



**Candidate for  
Director**

## **Eve Flynn**

Trustee in School District No. 69 (Qualicum)

### **Background**

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I was first elected as a Trustee in 2002. I represent the rural area of Nanoose Bay which is part of School District No. 69 (Qualicum). I have represented our District at BCPSEA for the past five years. I have been the district rep to the Vancouver Island Labour Relations Council (VILRC) for the past six years and was recently elected Chair of this body. I participated at our local table during the last CUPE contract negotiations. I have been Chair of our district Policy Committee for the past four years and also sit on the Regional District 69 Recreation Commission. Presently I am the Board Chair for SD No. 69 (Qualicum) and the VISTA Branch representative to the BCSTA Education Committee.

As a volunteer I have participated in a number of local community planning and waste management committees for the Regional District of Nanaimo. From 1990 to 2006 I was President of the Coastal Region of the Canadian Red Cross Society, then Western Canada and finally serving on the National Board of Governors from 2002-2006. I am married with two children. Kate is attending Vancouver Island University and going into her third year of the Bachelor of Business Administration program. Max is entering second year Engineering at the University of Victoria.

### **Statement**

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I am very pleased to be able to put my name forward for the position of Director of BCPSEA. I believe I could bring to the Board table a wide array of experiences both in my working life and that of a volunteer. I have been an active member of my local community which has allowed me to gain experience in a variety of grass roots issues affecting everyday living. Nationally with the Canadian Red Cross Society I was involved in the budgeting process and strategic planning. By the very nature of this organization I feel I have a strong understanding of diversity and sustainability. BCPSEA Board and staff activities address 90% of the budgetary issues that boards of education must manage. I have been involved at my district level with Make a Future, Behavioral Interviewing and the Sustainable Future: A Business Case Analysis Framework initiatives and feel that BCPSEA is positioning us well to address our human resource issues. The challenges the next two years will bring us have just begun. The arbitration on class size and composition and its future impact on labour relations is key the future contract negotiations with the BCTF. I would love to accept the challenge of this work and would appreciate your vote.



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## **Gord Klassen**

Trustee in School District No.60 (Peace River North)

### **Background**

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- Trustee since 2005
- Served as Vice Chair of the Board
- Served as Chair of the Operations Committee
- Present Chair of the Personnel Committee
- Vice Chair of the Education Committee
- BCPSEA Trustee Representative for three years

### **Statement**

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I am excited and eager to serve with an association that “develops and maintains human resource practices that maximize the benefit for students in our public education system through the effective use of resources and fair terms of employment” (BCPSEA Mission Statement). As a trustee, I believe the work that BCPSEA does on our behalf is vital and I appreciate the resources and support they provide to local boards of education. This support will be extremely vital in the coming months, as we enter into contract negotiations.

In this era of rapid change and economic uncertainty, we need to support the efforts of districts and do all we can to encourage local boards in their endeavour to explore and implement creative solutions to the challenges of operating with limited resources, especially in the area of recruitment and retention.

Because of the vast diversity within this province of British Columbia, we must recognize and address the unique challenges faced by each of our 60 boards of education. We need to ensure that there is representation on the BCPSEA Board from all regions of the province. And while I will bring to the Board table a unique “northern” perspective, I will always strive to be equally responsive to the issues experienced by each of our districts across the province.

We must ensure that boards of education continue to be actively engaged in the process and practice of labour relations and human resources. For that reason, it is imperative that BCPSEA make every effort to maintain a strong and healthy connection with trustees through communication, education, and consultation.

I find the work of labour relations and human resources to be extremely energizing and deeply rewarding. As Chair of the Personnel Committee for our local Board of Education, I have enjoyed opportunities to be involved in everything from resource and budget planning, salaries and compensation discussions, recruitment strategies, labour management meetings, and employment interviews.

My personal involvement and leadership in the community with several non-profit organizations, various community agencies, and within my own children's schools, has enabled me to experience first-hand how interconnected we become. I have discovered that the decisions made in any one particular boardroom can often have a broad impact on the entire community. I am convinced that as we enter into discussions and negotiations, we need to be careful to recognize and consider the perspectives of all who will be affected by our actions, and draw on those diverse insights to provoke comprehensive discussions and thoughtful decisions.

I am a team player with vision and energy. I believe that candid communication and respectful relationships are fundamental in establishing an excellent foundation for productive discussion and decision making. I am a person who will listen and strive to understand the issues, with a commitment to making a constructive contribution, and a resolve to be pro-active in shaping and sustaining a positive environment for students and staff all across our province.

I respectfully seek your support. Thank you!



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## **Susan Skinner**

Trustee in School District No. 44(North Vancouver)

### **Statement**

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My experience as a Trustee and former Board Chair with the North Vancouver Board of Education, administrator in the financial services sector, and my life as a parent have provided me with extensive experience in building relationships and bringing people together. I believe that what the public school system needs now is flexibility, collaborative working relationships, respect and compassion to ensure that the innovative change the public is demanding in education will become a reality for our current and future generations of learners.

I believe families, education and business have one thing in common to ensure success — it's all about the quality of our relationships. As a parent and a trustee, I have continually advocated for flexibility, transparency, inclusion and respect in support of choice in publicly funded education.

I am a strong supporter of curriculum delivery and teaching practices that support self-directed learning that engages the learner in inquiry and supports the development of the whole child. As a supporter of multi-use facilities and the provincial government's Neighbourhood Learning Centres, I have worked hard to establish positive relationships and partnerships with our municipalities, the Recreation Commission and the health authority to support healthy, thriving, sustainable communities and lifelong learning accessible to all citizens. To further this vision, I have supported advocating to the provincial government to develop a funding policy and legislation that addresses the impact of declining enrolment on school districts.

With four children attending public schools in North Vancouver, I have had plenty of opportunity to get involved in school issues at all levels. Serving on my local PAC executive led to election to the NVPAC, where I also served for a short time as District Associate to BCCPAC prior to election in 2005 as a Trustee.

During my tenure on the board of education I do believe I have made a difference. I was able to ensure that a district wide consultative visioning process utilized an appreciative inquiry approach. Our school district has a much greater respect for public consultation and inclusion and this has resulted in excellent relationships with all of our partner groups. Our district is one of the first in the province that initiated a President's Council where all partner groups are represented and come to agreement on the direction and means of our school district's advocacy work.

During my term as Chair, the board continued to foster collaborative relationships by hosting the City and District Councils and the MLAs to discuss current and future opportunities for the school district.

As Board Chair, I expressed our commitment to the shared administrative services initiative of the Ministry of Education and a willingness to work alongside other school districts to achieve efficiencies and solutions.

During my tenure as trustee I have participated in the hiring of key senior administrative positions, as well as serving on the committee for hiring Principals and Vice-Principals. I have also served on numerous civic and board and district committees, including:

Four years as Provincial Councilor  
Past Chair Finance and Facilities Standing Committee  
Past Chair Education and Programs Standing Committee  
Collaboration Steering Committee with the District of North Vancouver  
President's Council  
Aboriginal Advisory Council – currently engaged  
Policy Review Committee  
Sustaining Schools Working Committee  
Communications Committee  
North Vancouver School District Visioning Process  
North Shore Substance Abuse Working Group  
City of North Vancouver Advisory Planning Commission  
City of North Vancouver Parks and Environment Committee  
Student Leadership Council

Prior to starting my family, my career was focused on administration with a specialty in communications. I have been employed in both the private and public sectors, primarily in the financial services sector. While working with the Ministry of Finance I was an integral part of the communications team that successfully negotiated the merging of a public organization, The Financial Institutions Commission (FICOM) and a private organization, the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation (CUDIC). My work in youth advocacy began during this time as a founding board member of the Vancouver Junior Board of Trade.

Prior to my work with FICOM, I worked with a team of lawyers at Johnson, Rifenburg and Wylie, a labour relations law firm representing the employer in the health sector in Los Angeles, California.

My passion for supporting families and community was channeled more recently in my work with the Community Services Department of the District of West Vancouver.

Throughout my career, I have seen how effective communication is the most integral requirement for organizational success. As a trustee and most recently in my tenure as Board Chair, I have actively supported and engaged the board in extensive consultation with the community to address our budget challenges and a comprehensive restructuring process, including several program and school consolidations.

During my tenure as Board Chair and as trustee I have continually worked towards quality, innovative public education and engaging the Ministry in proactive discussions to support the commitment to co-governance.

I believe my skills, energy and experience would be a tremendous asset to BCPSEA and I look forward to this opportunity with enthusiasm, openness, and a willingness to work hard at building the relationships it will take to further public education in British Columbia.



## Shirley Wilson

Trustee in School District No.34 (Abbotsford)

### Background

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- Second term elected Board of Education Trustee, School District No. 34, Abbotsford (Serves 19,000 students; over 1900 employees at 47 schools).
- Second year President, Fraser Valley Branch, BC School Trustees Association. Since joining BCSTA (bringing membership to 100%!) have remained true to my commitment to participate wholly in the organization. Previously served as Vice President and Branch Education Representative (one year each).
- BCSTA appointee to the *BC Inter-Ministry Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violence and Crime*.
- BCPSEA Representative since 2006. Previously was the alternate representative.
- Moderator for the *Yahoo! BC School Trustees* discussion group.
- Former Chair (three years) and Vice Chair (one year), City of Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. (City of Abbotsford and School District No. 34 partnership.)
- Executive Director, *Big Brothers Big Sisters Upper Fraser Valley*, past Director of Fund Development, *Big Brothers Big Sisters Abbotsford Mission Ridge Meadows*.
- *Campus 2020 Summit*, Student Representative from University of the Fraser Valley (2007 – then UCFV) resulting in the unique perspective of providing basic education to those moving toward post secondary education.
- Member, Director and Representative to various community Foundations and organizations.

### Statement

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There are many activities I enjoy and being a School Trustee is one of them. I enjoy the work and the relationships that we build as we support, shape and inspire our communities. I also enjoy new information and the opportunity to renew — or challenge — my views, beliefs and values. I appreciate difference of opinion as it provides opportunity for discussion, dialogue and debate. Those who know me well recognize that I actively seek out and locate important and pertinent information and share it. I particularly enjoy the process of making an informed decision.

Attrition, bargaining, succession planning, turnover, corporate competition, private competition, budget pressures, pay freezes, and nuances in ministry messaging around the changing landscape of education in BC: a small but

powerful list of current impacts on BC education. A sound and responsive Public School Employers' Association is requisite in a forward, positive and stable response that ensures we are meeting the needs of learners.

I have great confidence in the collective voice, strength and wisdom of school trustees as employers in British Columbia. Together we are united in our commitment to provide the best education to children. We are united to provide positive working environments and progressive opportunities for employees. We are intentional in our decisions, policies and budgets and use these tools to support learning.

The Fraser Valley, currently not represented at the BC Public School Employers' Association Board of Directors table, has a strong voice and represents a significant population of the province. The districts in the Fraser Valley region range from urban to remote and in population from just over 2,000 students to just under 20,000 students. In my employment as executive director of a small charity, I have a full range of responsibilities including labour relations/human resources, facilities management, risk management, casework practice, accreditation, finance, revenue development and community relations. In my work I report to a Board of Governors and as a trustee I am a governor. This duality hones my comprehension of the roles of governor and senior staff and increases my awareness of the responsibility and duty of the trustee. I regularly test my decisions; measuring what I hope to achieve against what is best for my organization, my learners, my community.

As an aside, my recreation appears to be golfing. While I enjoy the sport, I am oft reminded that my strengths lie in bringing people together for golf; while my swing is obvious evidence of my lack of ability in the game, I enjoy the success of a good game — one that is inclusive, values team effort and is entertaining.

We are entering a time when the strength and wisdom of all participants of the bargaining sectors in the province is requisite and that the education of our students must remain front of mind. I respectfully request your support for Director, BC Public School Employers' Association. My experience as a trustee, my perspective from the Fraser Valley, and my knowledge as a charity manager informs me. My value of process, my desire for fairness, my skill in investigation informs you.

I invite you to contact me directly at 604-897-5576 or email me at [shirley\\_wilson@sd34.bc.ca](mailto:shirley_wilson@sd34.bc.ca). I look forward to your calls, questions, and comments.