water?

Duggan: They bring in water coolers. They have the big water jugs and they bring in the water coolers. So that costs money. And they've been—for seven years. They've been doing that for seven years. And it's an elementary school, so you've got kids from kindergarten to grade six who just love buttons. Anybody who knows kids that age knows they just love buttons. So you've got all these young kids running through the halls. Every time they pass it, [*makes pressing button motion*] *a-boing. A-boing*. There's water everywhere. So it's not a great system.

Herman: So what's the issue with the water? Why can't kids drink it, or anybody drink it? ...

Duggan: So—

Herman: ... What are they tell you?

Duggan: That's also not very clear. One minute it's a mechanical issue. The next minute it's an Interior Health issue. My understanding is seven years ago the aquifer collapsed and it's now been repaired but now it's falling under an Interior Health problem. The water can't be drank [*sic*] because it's not passing Interior Health standards. And so I'm just—nobody will answer when I say: what do we need to do to get it to pass the Interior Health standards?

Herman: You know, listening to that reminds me of that movie *Erin Brockovich*, right? The water issue

Duggan: [laughs] Yeah. It's a real thing.

Herman: It totally, like, brings me back to that movie going, "Okay. And why can't we drink the water, and what's going on with the water?" And you also had said that—did they put new fountains in the school but the kids couldn't use it? I'm like, why are we putting money into fountains if we can't turn on the tap? [laughs]

Duggan: So this is—I mean, as a whole with the district this is what really rubs me the wrong way the most is there's [*sic*] seems to be a very big lack in critical thinking. So our PAC fundraised money and got enough money, bought a drinking fountain that you can put a water bottle under, like a new drinking fountain that you can hold the button and drink with your mouth and also fill up a bottle. And they installed it, I think last year maybe the year before, and nobody's been able to use it because they can't drink the water.

Herman: Can't drink the water.

Duggan: So it's just very nonsensical. Like, that was—in seven years. This this elementary school goes from kindergarten to grade six. That's a child's entire elementary career at that school. So all their funding that they've done for anything to do with the water fountain, or getting repairs done on the water system, they don't even get to reap those benefits.

Herman: So is there anybody in the community that's speaking out? And, I mean, I'm assuming would this involve households as well? That they can't drink the water as well?

Duggan: It's strictly the school.

Herman: Well, that's kind of odd. Wouldn't the aquifer be giving water to all households around that area?

Duggan: I don't know. It's so poorly communicated. You talk to the principal and she responds with she's frustrated as well but it's an Interior Health problem. It's out of our wheelhouse and it's—

Herman: And don't ask questions.

Duggan: Pretty much. It's like, well, who do we go to? Who do we talk [*sic*]? Well, there's an Interior Health person here every day, and they test the water, and we have to pass the test three times. It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous. It's a run around you can't get a straight answer. There's no accountability.

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: It's frustrating.

Herman: Absolutely.

Duggan: And then, on top of that, another issue in our district—there's a list—is our district spent \$200,000 in government grants, plus \$600,000 out of our school budget, on two electric school buses.

Herman: Oh. That sounds good for the, like, [mocking tone and air quotes] “climate change”. [*laughs*] Now tell me about these electric busses.

Duggan: Again, in theory, at face value, it's the same with SOGI. At face value it looks like a good idea until you look into it further and realize that the two buses that were purchased are an unfinished technology, and actually they're unable to heat the full bus in a -15 degree weather, which we experience often in rural Canada. So what happens is it takes an hour for the bus to fully heat itself, which has drained the charge down to the point where it can't complete the route. ...

Herman: Can't complete the route to pick up all the kids.

Duggan: So they need—they will need to bring on diesel heaters, which, I mean, I think that speaks for itself. And then, on top of that, our district doesn't have the infrastructure to charge the buses to begin with.

Herman: No charging station?

Duggan: No charging station. So—

Herman: So you buy two electric buses but you have no way of charging them.

Duggan: Yes. And even if we did, the buses can't heat themselves so we bring on—they would need diesel heaters to be brought on [*sic*] on.

Herman: You gotta ask yourself why these expenditures? They're not working, and so it leads me to going down that rabbit hole, right.

Duggan: Yeah.

Herman: Following the money. ...

Duggan: Absolutely.

Herman: ... When you follow the money then you kind of understand the bigger picture.

Duggan: When I questioned, like, who okayed this? This seems crazy. ...

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: ... I was told that it was a government initiated program and that's why the \$200,000 grant money and every—the people that I spoke to, and some community members wanted to act like that was—"we got the buses on sale." And for me, this is an institution that is leading our children in critical thinking but this is not a good example of critical thinking. Just because something is on sale [uses air quotes] ...

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: ... doesn't mean you should buy it.

Herman: Exactly.

Duggan: *Especially* if it's not going to work for what you need it to do. And where we live we need buses that can heat themselves in -15 degree weather and complete a full route to get kids to and from school.

Herman: So how are kids getting to school now?

Duggan: Well, we don't have the buses yet. And even if we did have them, we wouldn't be able to charge them, [laughing] so they're we're still choosing the diesel buses. So these two electric buses were bought to save us money on fuel and to help climate change, and they're not doing anything. They're not doing—so that's eight \$800,000 just of in La La Land doing nothing for anyone.

Herman: Makes you wonder who's making these decisions, hey?

Duggan: Well it makes you wonder, yes. Of course.

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: Another big issue is our local high school this year—this school year, so starting in September 2022—had its hot lunch program canceled due to not having anybody able to coordinate it for them. So that was a blow because that was a program that a lot of our students benefited from. Now on its own that might not sound like a problem that's different from any other District but when you look further into it and realize, "Oh my goodness. Our district has a budget set aside just for catered meals for our trustees." So when they—

Herman: What? So we're going to feed trustees but we're not going to feed kids?

Duggan: Yeah. That's what's happening in our district right now. Our district is *super* top heavy. So our administration really takes care of themselves and then our individual schools are kind of left to their own devices. So our trustees, if they are working or have meetings that go through meal times—our district has a special budget set aside specifically to catered meals for them. So these adults, who are seemingly responsible enough to advocate for our communities, can't manage to pack themselves a lunch when they look at their calendar and see they've got a full day. I just—it's insulting.

Herman: Or just take the money that's used for their catered lunches and say, "Oh, let's give it to the kids at the school because maybe they need it."

Duggan: Or—yeah. Of course. Yeah.

So that leads me into one of my biggest, like—I mean, they're all big stressors. They're all big deals to me but the budgeting, the allocation of funds in our school district is nonsensical every single time you look at it. And every time I've tried to have a conversation with somebody in administration about it, I'm met with, "these funds are for this budget *only*, you can't transfer funds from one budget to another." And I just want to know why. That doesn't make sense. If you have a budget, and you can afford meals for trustees but we have a high school with their hot lunch program canceled because they are lacking [*inaudible*] coordinate it, does it not make more logical sense to put those funds to the kids? The administration are adults. They can manage. They don't need to have meals bought for them but our kids and our communities do.

Herman: Well, what would make sense to sell those two electric buses that are not doing anything and give the money to the kids for hot lunches. I mean, *hello?*

Duggan: Absolutely. Or, at the very least, let's get some counselors in our school. Because our safe schools number one initiative right now—so SOGI falls under the Safe Schools umbrella. And our Safe School's number one initiative, driven by SOGI right now, is to get gender neutral bathrooms in every single school of the district, which would be fine, except every single school in our district doesn't even have counselors.

Herman: Oh.

Duggan: So what I would rather do with that \$800,000 that they spent on electric buses that we can't use, is I would have rather taken it and put it towards initiatives to get staff members to that could be—people coming into the communities to work in our schools as counselors so that *every* child has someone to talk to. Gender neutral bathrooms are specific to a certain demographic of our student body. It's not for everyone. But a counselor. A counselor would be for everyone.

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: And we don't have that right now. It's just—it doesn't—every time I look into something happening in our district, it doesn't make sense.

Herman: No.

Duggan: No. And I'm met with answers that don't make sense either. Well, we can't switch money from one budget to another is not really a good enough answer in my opinion.

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: As a parent, when I'm looking at all these kids in my communities who are going without, going without, going without, and my top heavy administration, who are fully

capable and able, are going with too much, that's not—that's not how the system should work in my opinion.

Herman: Yeah. No, I 100% agree. And I was working in a school that was an inner city school. We got counseling if we were lucky once a week for maybe a few hours in the morning, maybe one hour in the afternoon, and that was to serve the whole demographic of that school. We were lucky if that person came in once a week. And, you know, children all have different issues, things that they're dealing with, and that's—that's like just saying "well, we put the counselor in, so we've served that problem." But the problem is much bigger than just saying, "Oh, we've just thrown that person in, check the box off," right? "We've done it." ...

Duggan: Yeah.

Herman: ... Well, no. You haven't done it because you haven't served the whole community. Just like what you're saying.

Duggan: That's what it really feels like. It feels like our administration has a list in front of them with boxes that need to be checked off, and that's all those issues are. But it's so much more than that.

Herman: For sure.

Duggan: We're lacking in almost every area.

Herman: So how do you feel, because we were talking about—sounds like transparency, right? ...

Duggan: [affirmative] Mm-hmm.

Herman: ... some of the things we were wanting to talk about is the communication amongst parents. Do you feel that the parents in your school district are getting communicated with these issues with—regarding your school—the water, the lunches—is there transparency with parents? Do they have an idea of what's going on?

Duggan: No. There's no transparency. The communication is poor *at best*. When new families come into the elementary school that doesn't have any drinking water, they're not even informed of it. There's not even a notice home. It's just bring—make sure your child has a water bottle. So there's no communication there. It's not transparent that the water's not drinkable. And then another really good example is the bus. The bus procedures for bussing. There's no communication. The admin's procedure when a bus is canceled is to post on the district website, the school website, Twitter, Facebook, and the app. The last bus cancellation that we had, the procedures that were followed where it was posted on the district website, and the school website. It was not posted on Facebook, Twitter, or the app. We had families sending their children out to meet the bus and no bus came for them. And our administration had ample time to warn those families.

Herman: Well, that's their responsibility.

Duggan: It's fully their responsibility. When I emailed my principal about it and said like "hey, my child stood on the side of the road waiting for a bus that never came, she forwarded my email to the manager of operations, who emailed me back telling me that it's not the principal's responsibility to inform families when a school bus is canceled. That it's the manager of operations job to inform families, and it's the parents job to check the website.

Herman: So it's not his problem, it's his problem. And it's not his problem, it's that person's problem. No, it's not *that* person's problem, it's that pr—it's just moving the accountability around in a circle.

Duggan: It wasn't—it was—yeah. It's totally insane. The whole—so I went public with that last one because I was really upset. I was really upset. It directly affected my family ...

Herman: Yup.

Duggan: ... and I felt like... that they just set us up for failure that morning. So I went public with social media, calling these people out, saying "you guys have a responsibility to let parents know." Like, posting on social media is not good enough. Our neighboring district sends an automated phone call to parents' cell phone, house phone, as well as a text message. Something that sends an alert. Posting on a website does not put an alert to me. But if my phone rings, or if my text message goes off, I get an alert and I know to check it. So I went public and I posted on social media. The receptionist of our school district went online encouraging people to report me to Social Services because I allow my child to walk to the bus stop on her own.

Herman: And she felt to take that upon herself to do that. So let's get into that. You know, you and I talked earlier about the issues that happened at the school board.

Duggan: Yeah.

Herman: Let's get into that story. You and I talked earlier about the issues that happened at the school board. Let's get into that story. How did that happen? You went into the school board, like, head office?

Duggan: Yeah.

Herman: So let's go into that day. What happened? Because I was shocked to hear what went down.

Duggan: Right. So this all happened while I was running for school board trustee. September 22nd, I went into the school board office to talk to the superintendent and there was—I was met by the receptionist who told me that she didn't think that I could go in and see the superintendent, but she would go and check. I waited in the lobby by myself. There was no one else in the lobby. When the receptionist came back, she walked into the room and she was laughing and she said that the superintendent was in a meeting and

I wasn't going to get to see her. She walked over to her calendar to take a look at when I would be able to have a conversation with her next. Now, I was in the administration office because I wanted to have a conversation with the superintendent about these issues that I had just talked to you about: the school buses, ...

Herman: Water.

Duggan: ... the catered lunches. And I just—I had been talking to her over email and I didn't think that text was the right way to get the message across.

Herman: Sure. Person-to-person conversation.

Duggan: Yeah. I just want to say, like, [...] “am I understanding this correctly?” And so the receptionist told me it would be three weeks before I could speak to the superintendent. And by then the election would be over, and I had people in my community that were like, “are you serious right now?” When I'm telling them “we're going on seven years no water. We bought these two buses we can't use. Our hot lunch program has been canceled. Our administration is top-heavy.” So I looked at the receptionist and I said, “No!” and I started to walk. And she reacted in a way that shocked me and I didn't know how to respond. She leapt in front of me, grabbed me and started to push me backwards, screaming I was not allowed to go back there.

Herman: So, assaulting you?

Duggan: Yep. Yeah, full-on. Full-on. Two hands on my shoulders, on my chest, pushing me back. And I said, “hey. You've got three seconds to let go of me. You can't touch me. You can't touch me. You need to let go of me.” And she just kept screaming, “No, you can't go back there.” It was insane. It was insane. So anyways. Long story short, I ended up getting past her, going in, talking to the superintendent in a way that I didn't want to talk to her in, after being elevated by a crazy person. And so, they phoned the police. They—I ended up leaving the administration office *totally* adrenaline elevated. They phoned the police. They told the police that I assaulted the receptionist. A few hours later at home I had a police officer come to my house and arrest me for assault on the receptionist. I told him what happened. I refused to sign his paperwork. I said, “that is not what happened.” He was amazing. He was a really kind man. He stayed at my house for half an hour. We talked about it. I had conditions. So this is the part that made it really hard—

Herman: Conditions by who?

Duggan: By the RCMP.

Herman: The RCMP gave you conditions. What were the conditions they gave you?

Herman: I was not allowed on any [*inaudible*] my child's school. And I was not allowed to go anywhere where the receptionist was, and to have no contact. So no contact means I cannot contact and I cannot have anybody else contact her.

Herman: Okay. Were you arrested: thumbnail [*sic*]; mugshot. Did you have all of that happen?

Duggan: No. Not on September 22nd. I was arrested and released on premises. So what that means was I had—there was no handcuffs. It was very simple. The officer was really kind. It wasn't dramatic at all. And then he explained everything to me. I said, "okay." He left and it was— It took a while for the reality of the situation to sink in ...

Herman: Of course. Of course.

Duggan: ... because I was running for school board trustee and then all of a sudden I'm not allowed on school property. So I was not allowed to participate in any of the debates that happened on the school property. So I missed those debates.

Herman: Doing this affected your running then as a candidate. Hugely.

Duggan: Yeah. *Hugely. Hugely.* So on October 10th, I hired a lawyer because in the beginning I was very naive and thought that I would just represent myself. But then I realized I was way in over my head. So on October 10th I hired a lawyer and on November 8th I had my first appearance in court and we appealed the conditions.

Herman: And we're talking this year. Like, just the last year, right?

Duggan: 2022.

Herman: Gotcha.

Duggan: Yup. So November 8th we appealed the conditions because it just—for a mother to not be allowed to access my child's school is *ludicrous*. It's crazy.

Herman: So you couldn't even go on your child's school grounds?

Duggan: Only to pick her up or drop her off.

Herman: But you couldn't go in school? You couldn't participate in meetings? Like, nothing?

Duggan: [shakes head no] I couldn't go to PAC meetings. I couldn't—Because I'm a stay-at-home parent and I do a lot of volunteer work for my child's class, that was affected because I wasn't allowed. And there was no—like, I wasn't even allowed to tell the kids why I wasn't there anymore. And it really emotionally affected my child. It emotionally affected me. It was a blow. ...

Herman: Of course. Of course.

Duggan: ... It was a massive blow.

Herman: Of course.

Duggan: So November 8th we appealed the conditions because I needed to be allowed back on my child's property—school's property.

Herman: Of course.

Duggan: So that was a little bit wild in court. What I didn't know was when I appealed the conditions I was opening it up for *them* to appeal the conditions as well. The crown counsel.

Herman: Oh, so both sides were able to have it open for discussion, is what you're saying.

Duggan: Yes.

Herman: Okay, so what happened?

Duggan: So, Crown Council is who represented her.

Herman: Okay. Who is her? Are we talking the secretary?

Duggan: The receptionist. The receptionist, yeah. So the Crown Council, they agreed that I would be allowed on my child's school property. So my condition was changed from not allowed on any property to allowed on all property, except for the administration office property. And then they tried to put a weapons ban on me, which [laugh] just, like, painted a picture of the situation that was not realistic at all. There were no weapons involved.

Herman: They're framing you like a terrorist or something in your school community that, "Oh my gosh! You're advocating for kids! Oh, but we don't want you speaking out, and now you're speaking up we're gonna make you look like this."

Duggan: Yeah. They really did a good job of trying to make me look *vicious*. [laughs]

Herman: Vicious.

Duggan: Yeah. So that didn't fly. The judge decided there would be no weapons ban. Weapons were not used. There were no weapons involved in the incident. And then instead of just having no contact on the [sic] receptionist, the Crown Council moved to add six (6) more people to the no contact list.

Herman: Six people. Like who are these six people? Maybe not—not giving names, but six *random* people?

Duggan: No. So six people— [looks off screen] let me, I uh. Sorry.

Herman: Now are these six people, Emily, that work in the school district?

Duggan: Yes. They're all in the administration.

Herman: Okay. Oh, they're all administration.

Duggan: Yeah.

Herman: Okay. And did you have any interaction with these six people previously to any of this?

Duggan: Previously to September 22nd, no. Oh! Interaction only with the superintendent through email.

Herman: So you must have wondered where did these other people appear from? Why are they involved?

Duggan: That's a good question. So the receptionist now is a no contact, the superintendent, the manager of Safe Schools, the executive assistant to the superintendent, the public engagement manager, the executive assistant to the secretary treasurer, and the director of instruction of inclusion education are the seven people. [inaudible] So that means [inaudible] email them. I cannot have another parent email them, or anyone. If I

am in the grocery store and one of those people are [*sic*] in the grocery store, I have to leave. If I am in the video—the movie theater with my family and one of those seven people show up I must leave without saying anything or making any gestures. I can't go to where they work, or where they worship, or where they live. So that's what happened on November 8th.

Herman: This feels like a total target on you. That here you are, being this squeaky wheel. Whistleblowing: this is what's happening in our school district, and trying to get some answers. Trying to advocate for these kids. You know, clean drinking water, food. "Oh my gosh, we gotta feed these kids," right? But we're gonna let the trustees eat their catered meals. And here you are fighting for them, and they're actually against you and saying, "Well, no you can't talk to these seven people. And if you're—" Absolutely insane!

Duggan: It's totally insane because it was during an election and so I couldn't talk to any of these people. [laughs]. It was insane. It was totally insane. So then from—so we accepted that. So those were the new conditions. And then moving forward, I was to show up again in court on December 13th, but the day prior, December 12th, I was to go down to the police department, get a mugshot and be fingerprinted for the file.

Herman: You had that done?

Duggan: So I showed up on December 12th at the police department for my mugshot and fingerprinting only to be informed that my file had been changed from an assault charge to a peace bond.

Herman: What's a peace bond. What is a peace bond?

Duggan: I'm not— [laughs]

Herman: No, just tell us, like, in rough, right? What were your conditions on a peace bond?

Duggan: So we have not gotten that far yet.

Herman: Okay.

Duggan: So basically a peace bond is not a criminal charge.

Herman: So nothing on your file?

Duggan: No criminal record. Nothing.

Herman: Okay.

Duggan: So I didn't need to be fingerprinted or photographed is what I'm told at the police station.

Herman: Okay. That's good.

Duggan: So I leave the police station. Okay, that's great. And I show up to court the next day, December 13th, to talk about—what I think is to talk about this peace bond and what it's going to entail for me. What I was told at the police station by the RCMP members is that a peace bond is generally a 12-month time frame with conditions, and if you

don't break those conditions within that time frame then it just goes away as if nothing ever happened. So I showed up to court on December 13th expecting to discuss the peace bond conditions only to find out that I'm on the docket to appeal my conditions. So I'm very confused. I've talked to my lawyer about it. He doesn't know why. So we go into court. My lawyer informs the judge that we already did that. So court has been adjourned for January 17, 2023 to talk about my conditions for my peace bond. So I am still under no contact with those seven people. Not allowed on administration property. So basically—

Herman: So the main thing I want to ask you is: do you find there's other candidates who were running with you, right—in this campaign there were many—or Community—is anyone stepping forward and supporting you in what you are doing or is everyone going, “no. I don't want to be involved”, and hands off?

Duggan: No. No trustees. No trustees.

Herman: No trustees are supporting you.

Duggan: No. I have support from EAs, teachers, parents, other families' parents.

Herman: The [*unintelligible*] task force supports you one million percent.

Duggan: Thank you. Thank you. So as far as uh all my legal issues, I'm kind of in a standstill until January 17th. And I feel totally like they've placed a gag order on me. I can't have these conversations with anybody in administration, so I've been just going public with the issues and trying to engage the community. And I've been successful at that.

Herman: So one thing I just popped into my mind was that: has this affected your kids at their school with you calling this out and not being able to go on the school grounds? Has this affected them?

Duggan: Yup. So after the incident on September 22nd and I was arrested and I wasn't allowed on my child's school property I really had to step back and take a look at how everything was affecting my family and my children especially. And then [*unintelligible*] in my child's class who [*unintelligible*] formed some pretty good relationships with. Some kids in my kid's class. And just look at how much further I wanted to go into this because I've got a target on my back now. Administration, for whatever reason, they don't want to talk about these issues, it feels like.

Herman: You know what I feel very strongly is that they're trying to silence you, and they're trying to make you, like, making—what's—I can't think of the right word. Make you—set an example. Set an example, right? “Hey. If you talk out in your community this is what can happen to you.”

Duggan: Right. And people already know that.

Herman: And that crap has to stop, right? And this is where we need to gather in numbers to say, [negative] “uh-uh-uh”. No.

Duggan: People already know that because I've got a lot of supporters who own small businesses and quite often I get messages from them saying, like, "keep it up. Don't stop."

Herman: Oh, wonderful.

Duggan: "Don't stop. You're doing good. You're doing good. I'm sorry I can't talk." Coming out of the pandemic we—people who own small businesses can't risk any more boycotts.

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: They just—And it's like it's a double-edged sword. I understand, but we also need more voices.

Herman: Absolutely. So you're going to be having your court case coming up I guess next week ...

Duggan: December 17th.

Herman: ... and kind of—Yeah. Nervous and trying to get all that together. And any last minute things or things you would like to share with parents, or other parents who are listening to this who live in your school area—they must see the similarities—or any parents across Canada? You know, we—there's a lot of parents who are stepping forward and calling this stuff out. So is there [*sic*] any last minute words you have for people who are listening to this today?

Duggan: Yeah. Society is mainly set up so that both parents need to be working, especially with our inflation prices. Everything is so expensive you need almost every person in the home working to be able to afford—just to simply put food on our tables right now. And I get it. Everybody is busy. Everybody is working their butts off. And by the time parents have time to check in with what's going on in our kids' education, they're mentally, physically, and spiritually exhausted from just simply trying to put food on the table.

Herman: That's right.

Duggan: And some families aren't even managing to do that every night right now. And so, I mean, it's really set up against us. I'm a stay-at-home parent and I've made this my number one hobby. To know what's going on in my kids' education and to speak loudly about it. The main feedback I got from running for school board trustee was that people didn't know that they could vote for school board trustees. A lot of people in my community thought you had to be a parent to be able to vote. The truth is if you're a registered voter in your area, you can vote for a school board trustee. And you should. Because the school board trustees, they hold a lot of power in the sense that the children are our future.

Herman: Yeah.

Duggan: And we need to be taking better care of them. There are things going on in our districts with—from elementary schools going with no clean water for seven years, to elevated cultural teachings, which doesn't stop racism. It encourages it to fester and grow.

Herman: It fuels it. It fuels it. Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Duggan: And that's something that's another issue that's been really upsetting to me.

Herman: Well, the rise in violence is becoming apparent in social media, in teacher meetings. They are seeing the rise in violence in kids, and their behavior is rising. And they're like, "Well, we don't know what it's coming from." Like, *seriously? Seriously?* Well, you're the one that's fueling that fire. And of course if you keep putting fuel in the fire it's eventually then a burst.

Duggan: Absolutely.

Herman: Now you are the the aftermath. You're dealing with this aftermath. And I'm sorry if you didn't start the fire in the first place it wouldn't have happened.

Duggan: [affirmative] Mm-hmm. So, yeah. I just—I want to encourage people to get out and vote for their school trustee. I know it happens every four years but, like—I lost. I lost in the election. I got 214 votes and I was beat out by the other—the woman that I ran against, who held the seat for eight years prior. So at the end of this term, she will have held the seat for 12 consecutive years. No one person should hold public office for 12 consecutive years. It's a conflict of interest eventually.

Herman: Mm-hmm. [affirmative]

Duggan: And I think that's where we're at with our school trustee. It's now a conflict of interest. And we don't have any new ideas coming in. So what happens—

Herman: No, they're *fad* ideas. There was a new thing that just came out, Emily, about the CDC, which is the Center for Disease Control, is now involved in schools and telling teachers about the curriculum, the posters, and they have a rating scale. Sorry, why is the CDC involved in teaching and telling teachers what to teach? Because it's called "funding dollars".

Duggan: Yeah. Yeah. It's really messed up. And people are too busy to look at this stuff. They're too exhausted after a 50 hour work week.

Herman: For sure.

Duggan: A 60 hour work week.

Herman: [affirmative] Mm-hmm.

Duggan: So if you can't *run* for trustee, *vote* for trustee.

Herman: And I'm suggesting to all parents, because the election is over, find parents in your community who think just like you. Who are strong and courageous and brave, just like you. And go to these school board meetings. Voice out your opinions. Go to talk to your

MLAs in your area. Go and have those conversations with your teachers and principals, who are the people who are supposed to have the best interests of your kids, and tell them, “No.” ...

Duggan: That’s right.

Herman: ... “We’ve had enough. *We pay your salaries, and you actually have to start listening to us—our needs, our interests—because you, in your school policies—Every parent, I ask that you go into your school district, look into your school policies, and that the trustees actually have roles and responsibilities they have for the community, parents, and students. And they’re not fulfilling those obligations. They’re railroading you.*

Duggan: That’s right.

Herman: And I will ask that everybody speak up. Council meetings, school board meetings. Everybody has to stand up in huge numbers.

Duggan: I agree. And also I would like to let parents know—I’m not sure if this is true for every PAC. I didn’t know. It wasn’t well advertised at all for our PAC, but our PAC pays for babysitters at the school.

Herman: Babysitters for what?

Duggan: So if you show up to the PAC meeting and you bring your kids with you—say you’re a single parent and can’t go because you have a kid who’s too young to stay home alone. Take your kid with you and the PAC will have a babysitter there. Like, I take my kids and they go play in the school gym with a babysitter. So it’s easy to go.

Herman: Yes. Right. You don’t have to—so it’s allowing that door open to that you can still attend because there will be caregiving on the on-site.

Duggan: That’s right. That’s right.

Herman: So there’s really no excuses other than—if you’re not a person who’s boisterous like you, Emily, just to go and sit and listen. That’s all it takes is just to sit, and listen, and read, and if you don’t ask questions then start looking for those answers. Because they are out there.

Duggan: Absolutely.

Herman: If there’s any journalists who are listening to this broadcast and wants to get out, I need your help in getting Emily’s message out loud and clear to everybody. There are many people like Emily across Canada and the United States that are being silenced by trustees and higher ups so that they don’t hear us talking. Because once we start talking, we start learning the other parents and other people, “hey, this is what’s going on” and they don’t want that. So if any journalist, any people who run any articles, podcasts, I highly encourage, please reach out to me I will get you in contact with Emily so that we can get this story out loud and clear. Because no child should go without water. No child should go without food.

Duggan: [nodding in agreement]

Herman: That is a bottom line. That is a *necessity*, food and water ...

Duggan: Absolutely.

Herman: ... and this is just—it's going too far. So I ask everyone who's listening, please reach out. I will make sure that my email will be in the description box and then I will help connect you to Emily so that we can we can get this out loud and clear, and get more people backing you. And I back you, sister ...

Duggan: Thank you [laughs]

Herman: ... in your push and everything that you're doing for those kiddos there.

Duggan: Thanks. Yeah, it's an uphill climb and I'm fully devoted to it because my whole purpose in being a stay-at-home parent was to be able to be there for my kids, and this is how I'm doing it.

Herman: Wonderful. Thank you so much for your time today and sharing what's going on. We'll get this out as soon as we can and get some more support your way.

Duggan: Thank you so much.

Herman: Bye for now.

Duggan: Bye.