

# **BC School Trustees' Association 2021 AGM – VanBuskirk Report to SD83 Board of Education**

## **April 15-18, 2021**

### **Thur. Apr. 15 5:00-6:30pm Meet your 2021/2022 Board Candidates**

The Candidates' Forum consisted of 3 parts: Candidate Speeches; Questions Shared in Advance; Questions Not Seen Before

### **Fri. Apr. 16 8:30-12:30 Opening Ceremonies and Business Session**

O Canada – Laura Tielker, SD44 North Vancouver



Indigenous Welcome – Mr. Alex Campbell – Tsimshian First Nation Elder



BCSTA President's Address – Stephanie Higginson



BC Minister of Education – Jennifer Whiteside

### **Business Session – part 1 until 12:30pm Friday**

Credentials Committee Report – accepted and carried

Legislative Committee Report – accepted and carried

Election | 2020/2021 BCSTA Board of Directors

President: Stephanie Higginson (acclaimed)

Vice-President: Carolyn Broady (acclaimed)

Directors (elected): Tim Bennett, John Chenoweth, Tracy Loffler, Rick Price, Donna Sargent

Debate & Vote on | Extraordinary Motions – Completed (#1-5)

Pause to acknowledge BC Trustees who are no longer with us.

Debate and Vote on | Substantive Motions – Part 1 Completed (#6-8)

**Fri. Apr. 16 1:00-3:00 Celebrate Public Education, Student Presentations, Keynote Speaker Carole James**

Student Presentation – SD23 Music Feature – song and dance



Keynote Speaker Carole James (former BC Deputy Premier, BC Finance Minister as well as past BCSTA President)

*Ms. James fielded questions from the eight branches of the BCSTA and touched on a number of topics in current public education and the co-governance roles of school trustees such as: building effective relationships; working with Local MLAs, municipalities and Indigenous leaders; equity of opportunities; challenges of covid and the road ahead; funding issues in the education sector; advice to emerging leaders.*



**Fri. Apr. 16 3:00 Continuation of Business Session – Part 2**

Debate and Vote on | Substantive Motions – Part 2 Completed (#9-14)

## **Sat. Apr. 17 8:30am-12:00pm Continuation of Business Session Part 3**

Welcome song Vermilion Forks Elementary School (Princeton)



## **Debate and Vote on | Substantive Motions – Part 3 Completed (#15-25)**

Example: #18 100% of voting trustees in favour that we advocate that wait times for students' assessments be reduced.

### **AGM 2021 - Meeting Status**

[Meeting Overview](#)

73 items to vote scheduled

344 eligible voters and 282 confirmed

Results for: 18 - Wait Times for Assessment - Carried

To carry a motion, greater than 50% of validly cast ballots are required

235 validly cast ballots = 118 or more In Favour carries the motion

| In Favour  | Against |
|------------|---------|
| 235 - 100% | 0       |

Motion Carried

That BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Ministry of Education to reduce wait times for assessments for children who have been identified with neurodiversity such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and Sensory Processing Disorder in the public education system.

**Special:** 11:45 Swearing-in of elected & acclaimed BCSTA Board.

## **Sat. Apr. 17 12:00-1:00pm Branch Brunch**

Branch Brunch – Networking over the lunch break with school districts in the Thompson-Okanagan Branch. Also branch business meeting.

**Sat. Apr. 17 1:00-3:00pm Celebrating Public Education and Speaker Andy Hargreaves**

1:00pm Celebrate Public Education with OK Mission Secondary, Okanagan Symphony Youth Orchestra, Kelowna Secondary music presentation and welcome.



1:15pm Speaker Andy Hargreaves – Moving: Rethinking Educational Inequality: Before, During and Beyond the Pandemic – equity, mobility and diversity

Facilitator: Kevin Godden – Superintendent of Abbotsford School District



*Andy Hargreaves' teaching and research at Boston College concentrates on educational change, performing beyond expectations, sustainable leadership and the emotions of teaching. Andy lives in Canada now and continues as an author in the educational field.*

Some captured quotes from the Q & A session:

"Class has many colours – not just one."

"What we've learned during the pandemic is that our essential workers, the working class, are important to our society – grocery store workers, bus drivers, farmers, healthcare workers, educators and more."

"Class is an important source of identity."

"Class can bring these identities and experiences together – in search of an inclusive, Canadian identity."

"Post-pandemic important developed skills: communication and learning via technology, collective professional judgement."

"There is prevalent hatred towards Asian-Canadians when at one point, Asian-Canadians were considered privileged."

"'Black Lives Matter' has galvanized all ages, races, all identities - it's an issue of inclusion – it's a learning opportunity."

"Lesson from the pandemic: agility and being prepared for the next pandemic is imperative."

Kevin Godden – “We’re waiting for the school district to do “tangible action” – the real work, not just the “feel-good work.”

Things we’ve learned from the pandemic:

“Prosperity over austerity; collaborate meaningfully; view what the pandemic has changed for us – more digital, and in some cases, more physical (i.e. outdoor learning and physical literacy.)”

“These new skills that we have required due to the pandemic can be strengthened even more to apply to post-pandemic times.”

3:00-5:30pm Debate and Vote on Substantive Motions – Part 4 Completed (#26-42)