



A Passion for Public Education

PROMOTING CITIZENSHIP & LOCAL DEMOCRACY

British Columbia School Trustees Association • AGM 2008

BCSTA Annual General Meeting and Conference

Westin Bayshore Hotel , Vancouver, BC
Thursday, April 3 to Sunday, April 6, 2008

Candidates for Office



BCSTA AGM Candidates for Office

As of March 3, 2008; additional nominations are called for on Thursday, April 3, after the official opening of the Annual General Meeting.

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Connie Denesiuk

School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
Candidate for BCSTA President

My passion for public education brings me before my fellow school trustees, with the desire to support, represent and serve you as your President.

Of course, I say that with great pride, commitment and humility. Being the President of this outstanding organization, representing all 60 boards of education in the greatest province in Canada would, no doubt, be an exciting challenge and opportunity. After all, for so many years, BCSTA has represented the public good and common good of our schools, and has tirelessly advocated for the improved welfare and education of our students.

Now, as I look forward to the coming year, I see the need to continue to build on the best of the past. At the same time, I see the need to continue to develop new opportunities for the future.

Indeed, the *time is right* for that kind of leadership.

The *time is right* to think about harnessing the power of 60 boards so that at critical times we can speak with one voice.

BCSTA must build on the proud history of providing *advocacy, education and support* for trustees and boards of education. Our past presidents have served us very well and have helped to build our organization into one that is respected in our province and amongst our peers across Canada. That affirming message came through loud and clear during the recent Executive Director Search process.

The *time is right* to think about the expanded mandate and to seize the opportunity before us.

There is tremendous opportunity before BCSTA to work with more education partners than ever before. A broader mandate for boards of education opens the field for us to work with other organizations, and – more fully – with established partners. BCSTA has Protocol agreements in place with the Ministry of Education and Union of BC Municipalities, which provide a solid base for co-governance and working together. In my view, it's time to go a step further by *harnessing the power that results from working*



together. I am convinced that working respectfully with others and communicating in a forthright and honest manner is a wise approach, one that is ultimately best for education, and most importantly – for our learners.

The *time is right* to think about the fall election and how we might engage more fully with our communities.

For the first time ever, when trustee candidates head to the polls in November of this year, we will have more than K – 12 education to talk about with the folks in our communities. Early learning and adult literacy add new dimensions to our work, which now has the potential to affect every person in those communities.

The *time is right* to plan for the provincial election in May 2009.

The next provincial election is just over a year away. During the next months we will need to plan a strategy to bring forward important issues that affect students and public education. Provincial elections provide an opportunity to put public education out front and centre, and to reinforce the value of school trustees as co-governors of public education. We must also send the message that we are proud of our students, and we recognize the hard work and dedication of the staff in our districts. That's a message that should often be repeated!

The *time is right* to apply my understanding of the important role of BCSTA in support of public education, towards service as your President.

During the past four years, I have had the privilege of serving as your Vice-President. During that time, I have taken the opportunity to build a solid base of experience and to develop relationships. President Tees has given me full opportunity to join with her at the Learning Roundtable, Liberal and New Democratic Party Caucus meetings, and meetings with Education Minister Bond and Ministry staff. I have had the opportunity to represent BCSTA during BC College of Teachers standards discussions, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils conference, Parent Leadership Seminar Series, BC Teachers' Federation conference, School Plant Officials Association and Association of School Business Officials general meetings, and at the BC Education Leadership Council board table. Penny assigned me to the lead role in our recent Executive Director Search. Folks have told me that they were pleased with the thorough and inclusive process – and more importantly – with the results.

Leadership experience includes:

Provincially:

- ◆ Four years as BCSTA Vice-President
- ◆ Two years as BCSTA Director
- ◆ BCSTA Finance Committee (two years as Chair)
- ◆ Liaison to the BCSTA Education Committee
- ◆ BCSTA Ad-Hoc Policy Review Committee Chair
- ◆ BCSTA appointee to BC Education Learning Council
- ◆ Past BCSTA representative to Certificate for School Management and Leadership Advisory Committee
- ◆ Lead the BCSTA Executive Director Search

Locally:

- ◆ Nine years service as Board Chair
- ◆ Three years service as Vice-Chair
- ◆ Extensive community leadership and involvement
- ◆ Business owner/partner with husband Bob since 1980

The 2008 AGM conference theme, “*a passion for public education,*” puts a focus on what it is that drives us to stand before our communities and offer to serve. It is that passion for public education that drives me to seek your support for the Presidency of BCSTA.

Michael McEvoy

School District 61 (Greater Victoria)
Candidate for BCSTA Vice-President

It has been an honour for me to serve on your Board of Directors.

We are proud to be 60 members strong, encompassing every school district in British Columbia. Our challenge is to maximize our collective wisdom so that BCSTA's voice continues to be heard clearly at a provincial level. The importance of doing so is even greater now that our authority has been broadened to include pre-school, community and adult learners.

As our mandate has expanded, I feel that it is time for me to step forward and ask for your support for the position of Vice-President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association.

As members of BCSTA, we embrace these new responsibilities with confidence. Our membership represents as diverse a group of community leaders as can be imagined. Within BCSTA we have a wealth of experience and skills to match. Whether our districts are rural or urban, large or small, we are united in the task of ensuring that all of our students, whatever their age, are given the opportunities they require to be successful citizens.

We must ensure that co-governance, the critical bond between the province and our boards of education, is strengthened and its full potential realized. This is not an easy task. It requires advocating with diplomacy and a forcefulness of purpose. Whether the issue is changes to our funding formula, meeting the needs of small rural districts, or summer school fees, we have all felt a pressure in the co-governance structure the past few months. We must, however, remain committed to building a positive and productive working partnership with the provincial government if we are to succeed in our mission.

I believe that my experience and judgement would be an asset to BCSTA's advocacy and the ongoing building of an effective working relationship with government.

I am serving my sixth year as trustee; three of those years have been as Chair of the Greater Victoria



Board of Education. I served as a Provincial Councillor and as a member of the BCSTA Finance Committee. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to sit on the First Nations Education Committee. I am a lawyer employed in the public service, active in my community and this year, Vice-Chair of the United Way Campaign. Most importantly, I am a dad of two incredible daughters, one in middle school, the other in high school. I am proud to say that both are receiving the benefits of our great public school education system.

I have a deep and abiding passion for the work we do as trustees. I am grateful for the opportunity that you have given me to serve you and I ask your support for the position of Vice-President of the British Columbia School Trustees Association.

Please feel free to reach me by e-mail at mmcevoy@sd61.bc.ca or by phone at (250) 744-6520.

Teresa Rezansoff

School District 51 (Boundary)

Candidate for BCSTA Vice-President

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond.”
– Fred Rogers

This is the first time in Canadian history that boards of education have been given the responsibility for such a broad spectrum of education. Our voice at BCSTA has been strong and has helped to influence government decisions and directions, but we must be vigilant to ensure that our expanded mandate does not translate into a loss of opportunities for students. Government must understand the impact of its decisions on students and school districts. BCSTA has always operated in a respectful and collaborative manner and it is critical that that same attitude be reflected back to us by government.

In my role as a Director for BCSTA I have visited a number of school districts across the province and I have seen first-hand the incredible diversity. While we all have a common purpose, every district faces very different and specific challenges on a daily basis. English as a Second Language and refugee issues, the complexities of Aboriginal learning, huge growth in some school districts, devastating downturn in others, and recruitment and retention of staff are just some of the issues that boards of education around our province are faced with. I believe that the strength of BCSTA lies in respecting and valuing both our unity and our diversity.

When we take on the position of school trustee we all know the work isn’t about us. I truly believe that life offers no greater responsibility or privilege than the fostering of the next generation. It is something I endeavour to do every day, with my own family, with others around me, in my volunteer work with Special Olympics, and of course through my work as a school trustee and a Director with BCSTA. I feel that if I give my best, I’ll get the best back. I consider trusteeship, my service to BCSTA, a privilege, not an obligation. I am ready, willing and eager to take on a greater leadership role with BCSTA. I respectfully ask for your support as Vice-President of BCSTA.



Leadership experience

- ◆ five years SD#51 Board Chair
- ◆ four years BCSTA Director
- ◆ three years BCSTA Finance Committee Chair
- ◆ two years BCSTA Education Committee Chair
- ◆ six years Regional Coordinator and Provincial Leadership Council member for Special Olympics BC

Melissa Hyndes

School District 43 (Coquitlam)
Candidate for BCSTA Director

My name is Melissa Hyndes and I'm seeking re-election for a third term on the Board of Directors. I'm a second-term trustee on the Coquitlam Board of Education and have just completed four years as Chair of the Board. I live in Port Moody and am married, with three children, ages 19, 17, and 14.

Besides being a Director of BCSTA, my other experiences with BCSTA include being Coquitlam's Metro Branch Representative for five years; being appointed to the Legislative Committee for two years, the last as Chair; and a member of the Finance Committee for the last three years. My background in education comes from volunteering at the school level for nine years and being the PAC Chair for three years. I then turned my attention to the district level and sat as an executive member of DPAC for six years, the last two as President. I continue to volunteer at the school and municipal level as much as my schedule will allow me.

There have been many changes to public education this last year: new legislation, our new expanded mandate, and most recently the mid-year funding changes that took us all by surprise. It continues to be clear to me that trustees need to be supported by a strong provincial organization that advocates for and supports boards of education around the province. I believe the Board of Directors needs to continue to advocate and voice the concerns of its members while working collaboratively and respectfully with all education partners.

A strong BCSTA Board will give school trustees the voice we need to continue the important work that we do: the important work of ensuring students of all capabilities have the right to an education that enhances achievement, shaping productive and responsible citizens.

I am committed to working at the BCSTA Board of Directors' table to advocate and support boards of education because I believe more than ever that the integrity of local boards and the public education system is always and forever will be our common goal and the priority of the entire province.



I am asking for your support in re-electing me as a Director on the BCSTA Board of Directors.

George Maclagan

School District 72 (Campbell River)
Candidate for BCSTA Director

Hello, I am George Maclagan, and I am seeking your support in my desire to be elected to the Board of Directors of the British Columbia School Trustees Association.

As the Chair of the Board of Education for School District #72, Campbell River, I have witnessed and faced many challenges since first elected in 2002.

My district, no different than yours, has had to navigate many of the same issues, school closures, declining enrollment, parental demands and the ever-moving goal posts of school funding.

Throughout these many and continuous challenges it has been the strength of locally elected leaders that has guaranteed the continued success for students in the public education system.

Now, more than ever, leadership will define who we are as an organization.

Will we stand up and fight for public education?

Are we able to forego personal alliances and face the challenges that are coming towards us with a united and collective voice?

Can we manoeuvre through an environment of changing political priorities, expanded mandates and shrinking funding?

Now is the time to define who we are as an organization.

Do we stand on the principles, shaped by the values we bring as strong locally elected leaders?

Or do we go quietly into the night, made irrelevant by our silence?

We are charged with the responsibility of developing students for an unknown tomorrow. Leadership will shape our tomorrow and shape student success in British Columbia.

It is my belief that *"Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail."*



Together, with strong leadership and foresight from BCSTA, we will ensure student success and the health of the public education system in British Columbia.

Diana Mumford

School District 41 (Burnaby)

Candidate for BCSTA Director

School trustees provide valuable educational leadership at the local level, but also must speak with a strong, unified voice provincially through BCSTA. Trustees must work together, both locally and provincially, to make schools and the public education system the best that it can possibly be.

We, as trustees, can accomplish that with a broad focus and understanding of more than just our own local issues. With knowledge and commitment, we must seek the answers that can address the extensive array of issues, challenges and successes for boards throughout the province. Those issues are continually changing and refocusing, so BCSTA must remain constantly vigilant to make sure that our voice is heard. Decisions made by other levels of government should not negatively impact our ability to meet the needs of the students in our districts, both individually and collectively.

Trustees at both the local level and provincially must continue to raise the visibility and profile of trustees. We are proud of what we do for the students in this province, whether that be to enhance and support existing programs, make program improvements, or provide new and interesting educational opportunities. We should celebrate our success in providing good public education and continue the work to engage public support and understanding of our endeavours.

I bring a variety of skills and experiences to the position of Director for BCSTA. In my "past life" I was a primary teacher, but left that role to take on the challenge of raising four children, while teaching Cake Decorating in Adult Continuing Education for 15 years. For me, four children resulted in 19 years of involvement in the public school system. During that time, I was involved in PACs and the DPAC in many executive positions. I also served as a Provincial Director on the BC Confederation of Parent Councils for two years.



I am in my sixth year as a trustee in Burnaby, my second term as a BCSTA Director and an active member of the Metro Branch and the ESL Consortium. Past commitments have included involvement in BCSTA's 2007 English as a Second Language Forum, President of the Metro Branch, Branch Representative for the Education Committee, and Provincial Councillor. As well, I represented BCSTA on the InterMinistry Committee for Youth Violence and Crime. I now attend as a BCSTA representative on the Institute for Safe Schools Advisory Committee, as well as representing BCSTA in meetings/events such as Library 2020, ESL Literacy, and Student Mental Health in Schools.

I have a strong passion for public education and the vital role of school trustees in this province. I seek your support in allowing me to continue to serve as a Director for BCSTA.

Raymond Raj

School District 82 (Coast Mountains)
Candidate for BCSTA Director

BCSTA is an advocacy group for all our 60 school districts to promote and advocate for free education for all. But are we doing enough?

Hello! I am Raymond Raj and I am declaring my candidacy for BCSTA Board of Directors because I believe that I have much to offer to fulfill our mandate.

I will bring a variety of experience to the BCSTA Board of Directors:

- ◆ Vice-Chair, Kitimat Library Board
- ◆ Chair, Kitimat & Area Health Council
- ◆ Chartered Member, Canadian Rural and Remote Health Association
- ◆ President, Kitimat/Terrace & District Labour Council
- ◆ Financial Secretary, Canadian Auto Workers Local 2301
- ◆ Chair and Fundraiser, The Arthritis Society of BC and the Yukon
- ◆ Director, Kitimat Community Skills Centre
- ◆ Member, Advisory Planning Commission
- ◆ Member, Kitimat Family Court Committee
- ◆ Instructor, Job Smart in High Schools
- ◆ Instructor and Investigator, Human Rights in the Workplace
- ◆ "Evidence Based Decision-Making," Royal Roads University, Victoria
- ◆ "Leadership and Governance," Royal Roads University, Victoria
- ◆ Chair, Joint Rio Tinto Alcan and CAW Human Rights Committee
- ◆ Executive Councillor, BC Federation of Labour
- ◆ Provincial Councillor, Coast Mountains Board of Education (School District 82)

I was elected as a school trustee in 2005 for the Coast Mountains Board of Education. We face many



challenges in the North, and I believe that, being a 32-year resident of Kitimat, I have much to offer.

At our last Provincial Council meeting in February, the question about representation from the north, rural and remote areas came up again. Normally, people from these areas do not want to become Directors because they have to subsidize themselves to attend meetings, and secondly, they are not confident that they are going to get the support of the urban school districts.

I would like to bring a **POSITIVE CHANGE** to BCSTA. With your support, **WE CAN** bring that change. Support Raymond Raj for a better, strong and united BCSTA.

Roxanne Ricard

School District 57 (Prince George)
Candidate for BCSTA Director

Nearing the end of my first term as a trustee, I see more clearly how imperative it is that we keep education focused on the students. As a parent of four, I know that our future depends on providing the next generation with the best chance for success but sometimes we get distracted with the minor details and forget about the larger picture. I want to help ensure that our educational system remains vital and effective.

Serving as a Provincial Councillor for the past three years I have continued to learn and develop personally and professionally, actively participating at the local, branch and provincial level. I believe we need to model life-long learning and demonstrate how important it is to “engage in the discussion.” I recognize that communication is a dialogue and in order to be successful at our jobs we must know how to listen and voice our opinions.

I am committed to the work we do as trustees. Dedicated and reliable, I am not afraid to question the status quo because at times it is necessary to reflect and ask ourselves why we do what we do. If the decision-making process is collaborative, by giving each district the opportunity to voice their views, we will continue to be a strong organization. I will bring a fresh, enthusiastic perspective to this task.

With a new Executive Director and a new President we will be experiencing a time of transition. We will need to ensure we stay focused on supporting all of our districts in ways that are relevant to them. We need to recognize that each district has unique challenges and needs to be supported in different ways. Our BCSTA can be strengthened if we include representation on the Board of Directors from all regions of the province. If elected I would provide a strong Central Interior and Northern perspective.

The issues that the BCSTA must continue to address include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Our expanded mandate—what does this additional responsibility mean for boards of education, practically and financially?



- ◆ The Ministry’s Authentic Accountability Framework—what is working and what isn’t working?
- ◆ The implementation of daily physical activity in our schools and the New Healthy Food Guidelines—what does this actually look like in our schools?
- ◆ The ability of locally elected school trustees to exercise their authority to make decisions that are relevant and support their districts’ uniqueness—how can we support and enhance the co-governance model?
- ◆ Recruitment and Retention—the challenge is evident, what can we do collectively?

Education is never static. It continues to evolve so we need to be able to look ahead, adapt and modify our approach. I am committed to assisting BCSTA, its staff and its members to plan for the future while dealing with the current issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts and I hope you will recognize the value of having a voice from the north on the Board of Directors.

Relevant Experience

- ◆ Provincial Councillor (3 years)
- ◆ Chair – Education Programs and Planning (2 years)
- ◆ Member
 - ◆ Management and Finance (2 years)
 - ◆ Education Services (1 year)
 - ◆ Scholarship Committee (3 years)
 - ◆ Spirit of BC Committee
- ◆ DPAC Chair
- ◆ PAC Chair – Elementary and High School

Linda Sewell

School District 60 (Peace River North)
Candidate for BCSTA Director

Education is my passion. Passionate voices for public education initiate change. Change, when fully embraced, will shape our future. Our future depends on the collective choices we make for education.

It has been an honour and a privilege to **serve as trustee for the past two terms** in Peace River North District #60. **My life's passion has been education and personal development** and so I am excited to consider being involved as an **advocate for the professional development of trustees.**

I have served my board for five years as a Provincial Councillor, helping to shape the BCSTA directives before the BC Ministry of Education, and **I have served as Chair and Vice-Chair for our board over the past six years.** We need a strong voice of advocacy at this time, more than ever, and I am ready to share my wisdom and experience on behalf of trustees around the province to ensure that the elected representatives have a voice that is both heard and respected by the Minister. **It is essential that locally elected boards maintain the autonomy to provide the diversity and opportunity for excellence in public education in their respective districts.**

I offer you my honesty and transparency as well as that of sound and prudent financial management. I consistently find my way to positions of trust with finances, serving most recently on the **BCSTA Finance Committee and as Chair of my district's Finance Committee.** Number crunching is not necessarily my passion, but it is one of my gifts, and an asset when good fiscal management is a priority.

I also have the strength of connectedness; we are individuals responsible for our own judgements, but together we become an important part of a much bigger picture. **A unified voice builds bridges to new frontiers. I am a good listener and I look forward to being an advocate for all boards.**



I am excited about the vision of contributing my best to the leadership of BCSTA, participating in board discussions and being a part of the synergy of generating ideas and representing districts in collaborative decision-making. **It is my desire to bring my strengths of wisdom and decision-making to the BCSTA Board.**

Mankind inherently embraces security and opposes change, yet to prepare our children for a future we cannot envision, we must get comfortable with the idea of change. **We need an education system that can be flexible and respond to the rapid pace of change that we face – socially, technologically and in environmental sustainability.** I echo John Abbott's sentiment that we want to create citizens who are the best for the world, not just the best in the world!

In considering the position of Director, **I can commit to you my time, energy, strength and persistence.** It would be a privilege and honour to represent you, the trustees of BC, and act on your behalf to make for a strong and responsible BCSTA.

Gordon Swan

School District 58 (Nicola-Similkameen)
Candidate for BCSTA Director

Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, is quoted as saying, "The most beautiful sight in the world is a little child going confidently down the road after you have shown him the way." The greatest joy for us as trustees should be to help show the students who are entrusted to us the way. We do that through our local board tables and through our advocacy as the BC School Trustees Association.

As school trustees we are all leaders within our communities. We were the first to bring student achievement to the forefront and we are the ones who most clearly understand the expectations our communities have for public education. We are the heartbeat of public education.

Last year you put your trust in me with election to your Board of Directors and I have worked hard to be a solid voice in advocating for concerns and issues from across the province. Whether it was English as a Second Language (ESL) issues, changes to the funding formula, the maintenance of school bus routes, limiting the scope of appeals, First Nations graduation rates, modifications to the Anaphylaxis Framework, to name a few issues, I have been there for you.

This year will continue to present more challenges and opportunities for our organization. Opportunity will continue to come as we work our way through our new mandate and new responsibilities. As always, our advocacy has to ensure that all new responsibilities are funded and that appropriate information is taken into consideration in the funding allocation. We must never shy away from these opportunities to partner with the Ministry and with partner groups in our communities. However, we must always ensure that funding is in place to ensure success of any new programs and that the funding is from dollars that have been added to the system.

We have two big challenges in this our trustee election year. Our first challenge will be to regain our voice outside of the trustee community. While trustees know who we are and what we do, it seems



that a significant portion of the general public is in the dark. We must find new ways to spark the interest of that general population, including those who do not have children in the public education system.

The second challenge is to improve the consultation and communication between BCSTA and the Ministry of Education. The new Deputy Minister has heard us loud and clear on what a co-governance partnership is supposed to be. It is now up to us hold the Ministry to as much accountability as they hold our collective boards of education.

I am of the firm belief that no matter how we slice the education pie, if the students, who are our future, are not at the forefront of our discussion, then the rest is meaningless. At the end of the day it comes down to them and it always will. Our deliberations should always be about the students, and what's in their best interests for a brighter future.

Thank you for your support in my candidacy for BCSTA Director.

Trustee Experience

First elected in 1996. Serving fourth consecutive term in SD58.

Current Trustee Involvement:

- ◆ Board of Directors, BCSTA
- ◆ BoD Representative, BCSTA
- ◆ Aboriginal Education Committee

- ◆ Aboriginal Teacher Educational Consortium, FNEESC
- ◆ Education Partners' Group
- ◆ Vice-Chair, School District 58
- ◆ Finance Committee Chair, School District 58
- ◆ PAC Trustee Representative, School District 58
- ◆ Assistant Governor, Rotary International District 5060, 2004-08

Past positions held:

- ◆ Vice-Chair, BCPSEA
- ◆ Director, BCPSEA Finance Committee
- ◆ Director, BCPSEA Pensions and Benefits Committee
- ◆ Director, BCPSEA Governance Committee
- ◆ District Representative Okanagan Labour Relations Council
- ◆ Chair, School District 58
- ◆ Member or Chair of various District committees –Technology, Negotiations/Labour Relations, Education, Buildings and Grounds, Health and Safety
- ◆ First Nations Education Council
- ◆ Vice-President, Okanagan Branch, BCSTA

Community Involvement

- ◆ Governor, Board of Governors, Simon Fraser University, 1980-1981
- ◆ Firefighter, Training Officer, Deputy and Fire Chief, Stewart BC, 1983-1987
- ◆ Secretary and President, Stewart/Hyder International Chamber of Commerce, 1985-1987
- ◆ Treasurer, Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce, 1988-1989
- ◆ Vice-Chair and Chair, Community Futures Development Corporation of Nicola Valley, 1990-1995
- ◆ City of Merritt, Access Awareness Committee, 1993-1994
- ◆ Member and Director, Merritt Rotary Club, 1990-present
- ◆ District Communications Officer, Rotary International, 1995-2001 / 2002-08
- ◆ President, Merritt Rotary Club, 1998-1999
- ◆ President, Nicola Valley Health Care Endowment Foundation, 2005-07



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