



ABBYSCHOOLS

LEADERSHIP



THIS YEARBOOK'S

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

The Abbotsford School District is governed by an elected seven-person Board of Education. Board members serve as School Trustees and are responsible for the education of over 19,000 students in our community. School Trustees sit on a number of school district and community committees, and act as liaisons to specific schools in the district.



Shirley Wilson
Chair
Board of Education

I was first elected in November 2005 and have survived six elections. Before that, I spent one year - not telling which one, at Abby Senior. I was not allowed to cross the stage. For at least three decades, and until 2022, I was the only trustee on the board who had attended school in Abby.

I love my dog, daughter, and husband. I am Vilomah. I love wine, and we travel for food.

Fun fact: I was a certified but not licensed Private Investigator.

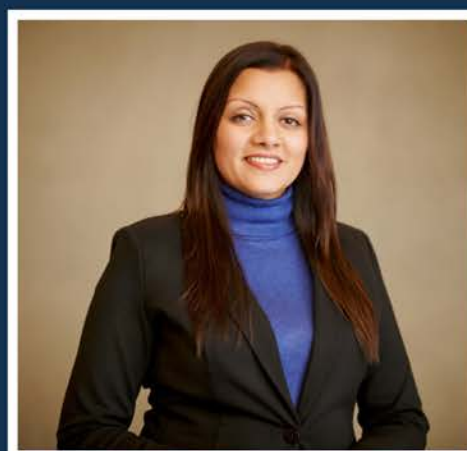
Liaison Schools: Rick Hansen Secondary, W.A. Fraser Middle, Aberdeen Elementary, Blue Jay Elementary, Dave Kandal Elementary, John Maclure Community School and Sandy Hill Elementary



Preet Rai
Vice-Chair
Board of Education

One of my Hobbies - I have all National Geographic magazines from 1915.

Liaison Schools: Yale Secondary, Chief Dan George Middle, Bradner Elementary, Margaret Stenersen Elementary, Mountain Elementary and Ross Elementary



Rupri Kanda-Rajwan
Trustee
Board of Education

My first term and second year as a Trustee.

I enjoy the outdoors, sitting at a beach and having coffee with family and friends.

Fun fact: I never thought I would run in an election....so never say never?

Liaison Schools: Abbotsford Traditional School, Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts – Sumas Mountain Campus, Clearbrook Elementary, Godson Elementary, Mathxwí Elementary and South Poplar Traditional Elementary



Korky Neufeld
Trustee
Board of Education

16th year as a trustee.

I was born in South America and our family immigrated to Canada in 1964. I come from a family of 10 children, 7 brothers and 2 sisters. I have been married to Cynthia for over 40 years and we have 4 children, and 2 grandchildren. All 4 of our children graduated from Abbotsford Public Schools. I love fishing, golfing and time with family.

Liaison Schools: Abbotsford Senior Secondary, Clayburn Middle Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts - North Poplar, Alexander Elementary, Barrowtown Elementary, Mt. Lehman Elementary and Prince Charles Elementary.



Stan Peterson
Trustee
Board of Education

Liaison Schools: W. J. Mouat Secondary, Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle School, Centennial Park Elementary, Dormick Park Elementary, King Traditional Elementary and McMillan Elementary



Mike Rauch
Trustee
Board of Education

Liaison Schools: Bakerview Centre for Learning/New Beginnings, Eugene Reimer Middle School, Abbotsford Virtual School, Dr. Roberta L. Bondar Elementary, Harry Sayers Elementary, Irene Kelleher Totí:ltawtxw and Ten-Broeck Elementary



Liaison Schools: Robert Bateman Secondary, Abbotsford Middle School, Auguston Traditional Elementary, Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary, Jackson Elementary, Semá:th Elementary and Terry Fox Elementary

Jared White
Trustee
Board of Education



SENIOR LEADERSHIP

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

The Senior Leadership are the individuals who oversee the district's operations and drive its mission forward. These leaders are responsible for making critical decisions that impact the entire district, ensuring that our schools have the resources and support they need to succeed. Their strategic vision and commitment to excellence are central to our district's ongoing success.



Bruce Cunnings
Assistant Superintendent
CORE

I started in the Abbotsford School District in October 2023. My previous school district was New Westminster, where I was the Director of Instruction – Learning Services. Abbotsford is the fourth school district in my education career.

I spend much of my free time mountain biking and skiing, as well as spending time with my wife and two daughters.

Fun fact: During my university years, I spent three and a half months living in Mali, West Africa.

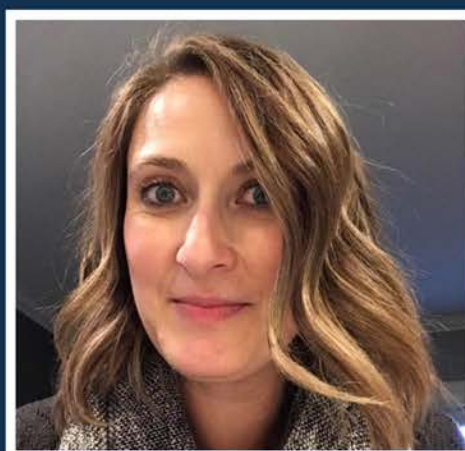


Greg Forbes-King
Director, Facilities & Transportation Services
Facilities

I have been here 8 months and closer to 1 year by August.

Vege gardening #1 hobby and running #2!

Fun fact: I once participated in a cross-country distance race from Squamish to Whistler and tried the Gran Fondo from Vancouver to Whistler.



Michelle Gehring
Director of Instruction
CORE

I joined the district in 2005 after moving to BC from Alberta, so that puts me at 19 years with the district.

My favourite pastime is watching my son play hockey. I love to travel and have visited 35 countries.

Fun fact: I am an avid reader and have read for fun at least once per week for 190 weeks in a row!



I have been with the district for less than one year.

I enjoy gardening, cycling, baking, and animals.

Fun fact: My dream is to own an acreage with my husband and have 57 dogs (so far we are at 3).

Trish La Framboise-Lo
Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
School Board Office



I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 8 years. Professionally, I am passionate about student voice and our equity work.

In my free time, I enjoy the outdoors doing a variety of things (hiking, gardening, and biking).

Fun fact: I am a fairly proficient handyman, having done a number of larger home renovation projects.

Nathan Ngieng
Deputy Superintendent
School Board Office



I have been with the Abbotsford School District since July 2023 and am excited for year two.

I enjoy nature and all kinds of physical activity – especially Ashtanga Yoga. I also enjoy photography, espresso, and all things food.

Fun fact: I ran with the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain and lived to tell about it.

Sean Nosek
Superintendent/CEO
School Board Office



Karman O'Brien
Director, Information Technology
ITC

I have been with the district for almost 10 years.

I enjoy gourmet cooking (worked as a cook for 3 years) and have a serious Pickleball addiction.

Fun fact: I am a WSET Certified Sommelier.



Jay Pankratz
Assistant Superintendent
School Board Office

I have been with the district for 25 years.

I love to play tennis with my wife and golf.

Fun fact: I lived in California for 7 years.



Monica Schulte
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
School Board Office

I joined Abby Schools in August 2022 so am just finishing my second year in the district. I am a numbers girl, having received my CPA, CA designation in 1997 with BDO Dunwoody. In 2001 I began my career in education as a Finance Manager and then Director of Finance in the Central Okanagan school district. Since then, I have been a Secretary-Treasurer in the Kootenay Lake and Saanich School Districts, only to discover that my love for numbers and focusing on the work of the Finance Department is where my heart is. The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer role is where I am meant to be.

Outside of work, I love gardening and cooking and, for the last several years, have been putting together a cookbook of my favourite recipes.

Fun fact: I recently acquired an electronic keyboard and am reviving an old skill (my household is pleased that I also purchased headphones).



Ray Velestuk
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
School Board Office

I am starting my 15th year with the district. I have been a Secretary-Treasurer for 32 years and really, really, really enjoy golfing!

Fun fact: I have an identical twin brother (who is 10 minutes older)



Donna Wright
Acting Director of Instruction
School Board Office

I have been with the school district since 1992.

I love to ride horses, bikes, ski and hike - to be outdoors. I have 3 amazing grandchildren who bring so much joy to my life; they make me laugh, and just thinking of them puts a smile on my face.

Fun fact: I have ridden horses since before I could walk, I started riding all on my own when I was 3 years old. I still have horses and ride regularly.



OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Our Operations Management keep our district running smoothly behind the scenes. These individuals manage everything from facilities to technology, ensuring that our schools are safe, efficient, and well-equipped to provide an optimal learning environment. Their work is vital to the day-to-day functioning of our district.



Walid Alieldin
Systems Administrator
CORE

I have been with the school district since January 2023, managing Clevr, our digital forms platform, and Brightspace, the learning management system used at AVS and some secondary schools. My entire career has been focused on providing support in technology implementations for education.

In my free time, I enjoy riding bicycles on the road or in the mountains.

Fun fact: I had ten bikes in four countries at one point in the last five years.



Pam Alzona
Manager, Financial Services
School Board Office

I have been with the school district since 2019 and recently moved to a new role in Finance.

I enjoy spending time camping with my family in the spring and summer and watching reality tv with my dog and cats in the colder months.

Fun fact: I listen to almost everything at double speed, so nobody wants to watch things with me (TV shows, meetings, TikTok).



Marlee Bassani
Communications Coordinator
School Board Office

I've been proudly serving our school district for nearly a decade. Throughout these nine years, I've not only grown professionally but also nurtured my personal passions.

I'm an avid soccer and beginner golf player—while soccer keeps me active, my golf game is more about 'fore!' than scoring under par, but I'm working on it! Off the field, I cherish the moments spent with my family and love to spread joy among my friends by sharing the latest laughs from TikTok.

Fun fact: This past year, I've been channeling my creativity and determination into building my dream home—a thrilling journey that's as rewarding as it is challenging!



Kathryn Bekkering
Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office

I live, work and play in my hometown of Abbotsford. My first experience started at Abbotsford Elementary and continued in several schools until graduating from Abby Sr. (only a few decades ago). After working in the library system and local government, I joined the school district 5.5 years ago.

My family life has been enriched with the arrival of two beautiful grandsons. If I'd known how delightful grandchildren are, I'd have had them first! After family, travelling, gardening, forest and flowers are my passions - I love our planet!



Laura Lee Billing
Theatre Manager
Abbotsford Arts Centre

2024 is the 19th year of this theatre manager's job at the Abbotsford Arts Centre. Since arriving, I have rescued 2 chihuahuas (one at a time), purchased a 1950's house with the lowest counters imaginable, buried one parent and purchased 5 vehicles. With the Board's consent, the name of the theatre was changed from Abbey Arts Centre (2% of clients spelled abbey correctly) to Abbotsford Arts Centre.

Nothing is worse than being bored.



Lisa Burdeyney
District Principal, Human Resources
School Board Office

I have been with the district since 1994.

Love animals, nature, hiking, and anything on or in the water. I am a mad knitter (think Babs in Chicken Run) and have two different coloured eyes. So, a witchy knitter?



I have been with the district since 2002. I love working with international students and partners.

I am interested in photography and food :)

Elizabeth Cho-Frede
Manager, International Program
School Board Office



Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of being part of this incredible team.

While my work keeps me busy, I also wear the hat of a typical dad—devoting much of my time to my two kids. Recently, I've embarked on an exciting journey: pursuing my MBA to expand my knowledge. On weekends, you'll find me immersed in writing papers and hopefully, I get more time to go exploring trails and Forestry Service Roads with our quads.

Brian Davies
Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office



I've been with the district for 13 years and enjoy fly fishing and woodworking.

Derrin Demaer
Manager, Purchasing
School Board Office



Justin Edwards
Manager, Structural & Grounds
Facilities

I have been with the School District for 14 years; first as a Carpenter, then Foreman and now Manager.

My hobbies/interests include hiking, hockey, traveling, learning to play golf and family time.

Fun fact: I am a citizen of 3 different Countries.



Nathan Eunson
Manager, IT Security & Compliance
ITC

I have been the Manager of IT Security & Compliance for the past 5 years, having been with the Abbotsford School District for 7 years.

I enjoy BBQ and smoking outside of work.

Fun fact: I hate black hoodies (that's a cybersecurity joke).



Kristi Ferguson
Senior Manager, Communications
School Board Office

I am brand new to Abbotsford School District as of July. I have been working in marketing and communications for my entire career, and in the non-profit sector for the past 15 years. I'm so looking forward to meeting everyone and doing great work together.

I'm married to an Assistant Fire Chief and we have two sons, plus a rescue pup. My sons play (a lot of) baseball and basketball, so when I'm not at work you'll usually find me at a diamond, gym, or training facility somewhere. In my spare time, I love to walk and dance as much as possible!

Fun fact: I was a torch bearer during the 2010 Winter Paralympics, a moment I'll always treasure.



Shelly Frost
Senior Manager, Budget & Student Demographics
School Board Office

I have worked in the Finance Department for almost 13 years.

My hobbies include spending time outdoors, photography, and canning. I grew up in Abbotsford and attended four schools in our district.



Stacey Hagkull
Senior Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office

I've been with the district for 2.5 years.

I love hiking on our local hills, exploring surrounding areas, and happy hours with friends who have become family.

Fun fact: I love driving, learning how to drive stick in a field in Alberta when I was 12 years old. I also love speeding and, lucky me, have been able to get out of more speeding tickets than I've had issued to me.



Adrienne Harley
Senior Manager, Financial Services
School Board Office

I've been a part of the district for 12 years, wearing various hats along the way. My journey began in Accounts Payable, and from there, I transitioned to Payroll. My passion for numbers led me to Finance, and then to Management. I hold a CPA, CGA Designation which reflects my expertise and commitment to excellence. Recently, I completed Certificate of Advanced Data Management, enhancing my skills in handling complex data sets and making informed decisions. When I'm not crunching numbers, you'll find me pursuing my hobbies. There's something serene about gliding across the water on my paddle board, soaking in the beauty of nature and the sun. I have 2 cats that are my children, spoiled! Whether it's a jigsaw puzzle or a brain teaser, I love the challenge of piecing things together. Cross Stitching and painting, both meditative and rewarding while unleashing my creativity. I'm always up for a chat about finance, data, or trading puzzles and the latest cat memes! 🐾🧩🧠



Dietrich Huber
Manager, Electrical
Facilities

I'm new to the Abbotsford School District.

Outside of work, I have a few hobbies that keep me busy and inspired. I love hiking and exploring the great outdoors – there's something about being in nature that refreshes my spirit. I also enjoy water sports. In the winter, you'll find me hitting the slopes, as skiing is one of my favourite activities.



Jun Kim
Systems Analyst/Programmer
CORE

I've been with the school district for 17 years, and I spend about three months a year camping, mostly in tents. It's my favourite hobby! I try to shed pounds every year, but my body's like, 'Nah, we're good!'



Albert Klade
Manager, Custodial Services
Facilities

I have been with the district for 34 years.

I have five children, some grandchildren and enjoy a little golf now and then.

Fun fact: I used to cook for a living



Robert Kroeker
Manager, IT
ITC

I have been an IT Manager since 2023 and have been with the district since 2021.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife and two children, especially during the summer on camping trips.

Fun fact: I spend more time thinking about my hobbies than working on them, evidenced by a project car that I've been working on since before my children were born.



Janet Loewen
Feeding Futures Coordinator
CORE

The 24/25 school year will be my second year with the District as the Feeding Futures Coordinator.

I am married with three (mostly) grown children and two dogs. In my spare time, I enjoy walking the dogs, reading, watching the Blue Jays, and spending time in Oroville, WA, where I was born and raised.

Fun fact: When I retire, I'd like to become a Panda Nanny.



Rose Mann
Homestay Coordinator, International Program
School Board Office



Becca Marais
Executive Assistant
School Board Office

I am new to the school district as of April 2024. Previously, I worked for the Ministry of Children and Family Development for 10 years.

I have lived in Abbotsford these past 5 years but grew up in Chilliwack. I have two children who keep me on my toes. I enjoy connecting with my kids whether we are outside or doing a craft. Every year me and my family like to go camping. One of my favorite things to do in the summer is canning which I have taught myself to do. I enjoy trying new recipes and new things. This year I have started to dehydrate fruit to add to drinks.

Fun fact: I have been to Disneyland 5 times.



Cheryl McLeod
Executive Assistant
School Board Office

District Experience? (10 elem, 1 middle, 13 secondary, 11 SBO [3.5 Secretary-Treasurer's office, 8.0 HR/Educ]).

Fun facts: If we all operate like the 'carebears', the world would be a much better place! (Note to self; if grumpy, don't wear carebear t-shirt in public.) Nothing better than my morning coffee in the backyard, listening to the birds sing and the sprinkler watering the veggies, while all the neighbours and grandkids are still snoozing!



Cathy Meeres
Manager, Facilities Operations
Facilities

I've been with the Abbotsford School District for 5 years. My role during this time has included overseeing the Facilities office, CMMS, Community Use/Rentals, Delivery Services and most recently Operations, AFG and Minor Capital project budgets.

My hobbies include spending time with my family and anything outside including hiking, walking, biking, gardening and maybe some travelling soon!



Kate Muir
Senior Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office

I have been with the district for two years.

Outside of work, I spend my time with my family and friends, cycling, hiking, swimming, and exploring the outdoors. I am also completing the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration through SFU.

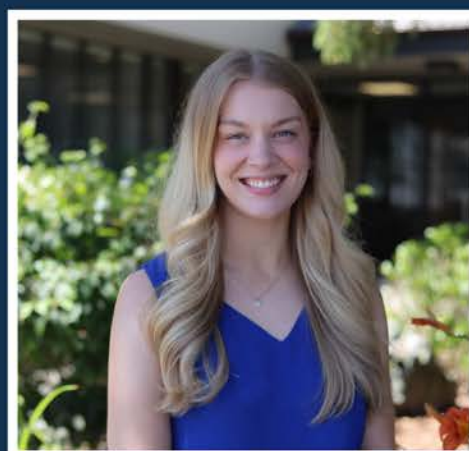
Fun fact: by 7AM I've already cycled for 90 minutes or more on training days, also known as Type 2 Fun.



Tracy Orobko
Executive Assistant
School Board Office

Over 19 years and across three school districts, I've learned to embrace change and seize opportunities by leaving my comfort zone.

I'm an avid adventurer exploring life off-grid especially in the breathtaking South Cariboo. Whether mountain or dirt biking, ATVing, fishing, or just being on the water, I thrive in outdoor therapy! There's nothing quite like winding down with lakeside campfires with family & friends and the call of the loons - it's my ideal way to end a day. Seeking new experiences keeps life exciting. After all, when was the last time you did something for the first time? 😊



Beth Penney
Executive Assistant
School Board Office

I started with the Abbotsford School District in June 2024. I look forward to my future here and building relationships with each of you.

Beyond work, I enjoy spending time outside with my family, friends, and Australian Shepherd, crafting, and trying local cafes and restaurants.

Fun fact: I am a retired Starbucks barista which led to my love for coffee.



I have been with the district for about 5 years with experience in a variety of sectors, both public and private. I bring attention to detail, enthusiasm, support, high-level communication, and problem-solving skills, with a partnership mindset to create an engaging approach to wellness and safety.

I love being in the gym or outdoors; I am a die-hard Canucks fan and enjoy all competitive sports.

Manveer Phagura
Senior Manager, Occupational Health & Safety
School Board Office



I have been with the district for 3 months.

I enjoy golf, hockey and the outdoors.

Aaron Portman
Manager, Mechanical
Facilities



Dave Ryder
Manager, Student Recruitment
School Board Office



Andrea Senft
Manager, Childcare & Early Learning
School Board Office

I have been with the Abbotsford School District Since 2006, first as a contractor, then as an employee. Passions: Community engagement, early learning, and live music. I believe in the power of early learning. It sets the foundation for lifelong success. Advocating for quality childcare and educational programs is my mission. The new childcare mandates hold promise for positive change.

Fun fact: I am a Live Music Lover! I've attended over 100 live concerts, from legendary bands like the Rolling Stones to country superstar Kenny Chesney. Music connects people, just like education does.



Corissa St. George
Executive Assistant
School Board Office

I've been with the district for nine years and love supporting K-12 education behind the scenes. It's also been nine years since my husband and I uprooted our family from Manitoba and made BC our new home as part of a new life adventure! Our kids are grateful for the move, and although it was risky, we can't imagine living anywhere else now. We love to explore in our Jeep, hike, walk our river trail that's right out our front door in Chilliwack and keep adding to our list for future road trips – "Never stop exploring" and "Always take the scenic route" are our mantras! I've been lucky enough to be married for 23 years to a most patient, fun and kind husband and we have three of the greatest, kindest and most empathetic children.

Fun fact: I started taking dance lessons when I was 3 - ballet, jazz, baton, and tap. I became a dance teacher when I was a teenager and kept teaching into my mid-20s!



Patrick Taylor
Manager, IT Infrastructure
ITC

I have worked for the district for 3 years.

I grew up in Kelowna. I love the outdoors, hiking and fishing. I love to camp whenever I get a chance. I am married with 3 great kids who have completed their post-secondary educations and settled into their careers. My wife and I recently discovered "cruising" and have a cruise booked for later in the fall. I grew up studying and playing music, both classical and jazz. I have played semiprofessionally prior to getting married. Now I mostly play for fun and play most styles.

Fun fact: I am legally allowed to drive anything!



Teresa Wertman
Manager, Payroll
School Board Office

I have been with the district for almost 9 years, previously at Mission School District for 8 years and Surrey School District for 3 years. This has been the best place I have ever worked.

I have been married for 36 years to my best friend and have a beautiful and talented daughter. I have a Catahoula dog and a black cat. I enjoy kayaking, camping, swimming, biking and just being in the wilderness having fun with family and friends.

Fun fact: I just love living life to its fullest!



Rebecca Yeam
Coordinator, International Program
School Board Office

I have been in the district for about 22 years, working for the international department.

In my free time, I enjoy reading books and listening to insightful lectures on YouTube. Lately, I've been exploring the art of minimalism, seeking to simplify my life. I feel blessed to work in a place that allows me to grow continuously and also to connect with amazing people from around the world.



DISTRICT PVP'S

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

The District PVPs (Principals and Vice Principals) features the dedicated leaders who are at the forefront of educational leadership. Their leadership is essential to fostering academic achievement and personal development for every student in our district.



David de Wit
District Principal, Safe Schools
CORE

I have been a principal in the school district for 18 years.

I love all kinds of outdoor activities (mountain biking, fly fishing, trail running, backpacking, canoeing, and more), woodworking, and spending time with family and friends.



Allison Gardner
District Principal,
Indigenous Education
CORE

I am a member of the Métis Nation and have mixed ancestry on my dad's side – mostly Irish and Scottish. I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 6 years with a different role each year. Before that, I taught in the Surrey School District for around 10 years.

My husband and I live in Arnold and have three kiddos together. I'm an outdoors person – canoeing, paddle boarding, hiking, and out on our hobby farm with pigs, chickens, cows and bees. The bees are my favourite (they smell much better than the rest).

Fun fact: I was a provincial-level wrestler in high school (and can still be quite feisty when that momma bear instinct is released).



Tracy Kryz
District Principal, Digital Learning
CORE

I've been with the district for 7 years. The previous 18 I worked in Durham District in Ontario.

I love to knit, be outside in nature, read, and watch my kids play soccer and basketball.

Fun fact: I have three dogs. 🐕



Michael Pearson
District Vice Principal
CORE

I have been with the district for 27 years, working at W.J. Mouat, Abbotsford Senior, Rick Hansen Secondary, Bakerview Centre for Learning, and Career Programs.

I enjoy fishing and watersports.

Fun fact: I am a Red Seal Carpenter

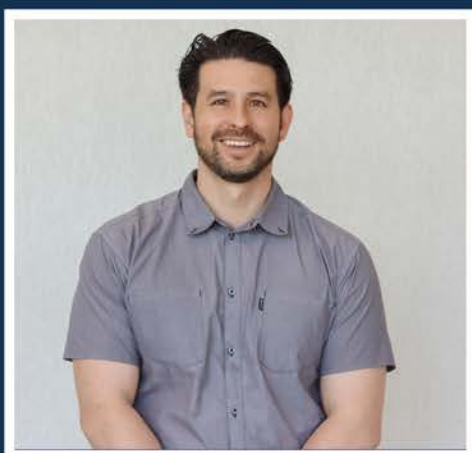


Lynette Power
District Principal, Language & Settlement Services
CORE

I have been with the Abbotsford district for 17 years.

My hobbies include gardening, painting, and cake decorating; however, I spend most of my days writing papers.

Fun fact: I have a visual arts degree which seeps into many aspects of my daily life.



Galen Soon
District Principal, Learning Support Services
CORE

I have worked with AbbySchools since 2019 as VP at Clayburn, Acting Principal at Bradner, Principal at Semá:th, and Acting District Principal of LSS.

I enjoy exercising, gardening, and a good hike.

Fun fact: I once watched 52 movies in theatres in a single year!



ELEMENTARY LEVEL

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Paul Allanson
Principal
Prince Charles Elementary

I am excited about joining the Abbotsford School District this year. I have been an educator for 21 years in Mission and Chilliwack. I have been a vice principal for the last six years, and before that, I taught Humanities and Physical Education in Middle School. A passion of mine is coaching, and that is one of the reasons why I went into education. You will often find me in the gymnasium or on the field.

I enjoy playing hockey, basketball, golfing, and camping with my family!

Fun fact: I was a model when I was four years old.



Tyler Baruta
Principal
Godson Elementary

I have been with the district for 18 years.

I enjoy gardening! I'm an Oilers fan!



Michelle Basran
Principal
Barrowtown Elementary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District since 2001 and an administrator for 6 years.

My hobbies and interests include hiking, running, training for and competing in hunting retriever trials, and spending time with friends and family.



Janet Bauer
Vice Principal
John Maclure Community School

I've been with the Abbotsford School District for 10 years. During that time, I've had the privilege to work and learn alongside some incredible teams and wonderful individuals.

I am a momma to 4 awesome kids; they are my everything. Hobbies and interests: SUMMER!

Fun fact: When I was in grade 4, Terry Fox was training for his Marathon of Hope. Part of his training route was alongside us as we walked to school down loco Road in Port Moody. At the time, we just thought he was a guy with a funny leg and an interesting step-walk.



Janet Beattie
Vice Principal
Blue Jay Elementary

This is my 20th year with the school district.

I'm married with two athlete boys who keep me busy as a chauffeur for all their sports! I also like coffee, sushi, running, and reading great fiction.

Fun fact: I had one magical year with three generations of my family in one school~ My Dad was working as the counselor; I was teaching; and my son was in Kindergarten!

Less of a fun fact: I can slip my shoulder out of socket without warning, thanks to a volleyball spiking injury.



Jennifer Bennato
Principal
Ten-Broeck Elementary

I've been with the Abbotsford School District since 2005 as an LSS Teacher, Counsellor, Helping Teacher and Administrator.

I love to run and hike with my dogs.

Fun fact: I was, once upon a time, an Air Canada Flight Attendant!



Debbie Chenier
Principal
Jackson Elementary

I started in Abbotsford School District in 1999 and have taught in Atlanta, Georgia, for 2 years, an administrator in Fort Nelson for 3 years, then in Abu Dhabi for 8 years. Rejoined Abbotsford in 2019.

Hobbies include fishing from pontoons, golfing when hip allows, being with family and puzzles.

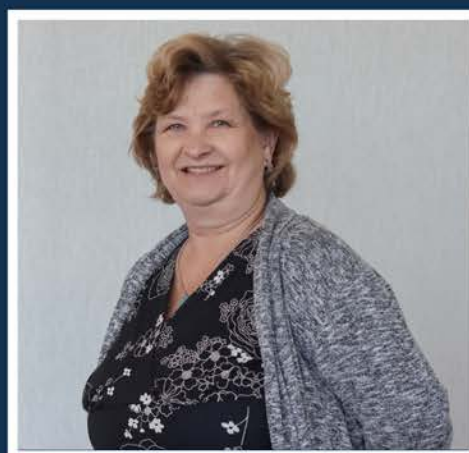
Fun fact: I was personally invited to the Sheikh's Palace in Abu Dhabi for World Education Day.



Sergio Chiappetta
Vice Principal
Clearbrook Elementary

I have 17 years of experience in the Abbotsford School District, teaching various grade levels and serving in leadership roles. I completed a Master of Education in Educational Practice from Simon Fraser University in 2017, focusing on inquiry-based curriculum and creating a sense of belonging in the classroom. I have also served as a School Associate for Teacher Education Programs, which has inspired me to pursue educational leadership roles.

Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my family and going outdoors, and travelling and spending time on the slopes during the winter months. During the summer I am always looking for opportunities to explore more of the natural wonders that our province has to offer!



Fay Christie
Principal
John Maclure Community School

I have worked with the Abbotsford School District for 24 years in many different elementary schools. I have been an Administrator since 2012.

I have many interests, including grandkids, family, horseback riding, riding my E-bike, crocheting and crafting on my Cricut. I have been married for 38 years and have three grown kids and three grandkids!



Ryan Colbert
Principal
Harry Sayers Elementary

I have worked in the Abbotsford School District since 1998 (26 years). 8 years as a teacher and the rest as a Vice Principal and Principal in Middle and Elementary School. I have taught all grades (K-12) and have worked in every catchment area. I enjoy golfing, camping, travelling, kayaking, watching sports, and spending time with family and friends.

Fun facts: I have competed in a retro video game World Championship on 2 occasions (NHL 94, SEGA), played football at UBC, and have completed two Spartan Beast races.



Chelsea Elliott
Principal
Semá:th Elementary

I started working for the Abbotsford School District in 2017 as an LSS teacher at Harry Sayers. I previously worked for the Chilliwack School District in the Imagine Program.

In my spare time, I play slo-pitch, attend hot yoga classes, go paddle boarding and chauffeur my daughter around to all of the various activities she signs up for.



Cathy Erickson
Principal
Sandy Hill Elementary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for the last 11 years. I was a principal in Mission before coming across the river and taught for many years in the Boundary School District. I love to read, garden and quilt. Our 2 kids and 3 grandchildren keep us busy as well.

Fun fact: I taught in a one room school for many years... good training for becoming a principal!



Victoria Fehr
Vice Principal
Margaret Stenerson Elementary

I have been working in the Abbotsford School District since 2017- teaching at ASIA North Poplar and then starting as a Vice Principal in 2021, after completing a M. Education from WWU. I have a background in Music and Early Literacy.

I spent one year living and working in Istanbul, Turkey and loved my time there. I enjoy hiking, cycling, travelling and spicy food! Additionally, I enjoy spending time on the Sunshine Coast, where my sister and her family live. My husband and I have a Keeshond dog who we adore.

Fun fact: My dream would be to be on the Amazing Race/ Amazing Race Canada, but unfortunately wasn't selected for the most recent season.



Joseph Frew
Vice Principal
Godson Elementary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 6 years.
Hobbies and interests - soccer, sun, conspiracy theories and board games.

Fun fact: I have a Black Belt in procrastination. ...I still have to go pick it up.



Cameron Friesen
Principal
Mathxwí Elementary

I can't remember that far back. Stone ages! 30 years I've worked for the Abbotsford School District. 8 schools and counting.

Fun facts: I like to golf and sing but always at different times. My beautiful wife is from Southern California. I always sleep on the left side of the bed. I play hockey left but golf right. I lived on the 49th parallel (American and Canadian border) for 8 years. Yes, you heard it right. Physically on the borderline.



Anita Heitz
Principal
Mountain Elementary

I have worked for the Abbotsford School District for the past 17 years, 13 of which were spent as a middle school teacher before transitioning to an administration role for the last 4 years.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, paddle boarding, exploring new destinations through travel, and immersing myself in a good book.

Fun fact: I moved to Guatemala for a year when I was 18.



Andrea Hoewing
Vice Principal
Harry Sayers Elementary

I have been working in the Abbotsford school district since 2016 as an elementary LSS teacher. Prior to working in the public sector, my experience included working in multiple private schools, teaching short-term ELL groups, and teaching students with exceptionalities within the home learning system.

I enjoy camping and kayaking with my family, but the forest fires over the last few years have put a bit of a damper on those summer activities. I also love curling up with a good book when it is rainy and miserable outside.

Fun fact: I completed training up to grade 9 in the Royal Conservatory for piano (although I am now very out of practice now and can no longer play at that level).



Erica Hopkins
Principal
Clearbrook Elementary

I have been with Abby Schools since 2005. First as a teacher, then as an elementary VP, and now as an elementary principal.

I love to travel the world at every opportunity I get. Outdoor activities bring me joy. So does a good book and a great glass of wine.



Tyler Horner
Principal
King Traditional Elementary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for about 15 years. I spent most of my teaching career at the Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts (Sumas Mountain Campus) and am now Principal at King Traditional.

Fun fact: I am likely one of the only members of our PVP community who has served as admin at all 3 levels (Elementary, Middle, and High School) and two of our district programs (Arts and Traditional).



Christine Jordan
Principal
McMillan Elementary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District since 1993. I worked most of my career as a primary teacher, becoming a VP in 2016 and Principal in 2018.

When I am not working, I love quiet types of activities like reading, doing puzzles and knitting, but I also love kayaking (really, any type of floating water activity!), biking, and travelling. I have travelled to many of the States as well as Mexico, across Canada, Tahiti, France, Japan and Thailand. My husband and I are road-trippers and love to be in a new place each day. However, I also love my backyard deck. Our kids, ages 28, 25 and 24, have become independent and productive members of society, so my next life goal is grandkids!



Shannon Kenney
Principal
Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary

I have been with the school district for 7 years, spending time at Clearbrook, Jackson, and Swift.

I enjoy outdoor activities, reading a good book, and watching a good murder mystery show. The South Okanagan is one of my favourite places to visit!



Rachel Lack
Principal
ASIA - North Poplar Campus

I have been working in the Abbotsford School District for 18 years. I love adventures and exploring the world with my family. I also very much enjoy snacks.

Fun fact: I have a great ability to know the lyrics to most songs and I will happily sing with you :)



Maralee Lincoln
Principal
Mt. Lehman Elementary

I have been with the district for 23 years and I taught kindergarten for many years at ASIA North Poplar. I went into administration seven years ago.

I have many hobbies, but my favourites are painting and hot yoga. Spending time with my family is most important to me and I enjoy talking to my daughters about their adventures in Irish dance and university.

Fun facts: I have a cat and I was obsessed with Shakespeare at one time in my life. When I was a kid, I figure skated competitively and modelled in Asia in my late teens. I love making art, costumes, and amazing food!



Victoria Lorieau
Principal
Dr. Roberta Bondar Elementary

I have been with Abbotsford for about 5 years now.

I have three young kids, and I enjoy running, cooking and spending time with my family.



Lee Magis
Principal
Margaret Stenerson Elementary

I started in Abby in 1998, then worked in Maple Ridge for 9 years from 08-17 before returning as a VP at Howe.

I have volunteered for PADS for 15 years and have trained more than 10 service dogs. My wife and I own a farm in Lake Errock where we raise goats and chickens and grow flowers and veggies. I am famous for my organic Spicy Dill Pickles that sell off our farm cart & at the Deroche Farmers Market.



Shannon Manky
Principal
South Poplar Traditional Elementary

I have worked for the Abbotsford School District for 13 years (Teacher for 7; PVP for 6).

All my favourite things involve spending time and making memories with family and friends: card games, board games, canoeing, biking, and just relaxing together.

Fun fact: I believe with great conviction that folded potato chips are far superior to unfolded.



Suzi McClelland
Vice Principal
McMillan Elementary

Suzi's creative flair shines through in her unique yearbook bio submission. She's put a fresh spin on it by setting her story to the iconic tune of 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.' Click below to check out Suzi's catchy and fun lyrics that perfectly capture her vibrant personality!

[CLICK HERE](#) 



Reena Nahal
Vice Principal
ASIA - North Poplar Campus

I have been with the School District for 17 years. Teaching grades K-4, PE, and LSS.

I enjoy spending quality time with my two children, friends and family. I enjoy travelling, exploring, new adventures and experiences. On my down time you can find me enjoying a good book, catching up on the latest TV show, or swimming.

Fun fact: I can drive a semi-truck.



Scott Peters
Principal
Blue Jay Elementary

I've been with the district for 31 years this January. I have had the good fortune to have worked at both the elementary and middle school levels as both a teacher and administrator. I have always loved getting to know the families at my schools and am happiest spending time with young people who are excited to learn and help others at our school.

I enjoy fishing as well as golfing when I'm not at work.

Fun fact: my wife works in Hawaii, so I get a lot of free coconut coffee to take to school.



Kari Petzold
Principal
Terry Fox Elementary

This year marks my 25th year in education! My first 14 years were in Surrey, and for the past 11 years, I have been with the Abbotsford district - first as an LSS teacher, then as an LSS helping teacher, and then as admin.

I love spending time with my family, gardening, crocheting, and being at the ocean. I also love to travel and can't wait for the next adventure!



Sharon Phillips
Vice Principal
Sandy Hill Elementary

I began my teaching journey in Surrey in 1999. In 2018, I made the move to Abbotsford, where I have continued to make a positive impact on students' lives, teaching K-5 and recently taking on a new challenge as a school administrator. One of my key interests lies in outdoor learning. I believe in the power of nature to inspire curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking in students.

Outside of school, I enjoy pursuing my hobbies, including synchronized skating and gardening.



Tara Plantinga
Principal
Alexander Elementary

I have been with the district for 18 years.

I love to hike, camp, do building projects with AI, read and I just took up crocheting! Being out in nature is my happy place.

Fun fact: I coached gymnastics for 20 years, taught kinesiology students at UFV how to teach gymnastics for 10 years and I think I can still walk on my hands, but it's been a while since I've tried!



Shelley Portas
Principal
Irene Kelleher Toti:ltawtxw

I have been an educator since the 1900s with more than the past decade as a principal in Abbotsford.

My children are now starting their 20s and my husband and I are proud of who they are becoming. I love spending time with my family, walking in the woods, and anything that has water on the horizon... though I'm not a huge fan of boats! I love taking photos and hope to explore this hobby so that one day I can quit my day job and sell my photos. Until then I will continue to come to school, the place I've always wanted to go!



Baljit Sekhon
Principal
Dave Kandal Elementary

I've had the good fortune of experiencing three different school districts; Quesnel, Chilliwack, and Abbotsford.

I have been living in Abbotsford for 16 years and 13 years in the district. I love athletics, the outdoors, and golf.



Kam Sidhu
Principal
Bradner Elementary

I have been with the school district for the past 15 years. I have taught ELL, LSS, LLC, and every grade from K-5 while working in the Abbotsford School District.

I enjoy photography, travelling, time with loved ones, music, concerts, books and a great cup of chai.

Fun fact: bears are my favourite animal.



Kris Sward
Principal
Auguston Traditional Elementary

I've been a Principal in the Abbotsford School District for 2 years now. Previously, I was a VP and teacher in Chilliwack, where I still live with my family.

I love the sunshine and when it's nice out you can find me walking the various trails in Chilliwack, kayaking on Cultus Lake or just sitting in the sun enjoying the view and a great book!



Shannon Thiesen
Vice Principal
Ten-Broeck Elementary

I just completed my first year as VP at Ten-Broeck Elementary. Before that, I taught Grade 4/5 in the Abbotsford School District for 12 years and was VP of Summer Explorers for 2 years.

I have a second career as an artist and have exhibited my work locally and nationally. In my spare time, I love going outdoors and painting en plein air, travelling to new places and learning new languages.



Melanie Trudeau
Principal
Centennial Park Elementary

Bonjour! I have been working in the district for 10 years now as a teacher, learning support and admin. I moved here from Niagara Falls where I taught there for 10 years.

I love my dog, the outdoors, reading, knitting and plants. My summers are spent on a bateau or working in my yard.

Fun fact: I met my husband in Mexico at the lobby bar of our hotel 12 years ago and we've been inseparable ever since!



Kristen Vogel
Principal
Ross Elementary

I have been with Abbotsford School District for two years.

I love the outdoors, especially cycle touring, kayaking and hiking.

Fun fact: I owned a restaurant for several years and the day I found out I was pregnant with my first child I had someone walk in and tell me they wanted to buy it.



Andrea Wildeman
Principal
Dormick Park Elementary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 24 years. I started as a TTOC, did a few temp positions and ended up with a continuing contract teaching Grades 5 & 6 at Aberdeen Elementary. During my time at Aberdeen, I taught grades 4 to 7 and had two sons. In 2019 I went back to school to pursue my master's in educational leadership from Western Washington University. I was the VP at Sandy Hill for two years, and now I am the proud principal of Dormick Park Elementary.

I love gardening and can spend hours tending my flowers and veggies.

Fun fact: I tap danced for many years as a child, and was quite terrible at it :)



Melissa Wilsdon
Principal
Aberdeen Elementary

I've been working with the district since 2008 and have worked in 11 schools, plus summer school admin for 3 years.

In my free time, I love spending time with my family, reading and travelling.

Fun fact: I'm a big Star Trek fan...proven through our family rabbit named Tribble, the Star Trek logo on our wedding cake and vows taken directly from Captain Picard's wedding speech.



MIDDLE LEVEL

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Jamie Beck
Principal
Chief Dan George Middle

I've been in the district since 2001 and spent the first 12 years of my career teaching at Abby Middle School before moving into an Admin role. In my former life as a teacher, I was a basketball coach and the Athletic Director. Sports have always been a big part of my life.

I'm married with two sons. Both of my sons play baseball and my biggest hobby in the past few years has been coaching them when they were younger and then enjoying sitting in the stands and watching them play. I like sunshine, warm weather, golf, and spending time with my family.



Nick Cochrane
Vice Principal
Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle

I have been with the school district since 2005. I spent 11 years teaching middle school and 8 years as a VP in 4/5 middle schools.

My hobbies include hockey, outdoors, mountain biking, fishing, and gardening.



Suzanne Dallas
Chief Dan George Middle

With 19 years in education, 8 in the Abbotsford School District, 3 as an administrator, I'm committed to shaping young minds.

Outside my daily duties, I tutor in the evenings to support kids' success. I value time with my spouse, enjoying laughter and companionship. Knitting and gardening are my hobbies, offering tranquility and connection with nature. My journey blends education, compassion, and personal fulfillment.



Shawn Davids
Principal
Coleen & Gordie Howe Middle

I am starting my 27th year in education but my first full year in Abbotsford! When I'm not busy molding the minds of our youth and leading teachers to greatness.

I love spending time with the family at our cabin. I am a proud father of four and husband of one! My passions are golf, poker, the Seahawks and the Canucks.

Fun facts: I've been a contestant on The Price Is Right, sang O Canada for the BC Lions and Vancouver Grizzlies and won \$10,000 on Roll Up The Rim!



Chayne den Ouden
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Middle

I've been with the Abbotsford district since 2018.

My time outside of work is kept busy with two little kids. I love to travel and have been to 56 countries and counting. I've taught in Abu Dhabi, Libya, and Taiwan.

Fun Fact: I gave birth to my daughter on the lawn outside of the hospital.



Reg Gabriel
Principal
Clayburn Middle

I have been in the district for 32 years. I taught at Yale Secondary School in 1992 for 10 years. In 2002, I started as a VP at Rick Hansen, then at Mouat briefly before becoming a Principal at Eugene Reimer in 2011 and then ATMS/ATSS/ATS in 2016. Early on as a VP, I developed a passion for staff collaboration, collective teacher efficacy, and approaches to RTI to help students learn. I have been a coach since my university days. I played ultimate frisbee for Canada in 1990 at Worlds. I coached Jr. & Sr. ultimate for 17 years at Yale & Hansen and along the way coached teams that won BC Championships, Canadian National, and USA National levels. For the past 10 years, I have coached hockey for my 3 kids' teams.

My current hobbies are driving my kids to sports, making up adventures for D&D, and playing Fallout games.



Dean Johnston
Principal
Eugene Reimer Middle

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for more than 25 years. I started out at Elementary School for my first 5 years before moving to middle school.

My time outside school is spent helping coach my son's baseball teams.

Fun fact: In my early twenties I traveled around the world for a year. I visited more than 17 countries in 12 months. On my most recent trip I summited Mt. Kilimanjaro.



Rebecca Kandal
Acting Vice Principal
Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle

I have been with the district for 19 years. Most of my career was at Abbotsford Traditional (Middle), and for the last 6 years, I have been a Curriculum Helping Teacher for ELL.

I enjoy golf, cycling, paddleboarding, and pickleball - or anything outdoors that's fun and doesn't feel like exercise. I lived in San Jose, California for a short time and volunteered at a local middle school through a community outreach program. When I returned to BC, I applied to the UBC Middle Years education program and have worked "in the middle" ever since.



Graeme Kemp
Vice Principal
William A. Fraser Middle

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 18 years.

I enjoy reading, going for walks and working in my yard. I grew up in Coquitlam and Port Moody and went back to Douglas College at age 27 to start my post-secondary work, graduating SFU with my bachelor's (and my first son) at age 32. I am the proud father of 2 boys, and have been happily married to my wife for 28 years.



Ian Levings

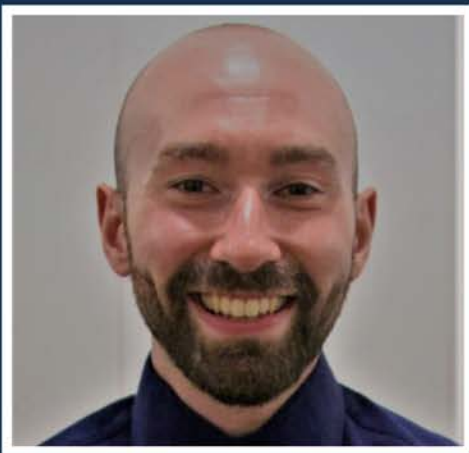
Principal

William A. Fraser Middle

I have been with the school district for 25 years in many school based administrative roles. I have a background in special education. I have spent my career in middle school and I love it! I teach at UFV as an adjunct instructor.

My hobbies are fishing and back country camping.

Fun fact: Have driven the most northern road in Canada to Inuvik, NWT.



Paul Luongo

Vice Principal

Clayburn Middle

I began my journey in education by completing a Bachelor's in Music with a minor in Music Education at the University of Victoria. After completing my Bachelor's in Education, I became a certified teacher in Spring 2013 and began my career in the district, teaching music at ASIA Middle & Secondary Schools. The music program reached award-winning status while providing engaging, meaningful educational experiences for students to grow as musicians, learners, and people. In December 2021, I completed a Master's in Educational Leadership & Administration. In August 2023, I was appointed to my current position as a VP at Clayburn Middle. Outside work, I am the Musical Director of the Langley Ukulele Ensemble. If you don't see me leading a group of ukulele players on stage or abroad, and you don't blink for a spare second, you can find me as the "ukulele-playing soldier" in War for the Planet of the Apes or in my happy place playing golf.



Gurpreet Mahil

Vice Principal

Abbotsford Middle

I have been in the Abbotsford School District for 1.5 years, previously serving as the VP at Clearbrook Elementary School. Prior to joining the Abbotsford School District, I was a teacher at Langley Secondary School for 15 years. I was a Physical Health Educator and LSS case manager.

I enjoy golfing, playing & coaching soccer, travelling, and spending time with my family.

Fun fact: My family has been farming in Abbotsford for over 50 years. Hit me up for all your berry needs!!



Michelle Myers
Vice Principal
Eugene Reimer Middle

I began in the district since 2002 and have taught at secondary and middle levels and was a Career Programs helping teacher at CORE.

I enjoy crafts, reading, and walking my German Shepherd with my husband.

Fun fact: I have been to Las Vegas 7 times, including earlier this summer.



Heather Reid
Principal
Abbotsford Middle

I have been with the district for 25 years. I started teaching at Simpson in a specialized pull-out program (comprised of 10 spirited boys) who taught me patience and the importance of kinesthetic learning. I then moved to Fraser, taught grade 3 and gained an appreciation for elementary educators. At Fraser, I found my passion for working with students who require additional support in Learning Services at the middle level. After obtaining a master's in counselling psychology, I moved into administration. Due to the energy, sense of humour, awkwardness, and creativity middle-aged students possess, I thoroughly enjoy interacting with students at this age level.

Outside of school, I enjoy walking, reading, card games, and especially love playing Texas Hold'em poker.



Rovi Sandhu
Vice Principal
Eugene Reimer Middle

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 8 years.

Outside of work, I enjoy moments with my family, often taking my kids to their various activities. Prior to my teaching career, I gained experience in both the retail and financial sectors.



Nerlap Kaur Sidhu
Vice Principal
William A. Fraser Middle

I have been working in Abbotsford District for 20 years. I love to innovate and co-create with students and put new ideas into the world that have not been done before to make the world an even better place. I enjoy learning and adding value to whatever role I am in. I enjoy improving when feedback is given and through self-reflection.

I absolutely love running trails and skiing/snowboarding because it is so peaceful and quiet. I see challenges as opportunities to grow and learn from

Fun fact: I ride horses and river raft:) Community building and giving back to others is a part of my identity and my favourite part of being in the field of education.



Elizabeth Smoes
Vice Principal
Clayburn Middle

I have been with the school district since 2005. I started as a high school English teacher and then transitioned to a middle school LSS teacher in 2016. After a couple of acting vice principal assignments, I became the vice principal at Howe Middle School in 2022 and am now currently working at Clayburn Middle.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, crocheting and spending time with my family.

Fun fact: I danced in the Royal City Youth Ballet Nutcracker production when I was a teenager.



SECONDARY LEVEL

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Travis Bell
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Senior Secondary

An AbbySchools grad, I've been working in the district since 2011, moving into administration in 2019.

In my free time, I love travelling, golfing, and spending time with family and friends. In July I spent some time in Europe, visiting Berlin, Vienna, Prague, and Budapest.



Jennie Bell
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Senior Secondary

This is my 7th year as an administrator and my 15th year in the district.

I love to cook for friends and family, often spend time daydreaming about summer swims in the ocean off the sandy beaches of my Savary Island cabin and crave the joy and deep belly laughs that come with conversations with friends about the crazy journey of life, parenting, kids, and everything in between.

Fun fact: I have 5 siblings, and I am the oldest by 10 years.



Katie Caines
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Senior Secondary

This is my first 'official' year in the district, though years ago I worked as a TTOC in Abbotsford.

I have twin 19-year-old daughters. I love reading, I follow Formula 1 racing, and I enjoy travelling with (and without) my kids. I don't have many fun facts, but I'm a huuuuuge Star Wars nerd and I collect Star Wars 'stuff'.



Carla Campbell
Principal
Abbotsford Senior Secondary

This September I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 41 years!

I love spending time with my family, my friends and my dogs. We love hiking, camping, traveling and just hanging out together.

Fun fact: I will be a grandma for the first time in August!



Jacqui Hall
Principal
Bakerview Centre for Learning

This is my 22nd year with the district - 25 if you include the years I worked as a teacher's assistant at summer school when I was still a student.

I am an excellent grower of garlic.

Fun fact: I prefer old school Christmas lights to new LED ones.



Michael Hendricks
Vice Principal
Rick Hansen Secondary

I've been with the district for 29 years.

I am an avid cyclist and look for all opportunities to get on my bike. Cycling Morocco and Iceland would be a bucket list trip. If I'm not cycling, I love to find places to hike and trek and hope to continue exploring Newfoundland whenever possible.



Alexandra Klassen
Vice Principal
Robert Bateman Secondary

My journey in education started at Robert Bateman, where I graduated before returning as a teacher in 2009. Over the years, I taught a range of subjects at Bateman including English, Art, Broadcasting, and Journalism. From there, I transitioned to a Vice Principal role at Abby Senior in 2021. Currently, I'm back at Robert Bateman Secondary as Vice Principal.

Outside of work, I treasure time with my family, enjoy getting lost in a good book, and love exploring the outdoors.

Fun Fact: I'm a proud graduate of Robert Bateman Secondary, a place that's been a significant part of my journey.



Jennifer Koehler
Principal
Robert Bateman Secondary

I'm thrilled to join Abbotsford after 30 years of teaching and admin in Surrey and Langley. My passions include Indigenous and anti-racist education, Canadian literature, and systems that make life easier.

Fun fact: I've driven across Canada in a VW van. Twice.



James Maclaren
Vice Principal
W.J. Mouat Secondary

I have been with the district for 8 years. I'm a brand-new VP; previously, I taught Math & Business at Yale.

My hobbies include mountain biking, camping, and skiing.

Fun fact: I was a contractor before becoming a teacher and I grew up on a beef ranch in Ontario.



Andrew Macphail
Vice Principal
Robert Bateman Secondary

I have been with the district for 22 years.

I enjoy anything outdoors and water related (kayaking, snorkeling), reading, and guitar.

Fun fact: I lived in Australia for two years



Michelle Middleton
Vice Principal
Yale Secondary

I have been in the district for 28 years in various roles including regular classroom and LSS teacher, Curriculum Helping Teacher and now Vice-principal.

I love all sports, camping, and crafting. I am also an avid gardener who loves playing in the dirt.



Soraya Rajabally
Vice Principal
W.J. Mouat Secondary

Entering year 25 in this district.

Love rich/dark coffee, my motorcycle and my mini-goldendoodle.

Fun fact: I swear like a trucker behind closed doors (maybe not always closed doors...)



Brent Schroeder
Vice Principal
Rick Hansen Secondary

I have worked in the district for the past 6 years. Prior to my current role of VP at Rick Hansen Secondary, I taught high school science (Chemistry), and worked as a Counsellor in the Vancouver, Chilliwack and Abbotsford Districts. I feel fortunate to be able to work alongside the amazing students, teachers and colleagues I have met in Abbotsford and I want to say thanks to everyone for making this such a great place to be. Outside of work, my heart belongs to my 3 wonderful children and my amazing wife. Our family loves travelling, camping, and making memories together. I have always had a love for music, so, when possible, you may find me strumming a guitar, playing the piano keys or even belting out a tune.

Fun fact: I sang with my colleagues on the Reality TV Show Canada Sings and winning \$10,000 for BC Children's Hospital.



Bo Sidhu
Vice Principal
W.J. Mouat Secondary

I have been with the district for 20 years. I graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Kinesiology degree and then a Bachelor of Education Degree. I received my Master's Degree in Education Administration and Counselling. Before coming to Abbotsford, I taught in Vancouver at John Oliver Secondary for 11 years. When I relocated to Abbotsford, I was the counsellor at Rick Hansen Secondary for 7 years and then became the VP for 5 years. I have also been the VP at Abbotsford Senior for 7 years and currently am at WJ Mouat in my first year.

I enjoy coaching and spending time with my family. I also enjoy listening to music and watching sports.

Fun fact: I graduated from Abby Senior and won a BC High School Football Championship in 1984 at Abby Senior.



Rob Sloboda
Principal
W.J. Mouat Secondary

I have been working in the district for the past 31 years. I spent 14 years teaching Social Studies and Student Leadership at Rick Hansen Secondary, shaping the lives of numerous students with dedication and passion. My career in administration has taken me to Robert Bateman, Rick Hansen, WJ Mouat, and Yale Secondary. I am deeply rooted in the Abbotsford community, having completed my own education at Margaret Stenersen, Yale Junior Secondary, and Abbotsford Senior.



Paula Thompson
Vice Principal
Yale Secondary

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 30+ years. I have been a science, math, PE, leadership, and CLC teacher, counsellor, and now administrator. I have coached basketball for many years and have won a couple of provincial championships.

I love living on my new hobby farm, where I garden and hang out with my dogs and chickens. I am just recovering from my daughter's wedding, where I grew all the flowers. It was a feat!!

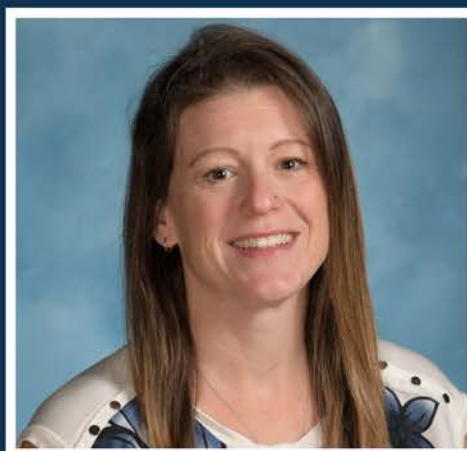


Dan Village
Vice Principal
Bakerview Centre for Learning

I have been with the district since 2012.

My hobbies and interests include family time, golf, watching movies, and sports.

Fun fact: I am a W.J. Mouat Grad



Jaimie Webster
Principal
Rick Hansen Secondary

I have worked in the Abbotsford School District since 2002 in a variety of elementary and secondary schools. I spent most of my teaching career proudly serving the Abbotsford Senior community in the Integrated Studies Program and then moved into administration in 2015.

I am an off-and-on marathoner who is fortunate to have been blessed with a beautiful family of two kids, two dogs, and the most gracious and supportive husband.



Stan Wiebe
Principal
Yale Secondary

I've been with the district for 22 years.

I enjoy cooking, riding motorcycles, playing guitar, and watching hockey.

Fun fact: I've played in a few bands and produced a couple of albums.



ARTS, TRADITIONAL & VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Karen Bennett
Principal
ASIA - Sumas Mtn Campus

I've proudly worked in the district for 16 years, almost entirely in the Integrated Arts programs minus a year at King Traditional School. Since 2018, I've been the principal of ASIA Sumas.

Outside of work, I love camping, well, glamping, spending time with my 2-year-old Springer Spaniel, and enjoying life with my husband. I have two grown children and hope that one day, the pitter-patter of grandchildren will be around.

Fun fact: I have sworn off Dodgeball forever after breaking my lower leg during a Grad vs. Staff game in 2019, causing me to have metal rods inserted and an ability to know when the weather is changing.



Baljeet Gill
District Principal
Abbotsford Virtual School

I have been with the Abbotsford School District for 11 years.

I enjoy most sports, video games and Tom Clancy novels.

Fun fact: I bought rollerblades this summer.



Ashley Mennear
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Traditional School

I have been with the district for two years teaching English and ELL at W.J. Mouat.

I love dogs, paddle boarding, yoga, reading, and Lego. I have two sons, and my family has a Lego city that is ridiculous and always under construction.

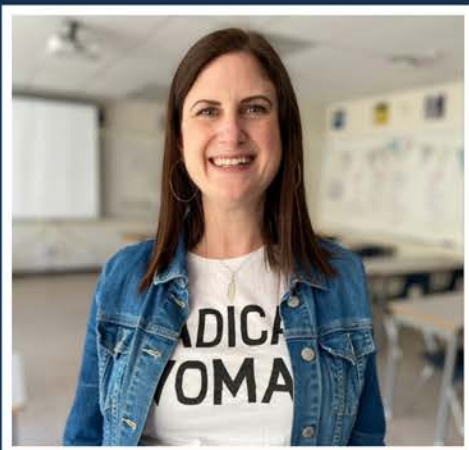


Jasbir Singh
Principal
Abbotsford Traditional School

I have been with the school district for 15 years.

I enjoy reading, hiking, and community involvement.

Fun facts: Born in Punjab, India. Travelled to remote mountainous regions of Ethiopia. Have a brother who works in the district. Made headlines in the newspaper on three occasions, and not necessarily for positive reasons! Have met and had a conversation with Rick Tocchet.



Becky Toews
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Traditional School

I have been with the district for 22 years.

I enjoy reading and being in nature. For my husband and I "Tree time" is essential. I was born and raised in the UK, moving to Canada when I was 12. We made the trek across the pond and landed in Abbotsford where I've been since.



Tom van Hunenstijn
District Vice Principal
Abbotsford Virtual School

It's hard to believe I've been with the district for 28 years! I've been a teacher for much of that time and have really enjoyed my move into Administration! I'm currently the Vice Principal at Abby Virtual School where I've learned a great deal this year. I crave variety and learning new things, and this job offers lots of that!

I love hiking and running and am fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world where I can see rivers and mountains without needing to drive anywhere.

Fun fact: I disliked learning languages in high school but am now learning Spanish!



Julie Wilms
Vice Principal
ASIA - Sumas Mtn Campus

I began teaching in the school district in 2001, just as the middle schools were launching. While a lot has changed, 23 years later, I still find a lot of joy in working with middle grade students and staff.

I love sunny days, bright spaces, and being outside. I grew up in the Okanagan and still feel a strong connection to that area.