























ABBYSCHOOLS

LEADERSHIP



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BOARD OF EDUCATION

2025-26 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 20,000 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



Fun fact: I have a notorious historical figure – an assassin – in my ancestry.

Hobbies/Interests: Travel, food and libations (including preparing these), my dog, advocacy and reading.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I never went to Kindergarten.



Preet Rai
Vice-Chair
Board of Education

Years with the district: 17

Fun fact: I have a National Geographic collection starting from 1915.

Hobbies/Interests: Cooking, watching cricket and travelling (I've been to over 35 countries).

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Army Officer.



Rupi Kanda-Rajwan
Trustee
Board of Education

Years with the district: 3

Fun fact: I love chocolate cake any day of the week!

Hobbies/Interests: Anything outdoors, with my family and friends. I love going for coffee and spending quality time with family and friends. I enjoy watching all my kids' sports activities. I definitely prefer a phone call over a text!

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Artist.

Locker Notes: This is such a great idea! Thank you for adding this gem of a book to our conference.



Stan Peterson
Trustee
Board of Education

Years with the district: 50ish – Teacher, Admin, and Trustee

Fun fact: I have 7 awesome grandkids.

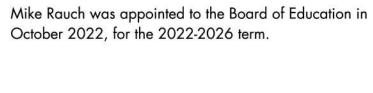
Hobbies/Interests: Sports of all kinds, reading and travel.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Baseball Player.

Locker Notes: Love the Abbotsford School District.



Mike Rauch
Trustee
Board of Education





Jared White
Trustee
Board of Education

Jared White was appointed to the Board of Education in October 2022, for the 2022-2026 term.



SENIOR LEADERSHIP

2025-26 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.



Lisa Burdeyney
Assistant Superintendent
School Board Office

Fun fact: I grew up in a prairie town that produced 6 NHL players out of a total population of 1200.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, dogs, knitting, art and exploring.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Years with the district: 2

Fun fact: I lived in Mali for a short time during university.

Hobbies/Interests: Mountain biking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Fire Fighter.

Bruce Cunnings
Assistant Superintendent
School Board Office



Years with the district: Just under 2 years

Fun fact: I once participated in a cross-country run from Squamish to Whistler.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening, running and mountain biking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? My memory does not reach back that far!

Greg Forbes-King
Director, Facilities & Transportation Services
Facilities



Michelle Gehring
Director of Instruction - LSS
CORE

Fun fact: I have visited 37 countries, which is 18% of the world.

Hobbies/Interests: My favourite things to do are watching my son play hockey, reading, and travelling.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Doctor.



Years with the district: 8

Fun fact: I'm an avid knitter and enter my work in the Chilliwack Fair every year (not so much 'fun', but I do enjoy it!)

Hobbies/Interests: Knitting and reading. Eyeball reading and audiobooks. Being outside in nature or my garden whenever possible.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Tracy Krys
Director of Instruction - Curriculum
CORE



Years with the district: Almost 2

Fun fact: I can't turn left on my road bike!

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening, running, cycling (no left turns) and visiting coffee shops.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Dim-Sum cart server.

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



Peter Neale Secretary Treasurer School Board Office

Years with the district: First year

Fun fact: I enjoy making preserves and pickling, including beer and wine making.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Superhero.



Nathan Ngieng Superintendent School Board Office

Years with the district: 9

Fun fact: I have worked in 4 school districts: Surrey, Gold Trail, Chilliwack and Abbotsford.

Hobbies/Interests: Trying to spend as much time as possible outdoors: hiking, biking and in the garden.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Veterinarian... loved animals.



Pete Nuij
Assistant Superintendent
School Board Office

Years with the district: First year

Fun fact: I spend almost all of my free time in the backcountry on various adventures, generally related to wildlife photography.

Hobbies/Interests: Photography, guitar, hiking, camping, skiing and kayaking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Hockey Player.



Years with the district: Almost 11 years

Fun fact: I'm a certified Sommelier.

Hobbies/Interests: Pickleball, more pickleball and when I'm not playing pickleball, pickleball.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Not to be in school.

Karman O'Brien
Director, Information Technology
ITC



Monica Schulte
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
School Board Office

Years with the district: 3

Fun fact: I have dual citizenship.

Hobbies/Interests: I like to cook and bake.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Lawyer.









OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

2025-26 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

Fun fact: I cannot cook the same dish with the same quality and taste twice.

Hobbies/Interests: Cycling.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Police Officer.



Pam Alzona Manager, Financial Services School Board Office

Years with the district: 5

Fun fact: Airport security found an old rusty Swiss Army knife in the lining of my carry-on bag, but I've never owned one – talk about a mystery!

Hobbies/Interests: Spending time with my family and friends, campfires at our trailer, and gardening.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Kathryn Bekkering Manager, Human Resources School Board Office

Years with the district: 6.5

Fun fact: First job (FVRL) was to glue pockets into 1,000s of paperbacks.

Hobbies/Interests: Renovating, travelling and family time.



Laura Lee Billing Manager Abbotsford Arts Centre



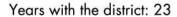
Fun fact: I am a consultant for Disney.

Hobbies/Interests:

Recently I have started playing with welding sculptures, none of it has been very good, but it sure is fun.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Finishing Carpenter.

Locker Notes: The most accessible programming for students is live theatre. Lighting, set, costume, sound, prop designers, along with technical directors, production managers, stage managers, lighting technicians, sound technicians, costume sewers, painters, props builders, carpenters, stage crew, and of course, actors.



Fun fact: I'm a foodie who loves photography.

Hobbies/Interests: Photography and cooking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Diplomat.



Elizabeth Cho-Frede Manager, International Program School Board Office



Brian Davies
Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office

Years with the district: 4

Fun fact: I have a weakness for fun shirts and socks.

Hobbies/Interests: Quadding, boating and swimming.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Hahahahaha, like I remember that long ago.



Derrin Demaer
Purchasing Manager
School Board Office

Fun fact: I carve demonstrations at Pumpkins After Dark.

Hobbies/Interests: Woodworking, camping and fishing.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Policeman.



Years with the district: First year

Fun fact: I've been working in the K-12 system for the last 16 years.

Hobbies/Interests: Spending time with my family, reading and sports.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Architect.

Rino Di Antonio Manager, Structural and Grounds Facilities



Justin Edwards
Senior Manager, Capital
Planning and Projects
Facilities

Years with the district: 12

Fun fact: I was born in Wales and first moved to Canada when I was 9.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, hockey, and attempting to learn golf.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Mechanic.



Fun fact: I like to BBQ and smoke meats.

Hobbies/Interests: Watching football and sports in general.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I didn't go to Kindergarten.

Nathan Eunson
Manager, IT Security & Compliance
ITC



Years with the district: 1

Fun fact: I have a garden gnome collection that is growing at an alarming rate.

Hobbies/Interests: Dancing, gardening, walking and Baseball.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Kristi Ferguson
Senior Manager, Communications & Community Relations
School Board Office



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

Years with the district: 13.5

Fun fact: I started drinking coffee every morning at age six.

Hobbies/Interests: If I'm not in the office or on a paddle board in the summer, you'll find me in the kitchen canning pickles, beets, beans, carrots, jalapenos and salsa.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Definitely a Race Car Driver. My partner tells me that if we ever get ourselves in trouble, I will be the getaway driver!

Locker Notes: My partner and I have six kids. He is a Captain in the Fire Department in Abbotsford and with all of the kids settled into careers (electrician, paramedic, heavy equipment operators and a nurse), we are still getting used to a quieter life with only one still living at home. We both love to cook and host big family dinners.



Stacey Hagkull
Senior Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office

Years with the district: 3

Fun fact: When I played basketball in high school, I was so embarrassed by how tall I was that I made our coach submit my height as 5ft 12". It took me a long time to embrace my uniqueness.

Hobbies/Interests: Does schoolwork count? No time for any significant hobbies until I finish my Master's in March 2026.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher – that didn't last too long.



Years with the district: 13

Fun fact: My favourite music genre is hard rock and alternative metal from the 90s and 2000s.

Hobbies/Interests: Paddleboarding, puzzles, cross stitching, colouring and painting.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Wasn't Kindergarten, but in elementary school I used my dad's Simply Accounting program to sell books to my stuffed animals.

Adrianne Harley
Senior Manager, Financial Services
School Board Office



Jun Kim
Systems Analyst/Programmer
CORE

Years with the district: 18

Hobbies/Interests: Camping and travelling.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An adult.



Albert Klade Manager, Custodial Services Facilities



Fun fact: I used to cook for a living.

Hobbies/Interests: Golf.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Police Officer.



Robert Kroeker Manager, IT ITC

Years with the district: 4

Fun fact: My family is very involved with the district; two of us are employed by it, and the other two are being educated by it.

Hobbies/Interests: I am resurrecting an IROC Camaro in an extremely slow manner. So far, I'm ten years in and it looks only slightly worse than when I bought it!

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A wealthy Inventor. One of the challenges is apparently coming up with ideas that haven't already made other people wealthy.

Locker Notes: "Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow internet to see who they really are." – Will Ferrell

Years with the district: 0.5

Fun fact: If you don't see me working, you can probably find me out hiking or reading a book.

Hobbies/Interests: As an avid traveler, I've been to over 25 cities in three different continents. The plan is always to add more to that list.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Journalist.



Mona Liu
Communications Coordinator
School Board Office



Hobbies/Interests: Reading, watching the Bluejays and spending time with my family and dogs.

Janet Loewen
Feeding Futures Coordinator
CORE



Years with the district: 15

Hobbies/Interests: I love animals, riding my bike and walking along the river and in the forests.

Rose Mann
Homestay Coordinator, International Program
School Board Office



Years with the district: 1

Fun fact: I always wanted to own a candy store.

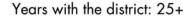
Hobbies/Interests: Reading, walking, canning, travelling, doing new things and spending time with my family.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Veterinarian.

Becca Marais
Executive Assistant
School Board Office



Cheryl McLeod
Executive Assistant
School Board Office



Fun fact: As a budding gardener my first successful year growing edible (and delicious) cantaloupe and watermelon was 2024. This year, I'm hoping to increase production.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening, family and outings with friends.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Always competitive and had older siblings, so my focus was on wanting to go to school and achieve good marks.



Years with the district: 0.5

Fun fact: I was a hairstylist for 15 years before becoming an Administrative Assistant.

Hobbies/Interests: All types of exercise and outdoor activities – yoga, hiking, weightlifting and Pilates.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Doctor.

Danielle Molina
Administrative Assistant
School Board Office



Years with the district: 3

Fun fact: My favourite activity is Type 2 fun! In the moment it involves a lot of stress and suffering but is fun in retrospect. For example, cycling up Mt. Baker, hiking through canyons and the desert, etc.

Hobbies/Interests: Cycling (online & outside) as often as possible.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Likely a Police Officer (like my dad).

Kate Muir
Senior Manager, Human Resources
School Board Office



Brenda Noda Manager, Facilities Operations Facilities

Fun fact: We are planning to retire in Spain, unfortunately, not any time soon.

Hobbies/Interests: I love murder mystery novels, gardening in my tiny backyard and knitting. Currently, I'm learning to sew/quilt, but it's not going well.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Librarian.



Tracey O'Hara Manager, Transportation Facilities

Years with the district: 2.5 Months

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my grandson. I love to ski in the winter and swim in the summer.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Way too old to remember that far back!



Beth Penney
Executive Assistant
School Board Office

Years with the district: 1

Fun fact: I used to be a Starbucks barista, which led to my love for coffee.

Hobbies/Interests: Spending time outside with my friends and family, crafting and trying local cafes and restaurants.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Architect.



Hobbies/Interests: Staying active, spending time in the gym. I'm passionate about health and wellbeing.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Michael Jordan.

Locker Notes: Go Canucks Go!!!

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



Years with the district: 1

Fun fact: I'm really good at problem-solving anything mechanical.

Hobbies/Interests: Golf, hockey, hunting and yard work.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Hockey Player.

Aaron Portman Manager, Mechanical Facilities



Dave Ryder
Manager, Student Recruitment
School Board Office

Years with the district: 19

Fun fact: There is nothing fun about me.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, camping, biking and sailing. Anything outdoors!

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Garbage Man because I wanted to ride around on the back of the truck and wear work gloves. Really.

Locker Notes: Wishing everyone a great year ahead, and thanks for supporting the International Student Program.



Amar Samra
Manager, Health and Safety
School Board Office

Years with the district: 1 Month

Fun fact: I have a twin brother, and no, we do not look alike. I can also run a lot faster than him!

Hobbies/Interests: I am currently coaching and competing in Brazilian Jujitsu

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Monster Truck Driver.



Years with the district: 16

Fun fact: Stompin' Tom Connors hung out at my house one night.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, concerts and music.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? No idea.

Andrea Senft
Manager, Childcare & Early Learning
School Board Office



Years with the district: 10

Fun fact: I only knew my husband for 5 months before agreeing to move to Greenwood, NS with him!

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking and being outside with my family as much as possible.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Corissa St. George
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
School Board Office



Fun fact: I can legally drive anything with wheels.

Hobbies/Interests: Fishing, pickleball (any racquet sport), hiking, mountain biking and playing music.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? No idea.

Patrick Taylor
Senior Manager, IT Infrastructure
ITC



Years with the district: 10

Fun fact: I am going to be a grandma.

Hobbies/Interests: Kayaking and the outdoors.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Veterinarian.

Teresa Wertman Manager, Payroll School Board Office



Years with the district: 22

Fun fact: I love BTS (Behind The Scenes).

Hobbies/Interests: I love reading and spending time with my

family.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to be a Doctor.

Rebecca Yeam
International Program Coordinator
School Board Office



DISTRICT PVP'S

2025-26 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.



Jamie Beck
District Principal, Curriculum
CORE

Fun fact: I played the tuba in band in high school.

Hobbies/Interests: Anything outside in the sunny weather, including golf and watching baseball games.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I just wanted to play all day.



David de Wit District Principal, Safe Schools CORE

Years with the district: 19

Fun fact: I accidentally camped in the South Korean riot police training grounds and woke up in the middle of practice.

Hobbies/Interests: Woodworking, fly fishing, canoeing, backpacking, hunting, mountain biking and trail running.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Taller.



Years with the district: 8

Fun fact: I have a hobby farm with bees, chickens, pigs and a cow.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, canoe pulling and paddle boarding.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Allison Gardner
District Principal, Indigenous Education
CORE



Michael Pearson
District Vice Principal
CORE

Fun fact: I'm a Red Seal Carpenter.

Hobbies/Interests: Fishing

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Fighter Pilot



Years with the district: 16

Fun fact: I read/listen to about 200 books a year, sometimes starting and finishing in one day.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening, painting, dancing, cake decorating and anything creative.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Veterinarian.

Lynette Power
District Principal, Language & Settlement Services
CORE



Galen Soon
District Principal, Learning
Support Services
CORE

Years with the district: 6

Fun fact: I won \$500.00 USD for being selected as the "transformation of the month" for Beachbody's P90X program. I travelled with World War I veterans on the 80th anniversary of the WWI pilgrimage and was one of 15 youth to represent Canada.

Hobbies/Interests: Exercising, running, gardening and hiking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Not sure I had a profession in mind at that age, but from middle school years onward I wanted to become an educator, as there were some educators who nurtured my growth and development as an adolescent. I wanted the opportunity to do the same for others.



Fun fact: I worked at a particle accelerator for a semester.

Hobbies/Interests: Running and hiking in the beautiful Fraser Valley. I also love travelling and exploring new places.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to be a Pilot.

Tom van Hunenstijn District Principal, Digital Learning and Innovation CORE









ELEMENTARY LEVEL

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



Paul Allanson
Principal
Prince Charles Elementary

Fun fact: I once competed in the USA Inline Cup.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy playing hockey, golf and camping with my family.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An NHL Hockey Player!



Tyler Baruta
Principal
Godson Elementary

Years with the district: 19

Fun fact: I've mastered procrastination. I'll tell you about it later!

Hobbies/Interests: Cycling, running, hockey and gardening.

Locker Notes: I can't work with a VP who wears Hawaiian tshirts and high socks!



Michelle Basran Principal Barrowtown Elementary

Years with the district: 23

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, reading, dog training, running and music.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher



Fun fact: I hired Michael Bublé to work for us at Chuck E Cheese's in Burnaby.

Hobbies/Interests: Summering

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A mommy.

Janet Bauer Vice Principal John Maclure Community School



Years with the district: 20

Fun fact: For one special year, I had three generations of my family in one school; My dad was the counsellor, while my son was in Kindergarten, and I was a teacher!

Hobbies/Interests: I love running, cooking and cheering on my boys at all their sports.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Veterinarian or a Teacher.

Janet Beattie Vice Principal Blue Jay Elementary



Jennifer Bennato Principal Ten-Broeck Elementary

Years with the district: 19

Fun fact: I worked as a flight attendant for Air Canada.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking with my dogs, camping and travelling with family.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher with a bun!



Debbie Chenier Principal Jackson Elementary

Fun fact: I caught a puck at a Canucks game.

Hobbies/Interests: Fishing, reading and time with the family.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A plumber like my dad.



Sergio Chiappetta Vice Principal Clearbrook Elementary

Years with the district: 18

Fun fact: I enjoy travelling and getting out on the water.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy outdoors. In the winter, I try to make it to the mountains, and in the summer, I go boating and fishing.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Construction Worker like dad.



Fay Christie
Principal
John Maclure Community
School

Years with the district: 25

Fun fact: I have been married for 39 years, and I am a mom of three grown children. I am also a grandma to 3 beautiful, smart, amazing, active grandbabies. If I knew having grandkids was so much fun, I would have had them first!

Hobbies/Interests: I will also admit that I have a crafting problem. Once I find something I like to do I will make multiples of the item.... then comes the question... what do I do with all the things I make? I give them away, storing them in my craft drawer waiting for unsuspecting recipients.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher like my mom and a Bus Driver like my dad.



Nick Cochrane Principal Mathxwí Elementary School

Fun fact: I once went 4-4 shooting targets on live TV during a hockey intermission.

Hobbies/Interests: Golf, hockey, gardening, hiking, outdoors, fishing, travelling, hanging with the kids, etc.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Hockey Player.



Ryan Colbert
Principal
Harry Sayers Elementary

Wendy Costello Vice Principal Alexander Elementary

Years with the district: 27

Fun fact: I am the only employee to work at all 3 schools on the corner of Blueridge and Townline (Harry Sayers Elementary, Eugene Reimer Middle, and Rick Hansen Secondary).

Hobbies/Interests: Camping, golfing, travel, video games, and fantasy football.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Jedi Knight or Race Car Driver.

Locker Notes: My two daughters are now in university, so my wife and I are living the empty nester life. Therefore, it was the first year since 2009 that I power-washed my driveway before Dave de Wit, who is my neighbour... It is quite exciting!

Years with the district: 21

Fun fact: In a past life I was a kickboxer, and I have trophies and a mean roundhouse kick to prove it. (Or at least I used to....).

Hobbies/Interests: All things summer!! Particularly, spending time with family and friends are the baseball field, enjoying days by the lake, and camping at The Glen and Manning Park.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Since I can remember, I always wanted to be a Teacher or a Police Officer.



Chelsea Elliott Principal Semá:th Elementary

Fun fact: I like to play sports – I am currently on 2 slo-pitch teams and an adult cheer team.

Hobbies/Interests: I like hiking, playing ball, paddle boarding, reading non-educational books and going to concerts.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to be a Princess.



Victoria Fehr Vice Principal Margaret Stenerson Elementary

Years with the district: 8

Fun fact: I'm one of the elite few who still watch Survivor!

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, cycling, travelling, and spicy food.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? The Teacher of my class – Kindergarten Teacher.

Locker Notes: Most of my summer was spent on the Sunshine Coast, where my sister and her family live.



Joe Frew Principal Ross Elementary

Years with the district: 7

Fun fact: I love to read. Right now, I'm reading a book on anti-gravity – it's impossible to put down!

Hobbies/Interests: Soccer, historical fiction, conspiracy theories. Perfecting the art of the "serious nod" during staff meetings and taking care of my ferns.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Top Gun Fighter Pilot.

Locker Notes: Behind every good Principal is a Vice Principal... fixing the chaos and taking the blame.



Anita Heitz
Principal
Mountain Elementary

Fun fact: After high school I moved to Guatemala for a year.

Hobbies/Interests: I have kids who play all the sports. I do enjoy reading, gardening and baking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Andrea Hoeving
Vice Principal
Harry Sayers Elementary

Years with the district: 10

Fun fact: I have been involved in the sport of skipping in a variety of capacities for nearing 30 years.

Hobbies/Interests: Reading, softball (former player, now love watching my daughter play) and camping.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I have always wanted to be a Teacher.



Erica Hopkins
Principal
Clearbrook Elementary

Years with the district: 20

Fun fact: I am a proud Swiftie fan since her very first album. I paid only \$16 for my concert ticket to see Taylor Swift last year! #winning

Hobbies/Interests: 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.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to be a Veterinarian when I was a child. I also wanted to have super powers. I still want super powers.



Tyler Horner
Principal
King Traditional Elementary

Fun fact: Our cats, Arya and Renly, are both named after "Game of Thrones" characters. Arya earned her name first because as a kitten, every time the "Game of Thrones" opening theme came on the TV, she would run to the couch, jump up, and watch with us.

Hobbies/Interests: Art and travel.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Treasure Hunter.



Christine Jordan
Principal
McMillan Elementary

Years with the district: 31

Fun fact: I can't multitask while driving. If you see my bright orange Jeep on the road, don't bother waving (and don't be offended if you do and I ignore you). Unless you are on the pavement directly in front of me, I won't see you!

Hobbies/Interests: Travel, paddleboarding, kayaking, reading, crochet/knitting.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Locker Notes: This is the start of my 32nd year with the District. I can remember looking at my first ever pension statement and seeing that my earliest retirement date was January 2026. At that time it seemed like an impossible goal, but here we are!

Years with the district: 8

Fun fact: We have become amateur wine connoisseurs thanks to the Okanagan!

Hobbies/Interests: Reading, being outdoors, exploring new corners of BC, Canada and around the globe.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Pediatrician.



Shannon Kenney
Principal
Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary



Rachel Lack
Principal
ASIA - North Poplar Campus

Fun fact: I know the lyrics to most songs and I like snacks.

Hobbies/Interests: Going on adventures with my family and friends. I also love petting all the dogs in the world that I get the pleasure to meet.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Singing on a stage, particularly on Broadway.



Maralee Lincoln
Principal
Mt. Lehman Elementary

Years with the district: 24

Fun fact: I have a cat named "Puffkin".

Hobbies/Interests: I paint.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A typewriter.



Victoria Lorieau Principal Dr. Roberta Bondar Elementary

Years with the district: 5

Fun fact: I completed my ARCT and taught piano lessons through the end of high school and university.

Hobbies/Interests: Running, cooking, spending time with my kids.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Doctor.



Lee Magis
Principal
Margaret Stenerson Elementary

Fun fact: I have an organic micro farm.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening, dogs, goats, pickling and making cheese.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Years with the district: 14

Fun fact: I love to assemble Ikea furniture... and I am now loving building Lego sets with my kiddos.

Hobbies/Interests: One of my favourite ways to spend time is sitting around a table, playing games. My current favourites are Ticket to Ride, Carcassonne, Five Crowns, and Poker (Honestly... anything but Monopoly).

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A mom.

Shannon Manky
Principal
South Poplar Traditional Elementary



Suzi McClelland Vice Principal McMillan Elementary

Years with the district: 24

Fun fact: I don't trust cherries. They're small, they're sneaky, and they come with their own built-in trap (a.k.a the pit) just waiting to ruin your day.

Hobbies/Interests: Paddleboarding, yoga, hiking, napenthusiast, traveling with my husband and 2 sons, reading, live music and comedy shows, wine tasting with friends, cheering on my youngest at hockey games.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Locker Notes: Vice-Principal by title, Tamer of Tattletales, Janitor in Emergencies, and Therapist by default.



Reena Nahal **Principal** Irene Kelleher Totí:ltawtxw



Fun fact: Throughout my teaching career, I've had the pleasure of bouncing between various grade levels, from Kindergarten to Grade 4 and blended learning classes. This year, I'm enjoying the unique experience of moving from site to site as an Acting Principal, gaining fresh perspectives and appreciating the distinctiveness of each location.

Hobbies/Interests: Travel, reading, swimming, or cherishing moments with my loved ones.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I've always wanted to be a Teacher, inspired by my awe-inspiring Kindergarten Teacher.



Manveet Neger **Vice Principal Godson Elementary**

Years with the district: 12

Fun fact: I grew a passion for running in 2020. Since then, I have run the BMO half-marathon. My goal is to run halfmarathons, and potentially marathons, in different parts of the world.

Hobbies/Interests: Running, reading, travelling, and cooking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? As a kid, I thought that working as a Toys R Us employee was very cool.

Locker Notes: My family farms blueberries and raspberries in the summer.



Scott Peters **Principal Blue Jay Elementary**

Years with the district: 31

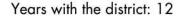
Fun fact: I have two cats

Hobbies/Interests: Dirt biking and fishing.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Police Officer.



Kari Petzold Principal Terry Fox Elementary



Fun fact: I love spicy food and super dark chocolate (like 95-100%)!

Hobbies/Interests: Crochet, gardening, hiking and being at the ocean.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Heart Surgeon (my mom has had heart issues my whole life).



Sharon Phillips
Vice Principal
Sandy Hill Elementary

Years with the district: 7

Fun fact: I once bungee jumped off a bridge in New Zealand!

Hobbies/Interests: I am passionate about synchronized skating, and skate on an adult team. I also enjoy gardening and knitting.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to be an Astronaut.



Shelley Portas
Principal
Sandy Hill Elementary

Years with the district: 18

Fun fact: In my next career I want to be a Private Investigator who owns a cute little flower shop.

Hobbies/Interests: I love photography, painting, walking and hiking, and kayaking in the sunshine.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher

Locker Notes: Looking forward to a fabulous year!



Baljit Sekhon Principal Dave Kandal Elementary

Fun fact: I'm colour blind!

Hobbies/Interests: Basketball and golf enthusiast.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Pilot.



Kam Sidhu Principal Bradner Elementary



Kris Sward
Principal
Auguston Traditional Elementary

Years with the district: 16

Fun fact: I once hatched a master plan with my best friend to apply as a youth worker on a cruise ship so we could explore the Caribbean together during Spring Break. The plan was a success, and we were both hired. But, in an unexpected twist, we ended up on separate ships! Despite the mix-up, my solo ship adventure was unforgettable and I had the time of my life.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy travelling, going to concerts and spending time with loved ones. I also enjoy photography, music, creating, listening to true crime podcasts, reading and a great cup of chai.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Years with the district: 3

Fun fact: Last summer, I walked the Camino de Santiago across the north of Spain. I backpacked over 800 kms by myself in just over a month!

Hobbies/Interests: Reading, gardening, kayaking, boating, crafting and puzzles.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I'm not sure, but I never wanted to be a Teacher (my parents were educators) until I had my own kids.



Shannon Thiesen Vice Principal Ten-Broeck Elementary



Dennis Tjernagel Acting Principal Aberdeen Elementary



Melanie Trudeau Principal Centennial Park Elementary

Fun fact: I speak English, French and Japanese. I just started learning Korean.

Hobbies/Interests: I am a practicing Visual Artist and enjoy oil, acrylic and watercolour painting en plein air all over the world. I often show my work in galleries across BC. I won the 2024 BC Portrait Artist of the Year competition and have twice represented the province in the Art Battle Canada Nationals in Toronto.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to be Tony Parsons and Pamela Martin, reporting the news each night on TV while wearing fabulous blazers. When I finally entered into Carleton's Journalism program, I quickly realized that it wasn't as glamorous as I had once thought!

Years with the district: 1.5

Fun fact: I don't like chocolate or coffee, but I like mocha.

Hobbies/Interests: Outdoor activities, sports, bike riding, hiking, etc.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Accountant.

Years with the district: 11

Fun fact: As a kid, I was the reigning champion of comedy in my home, making everyone laugh with my spot-on impressions. My Steve Urkel was so good, and I think it still is! Maybe I should start wearing suspenders again?

Hobbies/Interests: When I'm not diving headfirst into a thrilling novel, you can find me in my backyard hammock, mastering the art of doing absolutely nothing while the birds provide a live concert. It's like my own personal zen garden, minus the raked sand and plus a few mosquito bites. And when the call of the wild beckons, I swap my hammock for shoes and set off on adventures, discovering places and pretending I'm the star of my own nature documentary.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? As a child, I had dreams of becoming a Hairdresser extraordinaire.



Kristen Vogel
Principal
Alexander Elementary

Fun fact: My husband and I took our family to live in Punta Gorda, Belize for a year and work at an NGO called TIDE. While there, we swam with all sorts of sea creatures, including sharks.

Hobbies/Interests: Travelling, cycle touring, food and a good book.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I'm not sure what I wanted to be, but I wanted to own a monkey. So, my mom got me a stuffed one, and I carried it with me everywhere.



Andrea Wildeman
Principal
Dormick Park Elementary

Years with the district: 26

Fun fact: When the sun's out, you might spot me cruising around on the back of my husband's Harley.

Hobbies/Interests: Reading and gardening.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.









MIDDLE LEVEL

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



Sue Boucher Principal Chief Dan George Middle

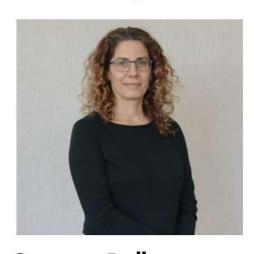
Years with the district: First year

Fun fact: I own a place in the Shuswap where I love to spend time!

Hobbies/Interests: Reading, swimming, boating, filmmaking, photography, editing and writing.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Movie Star.

Locker Notes: I am thrilled to be joining Abby Schools.



Suzanne Dallas Vice Principal Chief Dan George Middle

Years with the district: 6

Fun fact: I went to university to teach PE but never taught a day of PE in my life, not even as a TOC.

Hobbies/Interests: I love to travel and explore the world.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I have no idea!

Locker Notes: I spend my evenings teaching secondary math online.



Shawn Davids
Principal
Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle

Years with the district: 2

Fun fact: I was a contestant on The Price is Right and won \$10,000 on Tim Horton's Roll Up the Rim.

Hobbies/Interests: Golf, poker and the Seattle Seahawks.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Police Officer.



Chayne den Ouden Vice Principal Abbotsford Middle

Fun fact: I was evacuated out of the Libyan civil war.

Hobbies/Interests: Travelling, spending time with my kids

outside.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Reg Gabriel
Principal
Clayburn Middle

Years with the district: 33

Fun fact: I love sci-fi movies.

Hobbies/Interests: Coaching, camping, driving my 3 kids to sports, watching them play sports, gaming and gaming with friends.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Fireman.



Dean Johnston Principal Eugene Reimer Middle

Years with the district: 27

Fun fact: I climbed the highest peak in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro. The journey to the summit took 7 days and reached an altitude of 5,895 meters.

Hobbies/Interests: I coach baseball.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Hockey player.



Fun fact: I was an "extra" on the original 21 Jump Street TV series when they filmed at my high school.

Hobbies/Interests: Cycling, golf, paddleboarding and gardening.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Movie Star.

Rebecca Kandal
Vice Principal
Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle



Years with the district: 19

Fun fact: I have a display of Mario Lego in my office at school.

Hobbies/Interests: Walking, reading and learning.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? In Kindergarten forever, I really liked my Teacher.

Graeme Kemp Vice Principal William A. Fraser Middle



Years with the district: 26

Fun fact: I own 2 cats and 1 dog.

Hobbies/Interests: Fishing, hiking and anything outdoors.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Can't remember. Sorry!

Locker Notes: I love working in the Abbotsford School District.

lan Levings
Principal
William A. Fraser Middle



Paul Luongo Vice Principal Clayburn Middle

Fun fact: I opened up for Grammy Award winner, Bobby McFerrin, at the Grand Rally for Music Education at NAMM in Anaheim, California.

Hobbies/Interests: Making music, performing, playing golf and watching/playing sports.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Basketball player.



Gurpreet Mahil Vice Principal Abbotsford Middle

Years with the district: 2.5

Fun fact: I have over 25 pairs of shoes.

Hobbies/Interests: Golfing, playing sports and travelling.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A PE Teacher.

Locker Notes: I am a social butterfly!



Michelle Myers
Vice Principal
Eugene Reimer Middle

Years with the district: 24

Fun fact: I once won a car in a raffle (a red Ford Fiesta) that had been driven by Sophie Schmidt (Canadian Women's soccer player). I sold it after driving it for a few weeks.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy crafts, reading, and walking my German Shepard with my husband.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Astronaut.



Heather Reid Principal Abbotsford Middle

Fun fact: I can't leave my office at the end of the day unless my desk is clean.

Hobbies/Interests: Poker is my favourite hobby.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Lawyer.



Rovi Sandhu Vice Principal Eugene Reimer Middle

Years with the district: 9

Fun fact: My preschool teacher accidentally changed the way I spell my name in preschool – and it stuck! I've been spelling it that way ever since.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy spending time with my family, watching hockey, and going for bike rides.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Nerlap Kaur Sidhu Vice Principal William A. Fraser Middle

Years with the district: 20

Fun fact: I love the Olympics.

Hobbies/Interests: Running trails and skiing.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Elizabeth Smoes Vice Principal Clayburn Middle

Fun fact: I once travelled to 12 countries in one year.

Hobbies/Interests: Reading and crocheting.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Ballerina.









SECONDARY LEVEL

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



Jennie Bell Principal Abbotsford Senior Secondary



Katie Caines Vice Principal Abbotsford Senior Secondary



Leanne Fleming
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Senior Secondary

Fun fact: I became an Auntie 3 times this past year.

Hobbies/Interests: 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.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Nurse and Fashion Designer who danced.

Years with the district: 1

Fun fact: My "bar trick" is I can say the alphabet backwards as fast as I can say it forwards. It's won me a lot of drinks.

And a few strange prizes.

Hobbies/Interests: Reading, napping, watching Formula 1 racing at terrible hours of the night. Exploring and getting lost in foreign airports.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Race Car Driver or a Ballerina.

Years with the district: First year

Fun fact: I taught every grade from Kindergarten through to a Masters-level program at a university, with teaching stints in Asia and the United Kingdom. When I'm not in the classroom, you can catch me sabering the top off a champagne bottle without spilling a drop (my go to party trick) or dominating carpool karaoke with some 90s hip-hop.

Hobbies/Interests: I am passionate about travelling! When I'm not off exploring the world, you'll find me fishing, gardening, or reimagining furniture with a fresh coat of paint.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Locker Notes: I am thrilled to be part of the District and excited to embark on this new journey in my role. I look forward to working with such a vibrant community and contributing to the growth and success of our students.



Years with the district: 10

Fun fact: I was fully accredited to be a lifeguard but never actually worked as one.

Hobbies/Interests: I love video games!

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Probably an Astronaut.

Baljeet Gill Principal W.J. Mouat Secondary



Years with the district: 23

Fun fact: Before I was a teacher, I worked as a border officer for Canada Customs. Great stories!

Hobbies/Interests: Planning trips and growing garlic.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.

Jacqui Hall
Principal
Bakerview Centre for Learning



Michael Hendricks Vice Principal Rick Hansen Secondary

Years with the district: 30

Fun fact: I was briefly in a heavy metal band and played a few gigs in Sweden in 1988.

Hobbies/Interests: Cycling, hiking, cooking and travelling.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? NHL player. I wanted to be Bobby Orr's defensive partner.



Laura Hoeppner
Vice Principal
Bakerview Centre for Learning

Fun fact: The Office's character, Dwight Schrute, is loosely based off my life.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, fitness and binge watching Netflix.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.... assuming a career as a professional Baseball Player didn't pan out.



Alexandra Klassen Vice Principal Robert Bateman Secondary

Years with the district: 16

Fun fact: I graduated from Robert Bateman, and now I'm lucky enough to work here too!

Hobbies/Interests: Drawing, painting, books, movies and hiking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Paleontologist.



Jennifer Koehler Principal Robert Bateman Secondary

Years with the district: 1

Fun fact: I was a pairs figure skater and put myself through university as a coach.

Hobbies/Interests: I'm learning how to upholster and refinish furniture.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A McDonald's girl. I coveted the little paper hats employees wore in the kitchen.

Locker Notes: Glad to be part of the district!



Victoria Kooner Vice Principal Rick Hansen Secondary



James Maclaren Vice Principal W.J. Mouat Secondary



Michelle Middleton Vice Principal Yale Secondary

Fun fact: I used to do volunteer work in a lab infecting worms with viruses and doing fluoroscopy imaging of them during my undergrad degree. Unfortunately, I cannot get the images of those worms out of my head to this day, and no longer enjoy fluorescent green.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy spending quality time with family and friends, going for picnics on the beach or BBQs in the backyard, hanging out at home, or going out somewhere new.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I really wanted to have an orphanage and also own an ice cream truck, so that the kids would always have free ice cream.

Years with the district: 9

Fun fact: My family owns a small but successful car racing company....jk!

Hobbies/Interests: Mountain biking, hiking, fishing, skiing, beaching, yard work...outside.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Taller?

Years with the district: 29

Fun fact: I have an intense fear of spiders.

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening and anything crafty.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Soraya Rajabally Vice Principal W.J. Mouat Secondary

Fun fact: I continue to swear like a trucker behind closed doors and am unapologetic about it.

Hobbies/Interests: I love, love, love, my mini goldendoodle, my motorcycle, and a strong cup of coffee.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Don't remember. Menopause brain..... I mean, I have been in the district for a quarter century after all.



Brent Schroeder Vice Principal Abbotsford Senior Secondary

Years with the district: 7

Fun fact: In high school, I played Danny Zuko in our production of the musical Grease.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, camping, travel, guitar and music.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Fire Fighter.



Bo Sidhu Vice Principal W.J. Mouat Secondary

Years with the district: 23

Fun fact: I graduated from Abby Senior and won a BC Championship in football.

Hobbies/Interests: Watching sports and travelling.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Doctor.

Locker Notes: Looking to retire this year.



Paula Thompson Vice Principal Yale Secondary

Fun fact: I went to university in California.

Hobbies/Interests: I love gardening.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Mom.



Becky Toews Vice Principal Robert Bateman Secondary

Years with the district: 23

Fun fact: I was born in a small Welsh village called Merthyr Tydfil and was raised in England.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy spending time with my husband and sons. My second love is eating potato chips – preferably meaty flavoured ones from Britain.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Jaimie Webster Principal Rick Hansen Secondary

Years with the district: 23

Fun fact: I very nearly became a Mountie with the RCMP.

Hobbies/Interests: Running, reading, hanging out with my dogs and being outside somewhere warm.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? Either a Teacher or a Mountie. I was undecided until university!

Locker Notes: I've been fortunate to have served as an administrator at every mainstream secondary school (and one elementary school) in Abbotsford with the exception of RBSS.



Stan Wiebe Principal Yale Secondary

Fun fact: I make a mean Old Fashioned.

Hobbies/Interests: Cooking and travel.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Fighter Pilot.



ARTS, TRADITIONAL & VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



Karen Bennett Principal ASIA - Sumas Mtn Campus

Fun fact: My first career was with IKEA, where I started as a cashier and moved up to the position of manager of the sofa department. I can still put together a Billy Bookcase in record time!

Hobbies/Interests: Reading, travel, glamping, painting and renovations.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? An Architect.



Andrew Macphail
District Vice Principal
Abbotsford Virtual School

Years with the district: 24

Fun fact: In the Guinness World Record book.

Hobbies/Interests: Anything on the water or outdoors, movies and guitar.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Joscelyn McAuley Vice Principal Abbotsford Traditional School

Years with the district: 2

Fun fact: I am an animal lover. You can often find me in the forest walking my dog.

Hobbies/Interests: Outdoor activities are my absolute favourite. I love travelling, hiking, and biking.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher. I loved reading picture books to my stuffed animals.



Ashley Mennear
Vice Principal
Abbotsford Traditional School

Fun fact: I love to dance at any time and in any moment.

Hobbies/Interests: Lego, paddleboarding, dancing, and reading quietly by myself.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher.



Tara Plantinga
District Principal
Abbotsford Virtual School

Years with the district: 19

Fun fact: I had 3 kids by 23.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking and camping.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? A Teacher



Jasbir Singh
Principal
Abbotsford Traditional School

Years with the district: 15+

Fun fact: I am colour blind and my daughter picks out my clothes each week.

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, basketball, going to the gym, reading and hanging out with my friends.

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I skipped Kindergarten but while I was in Grade 1, I wanted to be a Pilot.



Julie Wilms Vice Principal ASIA - Sumas Mtn Campus

Fun fact: I'm a literacy literature junkie.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy warm sunny weather and being with my family. I love spending time in Osoyoos in the summer!

What did you want to be in Kindergarten? I wanted to work at Sea World with the dolphins.

Locker Notes: Looking forward to a great year ahead.