



From grief to medicine

*Moving forward
with good hearts*

2022 AGM Report of Proceedings

President's report

We have not gathered together at an annual general meeting since 2019, which was the year I was elected. That officially makes me the president of Zoom.

I would also like to acknowledge and give thanks to the Musqueam, the Squamish and the Tsleil-Waututh First Nations on whose traditional and unceded land we are gathered. I am honoured to be a guest on these lands.

I stand before you, humbled by everyone's participation in today's program. I appreciate that each of you came to this event with open hearts and open minds and spent time today listening.

At the beginning of this, Elder Siem-Tun (Joe Thorne) envisioned just one day of learning so that every trustee had a baseline level of knowledge and understanding regarding truth and reconciliation from which to govern. Four years ago, that was a big ask that was unattainable. People were concerned about logistics, upsetting folks and the difficult barriers. However, over the course of this term, the uncovering of the bodies of the kah kah smune:m (sacred children) that never returned home from residential school ignited a national urgency that our Indigenous relatives and survivors have long been pleading for. As a collective group, we recognized the need for learning and healing and began the personal journey necessary to right the wrongs of the past. And here we are with the program for today and tomorrow just four years later.

For me, this reflects the true definition of leadership. As trustees of the public education system in our communities, it is incumbent upon us to be the leaders in the area of truth and reconciliation that those communities need. As we heard earlier, education played a critical role in the architecture of racism that was strategically and methodically carried out against the Indigenous peoples of the lands our schools stand upon. What we are all seeing, doing and experiencing today is a pathway for our communities. We must be leaders in the healing that is yet to take place. These two days of learning are examples of how we can and

must start to address the ugly truths of our past and utilize our positions as community leaders to lead the healing with humbleness, humility and grace.

Friends, this is the last AGM of this term and what a term it has been. Time moved painfully slowly and at lightning speed simultaneously, in a way that a worldwide global pandemic can only explain. I am so very grateful for the way we weathered that storm. We kept student needs at the centre of everything we did and did not waver. Most importantly, we stayed united and found constructive and supportive ways to move through our differences. You all have a great deal to feel proud of for how you navigated the last two years. There is much chatter about how COVID-19 will change what we do or how we do it and what we learned from it. This experience and how you all handled it, specifically how you came together with a focused purpose, is the lesson for future trustees. It is not just what you accomplished but also how you achieved it. I raise my hands to you all for your leadership.

This term was not all about COVID-19, and there is much to celebrate. Over the course of the last four years, we have been very busy at BCSTA producing a tremendous amount of resources, changes and important initiatives to improve trustee practice and support your work. I do have a long list of those initiatives on hand, but after our beautiful day of learning, it doesn't quite feel right to stand up here listing off accomplishments. At the beginning of this term, before we even knew of COVID-19, it was a key focus in BCSTA's strategic plan to make this association an invaluable organization for all things K-12 related. I leave my role as president knowing that together with all of you, because of and in spite of COVID-19, we have raised the association's profile, which also elevates the status of boards of education provincially and locally. We can all end this term feeling so proud of where we have taken the status of boards and this association over these past four years.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the board of directors and BCSTA staff. All of them have worked with fierce determination to serve you while

pivoting during a pandemic to support you and make sure you had the tools you needed to do the job your community expected of you. We are saying goodbye to two members of the BCSTA board of directors this year as Rick Price and Donna Sargent are not seeking re-election as directors. Donna has served on the board since 2014, and her dedication to students and ability to positively remind any room to remain focused on the kids cannot be overstated. Donna, you were on the board when I got elected and have been a true mentor, colleague and friend. Rick has served on the board since 2020 and is, without a doubt, one of the most knowledgeable governance experts I have ever worked with. Rick, your wisdom on governance will be greatly missed. Thank you to you both for your service to BCSTA.

The last AGM of the term is always a bit bittersweet as we are saying farewell to colleagues who have already decided not to run again. I want to thank you for your years of service to your communities' students.

In just over a decade, Indigenous graduation rates have increased from 47% in 2008 to 72% in 2021. Special needs graduation rates moved from 61% in 2008 to 74% in 2021, and overall graduation rates moved from 79% in 2008 to 90% in 2021. You leave behind a legacy of continuous improvement in supporting those who have not traditionally found success in school. So, while this last term was much more than you bargained for, we are so glad we had your experience and wisdom to navigate us through these unprecedented times. And while we all have much to be proud of from this term, we have much work to do for those that are running again.

Let's look at those stats I just cited differently. In 2021, 28% of Indigenous students did not graduate. If you remove the adult dogwoods from the Indigenous completion rates, only 60% of Indigenous students graduated with a full B.C. Dogwood. I say again that we have much work to do. These statistics are critical examples of why we need to review and understand disaggregated student data at the district level. Aggregated data shows us our success; disaggregated data shows us where we need to focus. As trustees, it is our job to celebrate and illuminate our district's student data. Understanding who is not succeeding in our system means knowing who we need to help and how we can focus resources where it makes the most significant impact. This is how you change

students' life chances, and that is what public education does. Together we positively change people's lives, and we must be laser-focused and use every tool available to us to do it. Tomorrow we will sign a memorandum of understanding with the First Nations Education Steering Committee that will lay the pathway for our work ahead to do just that; recognize the wrongs of the past, identify where we need to focus so that we can implement the systemic change necessary to change people's life trajectories.

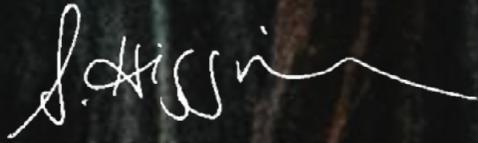
As we move out of emergency response mode, we all have to refocus board table conversations on teaching, learning and assessment and reconnect once again with the important learning transformation B.C. embarked on before COVID-19. As we refocus and begin to set directions for the next term, it is our job to make sure we set the proper teaching and learning conditions for the learning transformation to succeed. The very essence of a trustee's job is to ensure continuous improvement in student learning. The learning transformation is just that; a move to modernize how we educate students to meet the needs of the students we serve today. We must ensure they are ready for the rapidly changing world they will graduate into because that world is very different from the one we graduated into.

In conclusion, I ask for just one moment of personal indulgence because my wonderful husband Kevin came tonight to see what all of you are about and observe this part of my life as I transition out. I want to say thank you to you, Kevin, for all your support over the past three years. Thank you for listening to every interview, building me an office out of a closet, and giving me a soft place to land when the world got a bit too nasty out there. I am so lucky to have such a wonderful human to share my life with, and I could not have navigated the last three years without you.

So, to you all, I also say hy:cep que for all you have done to support students through this incredibly pivotal chapter in their lives. Looking ahead to the next two days, we have a lot of exciting work to do, including electing a new board of directors, president and vice-president. They will support you in the work to be done and in debating the important motions submitted by member boards that will lay the groundwork for the board you elect.

I want to thank our Elder Siem-Tun, the Indigenous Education Committee and the Professional Learning Committee, who have put together this incredible agenda and brought us these beautiful days of learning. I look forward to learning alongside you and participating in strong, healthy debates using our uy'shqwalawun (good hearts and good minds) on AGM motions.

Thank you for your incredible work serving the students of B.C these last four years and for allowing me the privilege of being your president for the past three years. It was the honour of a lifetime.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'S. Higginson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Higginson



The background of the entire page is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest. In the foreground, there are numerous green ferns. A thick, moss-covered tree trunk stands vertically on the right side of the image. The lighting is low, creating deep shadows and highlighting the textures of the plants and the tree bark.

Welcome 2022/2023 board

Carolyn Broady	President
Tim Bennett	Vice-President
John Chenoweth	Director
Jane Fearing	Director
Tracy Loffler	Director
Bob Holmes	Director
Jen Mezei	Director
Stephanie Higginson	Past president

Program highlights

Q'ushin'tul (Walking Alongside)

Honouring children found on residential school sites.

How Indigenous Worldview can Support the Work of Trustees

Kendal Netmaker

From Grief to Medicine

Wisdom from Elders:

Qualqwaletza (Joe Charlie)

Joe Thorne

Jenny Cross

Vernon Williams

Shane Pointe

Stewart Gonzales.

Arnold Lucier

Alvin Azak

Dr. Steven Point

Dr. Gwen Point

Moving Forward with Good Hearts

Memorandum of understanding signed between FNEESC & BCSTA

Opportunities: BCTEA & UNDRIP

Deborah Jeffrey & Tyrone McNeil, FNEESC

Introductions as a Gateway to our Personal Truths

Sarain Fox

Standing
committee
reports



Credentials Committee

Role

Trustees attending the annual general meeting as delegates are appointed to this committee by the BCSTA president.

They are responsible for validating all credentials of delegates to the AGM and reporting on attendance at the AGM to the membership. This committee meets as needed at the AGM.

The Credentials Committee for the 2022 AGM was composed of:

- Laura Dixon, SD37 (Delta)
- Roxanne Gulick, SD59 (Peace River South)
- Carmen Ranta, SD74 (Gold Trail)

Report

- Trustees: 267
- Life Members*: 1
- Total Voting Delegates: 268
- Non-voting Guests: 67

*Non-sitting trustees

Scrutineers

- Alanna Cameron SD87 (Stikine)
Chief Returning Officer
- Darleen Patterson SD57 (Prince George)
Scrutineer
- Alan Rice SD6 (Rocky Mountain)
Scrutineer

Legislative Committee

Committee Role

The Legislative Committee is responsible for examining motions submitted by member boards, the Professional Learning Committee, the Indigenous Education Committee, branch associations, the Provincial Council or the board of directors for consideration at BCSTA's general meetings and Provincial Council meetings. Under Bylaw 11(a), the Legislative Committee has the responsibility "to examine, correlate, amend, reject and report upon notices of motions submitted to it." Under Bylaw 7(l), the Legislative Committee is also responsible for reviewing motions submitted to Provincial Council to ensure that they are of an emergent nature. Emergent is defined as "matters that if delayed until the AGM will impact negatively on Boards' ability to influence public policy or a public education issue." The Legislative Committee does not assess the merits of the motions that are submitted to Provincial Council and AGM. The Committee is also responsible for maintaining BCSTA's policy book.

The following trustees served on the Legislative Committee during the 2021-2022 term:

- Ryan Painter, chair, SD61 (Greater Victoria)
- David Swankey, vice-chair SD33 (Chilliwack)
- Rick Price, BCSTA director, SD48 (Sea to Sky)
- Bill MacFarlane, SD19 (Revelstoke)
- Christie Sacre, SD44 (North Vancouver)

Carmen Batista (director, human resources and labour relations) and Maryke Peter (program assistant, legal) provide staff support to the Legislative Committee. During the 2021-2022 term Audrey Ackah (legal counsel) and Valerie Overgaard also provided staff support the Legislative Committee.

The Legislative Committee held seven meetings between June 2021 and March 2022. All these meetings were held online as in-person meetings were not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee plans to meet in mid-April to review late motions for AGM. The committee plans to hold another meeting this spring to continue working on the policy book review project.

2021-2022 Work Plan

The board approved the following work plan which the committee developed for 2021-2022.

In addition to the duties set out in BCSTA's [bylaws](#), the committee's goals for 2021-2022 are as follows:

1. Review the BCSTA policy book
 - BCSTA's policy book specifies that "the Legislative Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the association's policies and may recommend changes to the board of directors for presentation to the membership."
 - From time to time, the committee conducts a review of the policy book.
 - The last time the Legislative Committee conducted a review of the policy book was in 2012.
 - The committee commenced this project during the 2020-2021 term and plans to continue to work on this project during the 2021-2022 term.
2. Review of BCSTA motion processes
 - Prior to the 2021 BCSTA AGM, the board asked the committee to consider how motions are prioritized and organized. The committee opted to follow past practice for organizing the order of the 2021 motions but would like

to consider alternative ways of organizing and prioritizing motions.

- In addition, the committee would like to clarify the circumstances when the committee exercises its discretion to amend or reject motions.
- The committee would also like to consider timelines with respect to motions.

The Legislative Committee is reviewing the policy book and identifying possible changes that the association may wish to make to update the policy book. The committee's recommended changes will be provided to the board of directors for consideration. An interim report of the work was provided to the board of directors at the June 28, 2021, meeting.

The committee continues to review the BCSTA motion processes. The committee's recommendations on changes to BCSTA motion processes will be provided to the board of directors for consideration.

Review of 2021-2022 Provincial Council Motions

For the October 2021 Provincial Council meeting, BCSTA received four motions by the submission deadline. The Legislative Committee determined that three of the motions were emergent. One motion, on the framework for enhanced learning timeline submitted by Abbotsford, was considered not to be emergent. The Legislative Committee, therefore, approved three motions for debate by Provincial Council.

One motion was submitted to BCSTA by the submission deadline for the February 2022 Provincial Council meeting. School District 46, Sunshine Coast, submitted a motion about the trustee honorarium framework. The Legislative Committee determined the motion was not emergent and SD 46 has decided to withdraw the motion. The Legislative Committee has, therefore, approved no motions for debate by Provincial Council.

Preparation of Motions for the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Legislative Committee reviewed 15 motions which were submitted to the chief executive officer by the deadlines specified in BCSTA's Bylaws for receipt of extraordinary and substantive AGM motions. The committee recommended splitting one motion into two separate motions - one about outdoor learning and the second on ventilation. The motion sponsor agreed with this recommendation. The committee recommended the withdrawal of a motion on exempt compensation as the assembly had a similar motion passed in 2019 AGM. The motion sponsor accepted the Committee's recommendation. The committee discussed a motion regarding CommunityLINK funding, which ultimately focused on universal food programs. The sponsor agreed with renaming the motion and focus on food programs rather than CommunityLINK funding. The committee consulted with several motion sponsors and recommended revisions to various motions to address issues such as clarity, accuracy, and consistency with BCSTA style conventions.

The Legislative Committee has approved for debate a total of 15 motions which have been organized into the following categories:

- A. BCSTA
- B. Public Education Governance
- C. Boards of Education
- D. Students
- E. Educational Programs
- F. School Premises, Facilities, Services

The motion categories are derived from BCSTA's policy book.

Recommendation

That the annual general meeting consider the motions as presented in the 2022 AGM Handbook.

Late motions

Report

The Legislative Committee met twice Friday April 22, 2022 to review late motions. The second meeting was to reconsider a decision made at an earlier meeting.

The Legislative Committee does not assess the merits of the motions that are submitted to AGM.

In accordance with [BCSTA Bylaw 10\(c\)](#), motions submitted after the motion deadline shall be considered by the general meeting "only when such a motion deals with matters arising from events occurring or legislation introduced subsequent to the stated sixty (60)-day deadline for submission of motions. A motion meeting these criteria shall be referred to the Legislative Committee for consideration and then, if in order, be submitted to the general meeting; a simple majority is required for approval."

4 motions were submitted to BCSTA after the 2022 substantive motion deadline.

One motion was withdrawn by the sponsor as the work is currently underway and the remaining three motions were reviewed by the Legislative Committee.

Initially, one motion on capital cost sharing was rejected by the committee, however, in a subsequent meeting, a motion of reconsideration was carried.

The motion on capital cost sharing was subsequently determined to have met the criteria as outlined in [BCSTA Bylaw 10\(c\)](#),

As a result 3 late motions were approved by the Legislative Committee for consideration at the AGM.

Electronic copies of the motions were sent to delegates via email last night. If you have not received a copy of the late motions, please see a staff member at the registration desk.

Indigenous Education Committee

Membership

Dana Moraes, SD50 (Haida Gwaii), co-chair

Tony Goulet, SD28 (Quesnel), co-chair

Joe Thorne, SD79 (Cowichan Valley),
knowledge keeper

Donna Sargent, SD38 (Richmond), BCSTA director

John Chenoweth, SD5s8 (Nicola-Similkameen)

Rebecca Barley, SD48 (Sea to Sky)

Jane Fearing, SD6 (Rocky Mountain)

Colette Trudeau, SD42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)

Janet Fraser, SD39 (Vancouver)

Charlene McKay, SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)

IEC Term Completion

Donna Sargent

Tony Goulet

Rebecca Barley

Jane Fearing

Colette Trudeau

BCSTA Support Services

Matt Taylor, BCSTA,
manager of information technology

Budget

The Indigenous Education Committee is pleased to report that they were under budget for the fiscal year for 2021/2022. Typically, the IEC meets in person three times during the fiscal year

however it was decided to meet twice in person and four additional meetings were held virtually this past year.

Meetings

The Indigenous Education Committee (IEC) met six times from April 2021 to April 2022.

June 7, 2021

August 16 & 17, 2021

September 27, 2021

October 21 & 22, 2021

February 10, 2022

March 8, 2022

Strategic Plan Alignment

In alignment of the BCSTA Strategic Plan, the IEC worked diligently to develop a comprehensive work plan outlining objectives for 2021/2024. The IEC highlighted key goals in the areas of advocacy, leadership and relationships. This strategic plan is available digitally on the IEC section of the BCSTA HUB.

Educational Resources

Trustee Knowledge Series - Understandings 1/5

Trustee Knowledge Series - History 2/5

Trustee Knowledge Series - Language & Culture 3/5

Trustee Knowledge Series - Relationships 4/5

Knowledge Series - Truth to Reconciliation 5/5

Professional Learning Committee

Membership

Leah Ward, Thompson Okanagan Branch, chair
Kate Toye, Northwest Branch, vice-chair
Shelley Lawson, Vancouver Island Branch
Pammila Ruth, South Coast Branch
Becky Coons, Kootenay-Boundary Branch
Sheelah Donahue, Metro Branch
Pascale Shaw, Fraser Valley Branch
Roxanne Gulick, Northern Interior Branch

AGM Planning

Indigenous Day of Learning
April 21-24, 2022

Going Home (Thursday afternoon)

Honouring children found
on residential school sites

*Songs and prayers for children found

*Essential teachings from our elders

*Blanket ceremony

From Grief to Medicine (Friday morning)

Led by elders from across the province

*Stories from the land

*Wisdom sharing

*First Peoples' Principles of Learning

Moving Forward with Good Hearts
(Friday afternoon)

Exceptional program planned

*Signing of MoU with FNEESC

*Outstanding plenary speakers

*Student Ignite session, 'Beyond the Gap'

Work Plan 2022-2026

Vision To develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the learning needs of all trustees their four-year term

PLC incorporated trustees' skills and knowledge:

- To support BCSTA strategic plans in three major areas of importance: advocacy, relationships, and leadership
- To provide essential professional learning for trustees as aggregated through ongoing branch consultations
- To build trustees capacities critical to confronting emergent issues in our communities
- To provide necessary inspirations in support of the work of school trustees

FESL can provide a structure to connect many learning opportunities within the work plan

• The spirit and tone in which the Peer review has been supportive, respectful, and honoured the diversity across the province

• The ministry is focusing on these 3 areas in the peer review team process this year:

1. Reviewed, analyzed, and interpreted classroom, school, district, and provincial data
2. Activated an effective strategic engagement process
3. Adjust district operational plans to align with student learning goal(s) as articulated within the board's strategic plan

Next meeting: May 27-28, 2022 work session

budget: projected expenditures within budget

Branch reports



Fraser Valley

Members

- SD33 (Chilliwack)
- SD34 (Abbotsford)
- SD42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows)
- SD75 (Mission)
- SD78 (Fraser Cascade)

Executive

- President: Shelley Carter, SD75 (Mission)
- Vice President: David Swankey, SD33 (Chilliwack)
- Secretary: Freddy Latham, SD34 (Abbotsford)
- Professional Learning Committee Liaison: Pascale Shaw, SD42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows)
- Trustee Representative: Marilyn Warren, SD78 (Fraser Cascade)
- Trustee Representative: Preet Rai, SD34 (Abbotsford)

Thank You

We would like to give our appreciation to:

- Gordon Li/Carmen Batista, BCSTA Staff Support (you are both so appreciated by this Branch)
- Maryke Peter - BCSTA Legal Counsel
- Mark Regier, BCSTA Director of Communications (so supportive)
- Rick Price, BCSTA Board of Directors Liaison
- Tony Goulet, BCSTA Indigenous Education Committee Liaison
- Shirley Wilson, BCPSEA Liaison

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate our new BCSTA board:

Carolyn Broady, Tim Bennett, John Chenoweth, Jane Fearing, Bob Holmes, Jen Mezie, Tracy Loffler, and past president Stephanie Higginson.

To our retiring board members, Donna Sargent, and Rick Price, you have our gratitude and appreciation for all you have done over the years to represent us at the director's table.

THANK YOU!

Report

Another year is behind us. Where does the time go? We are seeing the light at the end of all that is Covid but realize we must live alongside of it now. It has taken many a toll on our mental health, our face-to-face connections, and collaborations, and life in general. We see our students struggling and now we are working to support all aspects of their school experiences. We also need to work on support within our Trustee roles. As a Branch, we are fully aware of how much work goes into this job. We are all true advocates of our Districts and surrounding communities. We have had many a zoom and are now getting back to the in-person experience with meetings and school outings.

We met with the new BCSTA CEO Suzanne Hoffman and BCPSEA CEO Bruce Anderson.

Many districts were reviewing and creating board racism policies.

Bus safety.

FESL discussions

Districts working on equity scans

Vaccine and mask mandate discussions

Covid discussions

Residential schools and the horrifying news of the hundreds of unmarked graves

Truth and Reconciliation and the calls to action

Signing of MoU between BCSTA and FNEESC at AGM

Connections with our MLAs

Langley leaving our Branch to Metro (we wish them all good things moving forward)

We also saw some of our Districts within Branch impacted by the fires last year and the devastating floods. Our Fraser Valley Branch members of Chilliwack, Fraser Cascade and Abbotsford were the hardest hit, but we all experienced the magnitude that these natural disasters can cause. We saw Districts working together to coordinate for our staffs to be able to go to work and our

students to have the supports they needed in the time of crisis. All our hearts went out to all impacted.

We have been working on and editing to bring up to date our Branch Constitution and Bylaws

An Ad Hoc committee was created with representatives from all boards within Fraser Valley Branch.

Thank you, goes out to Ron Johnstone (#78) Shirley Wilson (#34) Korleen Carreras (#42) David Swankey (#33) Shelley Carter (#75)

Draft is completed and will go through process to pass through membership and BCSTA to Provincial Council.

Our Fraser Valley Branch meets at least 4 times a year, February for our Branch AGM (Zoom), October (Zoom), and BCSTA Academy and BCSTA AGM that were in person December 2021 and April 2022

We are a diverse region that is made up of rural communities to larger urban cities. We have many Indigenous Bands across the area, and a

residential school, that educates us on where we have come from and how we are moving forward in the future.

Again, I want to thank the Branch Executive for all their help to make my job easier. I am very grateful and appreciative. It is my honor to work with each of you and all the members of Branch.

Thank You again for allowing me to represent you as Branch President. I take this job seriously and my support goes out to each and every one of you throughout the next year. Our Branch is really like one big family. We have seen a lot over this past year, but the one positive that comes out is that we are all very passionate about this region and our students, staff and parents that live within the awesome communities that make up our Fraser Valley Branch.

Submitted by Shelley Carter, branch president

Kootenay Boundary

Members

The Kootenay Boundary Branch is comprised of six school districts:

- SD5 Southeast Kootenay
- SD6 Rocky Mountain
- SD8 Kootenay Lake
- SD10 Arrow Lakes
- SD20 Kootenay Columbia
- SD51 Boundary

Executive 2021-22

- Cindy Strukoff, SD51, President
- Beverley Bellina, SD5, Vice-President
- Jamie Massey, SD51, PLC Rep
- Sheri Walsh, SD8, Alt PLC Rep
- Rhonda Smith, SD6, Trustee Representative
- Kristin Ali, SD20, Trustee Representative
- Lori Lee Brekke, SD10, Trustee Representative

Report

Our Kootenay Boundary Branch AGM was held virtually via ZOOM September 26, 2021 with BCSTA supporting the branch elections.

We approved our budget for the 2022 fiscal year and a motion was passed to waive the 2022 assessment fees due to the absence of in person AGMs for the past 2 years.

Our branch held an in person branch meeting at the December Trustee Academy welcoming our trustees. It was wonderful to finally be together in person again. We had district sharing as well as received reports from Trustee Coons, our PLC representative, and Tim Bennett, our BCSTA representative. A motion was passed that our September 2022 AGM will be held via ZOOM.

In January we held a motion building session via ZOOM which was well attended and produced 1(one) motion for submission to the BCSTA AGM.

We are so grateful that our branch meeting at the BCSTA AGM was again in person. We had discussions regarding the upcoming trustee elections and ways to encourage interest via sharing the BCSTA Trustee Candidates Guide and using social media in our districts. We also received updates from our member districts, PLC and BCPSEA. Congratulations to our BCSTA rep, Tim Bennett on the newest addition to his family.

Our next meeting will be our September 10, 2022 AGM which will be held virtually.

Thank you very much to the Kootenay Boundary Branch Trustees for all the support over the last year.

Submitted by Cindy Strukoff, branch president

Metropolitan

Members

Metropolitan Branch
("Metro") Member School Districts:

- SD 35 Langley
- SD 36 Surrey
- SD 37 Delta
- SD 38 Richmond
- SD 39 Vancouver
- SD 40 New Westminster
- SD 41 Burnaby
- SD 43 Coquitlam
- SD 44 North Vancouver
- SD 45 West Vancouver
- SD 93 Conseil scolaire francophone

Executive

The February 2022 AGM included the election of the following executive members:

- Bob Holmes, SD36 - President
- Nicole Brown, SD45 - Vice President
- Danielle Connelly, SD40 - Secretary
- Sheelah Donahue, SD45 - Professional Learning Committee Representative

Report

Metro Branch continues to meet 7-8 times per year for two hours per meeting. This year we have held most of our meetings via Zoom, but we were excited to meet in person at BCSTA Academy and AGM. We continue to have higher participation at Zoom meetings than we did previously in person. The format of Metro meetings includes committee/liaison reports and a trustee round-table, where trustees from each district share experiences and concerns with respect to supporting students, staff, and our communities.

We owe a great deal of thanks to our BCSTA staff representative; Audrey Ackah started the year with us, and Suzanne Hoffman filled in while Audrey was on maternity leave. Each regularly attended our meetings, and their guidance and support has been greatly appreciated. Their efforts helped us continue an uninterrupted meeting schedule that provided a valuable connection for our trustees this past year.

Thanks also to our liaisons and committee members who provide Standing Committee & Liaison Reports:

- BCSTA Board Representative, Stephanie Higginson
- Aboriginal Education Committee Liaison, Dana Moraes
- Professional Learning Committee, Carol Cahoon
- ELL Consortium Chair, Jen Mezei
- BCPSEA Metro Region Representative, Terry Allen

Metro Branch was able to get back to holding a motion building meeting in November 2021, something that was absent from our previous year due to Covid. While there was good discussion, a decision was made not to bring forward any branch motions to the 2022 AGM. At our January 2022 meeting, the highlight was an IEC callout questions exercise; many thanks to IEC Co-Chair and Metro Liaison Dana Moraes for leading us in this work.

Thanks to my fellow executive members, and our entire branch, for making this such an enjoyable and easy job.

Submitted by Bob Holmes, branch president

North West

Members

- SD50 Haida Gwaii
- SD52 Prince Rupert
- SD54 Bulkley Valley
- SD82 Coast Mountains
- SD87 Stikine
- SD92 Nisga'a

Executive

- Branch President Ed Harrison (SD82)
- Vice President Alvin Azak (SD92)
- Past President: Jennifer Williams (SD54)
- Professional Learning Committee Representative Kate Toye (SD52)

Highlights from districts check-ins

SD82 Coast Mountain

Hired new Superintendent, strategic plan is complete, think tank in Hazelton with students, recruitment still an issue, looking forward to moving towards Indigenous Council.

SD87 Stikine

Increase language and culture in K-12, students working with wildlife guardians, Language programs and plans for potlach, strategic plan complete, completed a final draft of LEA, Equity and action for truth and reconciliation, positive results for improving student success, Partnership with Coast Mountain College, youth transitions position, admin practicing student centred approach. Staffing continues to be a challenge.

SD52 Prince Rupert

New learning programs throughout district, totem pole, Truth and reconciliation work, Equity scans, L2 LEA completed, 2 indigenous coach mentors, First Student Voice Committee.

SD92 Nisga'a

A student will be part of the panel at this BCSTA event, acknowledgment to all that supported the event on Thursday, finished with consultation process for new school gym, offer teacher accommodations, day care is still up and running, beginning phases of equity scan, governance work with Mike McKay, cultural gatherings, and celebrations, struggling with staff employment

SD54 Bulkley Valley

Middle of Equity Scan, engaged sport program-hybrid program with education, transport teachers on bus between communities, Increased foods programs.

SD50 Haida Gwaii

Equity Scan, Elder Read, UBC Math Symposium project, vaccine procedure, mental health grant, early learning forum, pink shirt day continuing to work on strategic plan and budget, increasing costs including food strategies, Changing results for Young Readers, all native basketball tournament participation.

Branch Elections

Jennifer Williams stepped down and Ed Harrison was acclaimed as president.

Submitted by Jennifer Williams, past president

Northern Interior

Members

- SD27 Cariboo-Chilcotin
- SD28 Quesnel
- SD49 Central Coast
- SD57 Prince George
- SD59 Peace River South
- SD60 Peace River North
- SD81 Fort Nelson
- SD91 Nechako Lakes

Executive

- Chad Anderson, SD59 (Peace River South), President
- Nadine Frenkel, SD91 (Nechako Lakes), Past President
- Helen Gilbert, SD60, (Peace River North), Vice President
- Roxanne Gulick, SD59, (Peace River South), PLC Representative
- Darleen Patterson SD57, Secretary-Treasurer
- Christy Fennell, SD59, (Peace River South), Superintendent

Committees

- Tony Goulet, SD28 (Quesnel), Indigenous Education Committee Representative
- Sharel Warrington, SD57 (Prince George) BCPSEA Representative

BCSTA Support

- Donna Sargent, BCSTA Director
- Matt Taylor, BCSTA Manager IT

Report

The Northern Interior Branch met virtually in October 2021 and for our AGM in February 2022.

In discussions at these meetings, we agree that the significant and ongoing staff recruitment and retention challenge continues to affect students

across our region. Ongoing hiring processes and the work of covering chronically vacant positions puts a heavy burden on staff and administration, in an already challenging time.

Boards have budget concerns relating to cost inflation, unfunded exempt staff wage increases, the costs of the new 5 days sick leave provisions and boards have questions about the ministry's commitment to covering future collective agreement cost increases.

While we all hope that we have turned the corner on COVID, relatively low vaccination rates in some branch districts creates a concern for the fall.

Districts continue to develop positive relationships with our indigenous communities and are committed to advancing the goals of reconciliation.

The Northern Interior Branch thanks our fellow trustees across the province at AGM for their support of all four of the NIB motions that were accepted by the Legislative Committee, which included:

- A call to reinstate the COVID working group to report on the ordinary costs connected to COVID recovery and potential future costs related to the new norms and expectations coming out of the pandemic.
- A request for new funding to support universal food programs.
- A request for new funding to build and retrofit universal washrooms and change rooms.
- A request that the Ministry accommodate districts with shorter construction seasons by approving capital projects by February 1st of each calendar year.

We congratulate School District 57 for their success with their late motion with regard to the K-12 Operating Grant, which called on government to fully fund all incremental payroll and other inflationary costs that have not been covered in the K-12 estimated operating grants announced for the 2022/23 school year.

Submitted by Chad Anderson, branch president

South Coast

Members

- SD46 (Sunshine Coast)
- SD47 (Powell River)
- SD48 (Sea to Sky)

Executive

- President
Stacia Leech
stleech@sd46.bc.ca
- Vice President
Cynthia Higgins
CHiggins@sd48.bc.ca
- Secretary
Amanda Amaral
aamaral@sd46.bc.ca
- PLC Representative
Pammila Ruth
pruth@sd46.bc.ca

Report

We are privileged and blessed to be doing important work on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and St'át'yemc Nations (SD48), the Skwxwú7mesh and Shíshálh Nations (SD46) and the Tla'Amin Nation (SD47).

Congratulations to the newly elected BCSTA board and thanks for the amazing job and hard work of the previous board and staff in delivering a meaningful and engaging Academy and AGM.

In the 2021/2022 year our branch met six times, and although our three districts are geographically close, we had not met in person since 2019, it was wonderful to once again meet in person at Academy and at the AGM. We held our branch executive elections in December 2021.

There were some milestones and changes for branch member districts in the past year. Both SD46 and SD48 welcomed new superintendents, we shared stories about the process and lessons learned. Three of the five SD47 trustees left the

board in 2021 requiring a by-election for new trustees who were welcomed to the branch at the June 2021 meeting.

Our small branch has excellent representation at the provincial level with trustees participating on the Elections Committee, Professional Learning Committee, Branch Presidents Collaborative and the Climate Action Working Group.

The district updates at branch meetings are a unique opportunity to share stories, successes and challenges with our colleagues, also to reflect on how external circumstances are affecting all districts in similar ways.

We plan to meet in September 2022 before the provincial elections. At that meeting we will spend some time considering what are the most pressing items for discussion? What is the best use of our time together?

Agenda items on the parking lot are:

- Staff housing challenges.
- District updates about food security
- District equity scan updates
- Collaboration between districts.
- Branch motions to BCSTA
- District Childcare updates as the provincial process emerges
- New trustee orientation

Submitted by Stacia Leech, branch president

Thompson Okanagan

Members

SD19 (Revelstoke)
SD22 (Vernon)
SD23 (Central Okanagan)
SD53 (Okanagan Similkameen)
SD58 (Nicola-Similkameen)
SD67 (Okanagan Skaha)
SD73 (Kamloops-Thompson)
SD74 (Gold Trail)
SD83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Executive:

Tennile Lachmuth, President,
SD83 North-Okanagan Shuswap

Julia Fraser, Vice President,
SD23 Central Okanagan

Leah Ward, PLC, SD58 Nicola-Similkameen

Barbara Sheppard, Member at Large,
SD67 Okanagan Skaha

Kathleen Karpuk, Member at Large,
SD73 Kamloops

Report

The Thompson Okanagan Branch continued to be connected, focused and optimistic in our work to keep public education a priority over the last year. Since virtual AGM in April 2021, the branch saw many reasons to celebrate, but also new and ongoing challenges to our collective well-being and interruptions to learning in our districts.

At this time last year, May 2021, we came together in solidarity of those impacted by the revealing of the 215 graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Our individual paths, in learning the Truth and moving towards Reconciliation, converged at the announcement of the 215+ graves, and members shared a renewed commitment to take Reconcili-action; action to address the systemic practices in education which contribute to inter-generational harms and continue to foster disparity in graduation rates between non-

Indigenous and Indigenous students. As allies in reconciling historic wrongs, there is much work for boards to do. As a branch, we are grateful for many Indigenous leaders, Knowledge Keepers, community members, Indigenous Education Councils and each other to collaborate with on the way forward.

In support of boards' desire for more Indigenous-focused content at Branch meetings, the Strategic Planning Committee and Branch Executive brought forward a revised Strategic Plan this year, adopted in October 2021. At both the October and March branch meetings, trustee professional development included presentations, by Indigenous women, to enhance learning around Indigenous language, history and stories, governance practices, the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, Anti-Indigenous Racism, Indigenous Education Councils, and the newly announced Indigenous-focused graduation requirement. Members had the opportunity to participate in multiple branch committee meetings leading up to the business day, and the response from boards is that these committee meetings could continue virtually.

During the devastating wildfire and flood events of 2021, districts once again came together to show that education is more than academic learning, but also a broad community supporting those in need. We are very fortunate that neighbouring districts quickly lent aid to those communities affected, with focus on the well-being of staff and families, and learning continued for students.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to play a role in the education sector: masking indoors, planning for Branch events, discussions about mandatory vaccine policies, staffing challenges, and extending the winter break. We know staff have done everything possible to mitigate major disruptions this year, and we will remain hopeful that the September start-up will go smoothly.

With the fall elections on the horizon, it was wonderful to return to an in-person AGM this year, a chance for much needed reconnection

and collaboration between trustees across the province. AGM was also an historic event, with the signing of the MOU between FNEESC and BCSTA. At the branch business session, familiar faces were re-elected to the branch executive positions and Vicky Trill will continue to support the branch in the role of past president.

The branch executive remains enthusiastic to work on behalf of boards with all of the new and growing initiatives to focus on in the coming year.

*Submitted by Vicky Trill, past president,
SD74 Gold Trail*

Vancouver Island

Members

SD61 (Greater Victoria)
SD62 (Sooke)
SD63 (Saanich)
SD64 (Gulf Islands)
SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
SD69 (Qualicum)
SD70 (Pacific Rim)
SD71 (Comox Valley)
SD72 (Campbell River)
SD79 (Cowichan Valley)
SD84 (Vancouver Island West)
SD85 (Vancouver Island North)

Report

The VISTA branch has had a busy year - as a branch we try and meet four times a year. Due to the pandemic, we held two of our meetings via zoom, but were able to have two of our meetings in person at both the fall BCSTA academy and April AGM.

The fall meeting was held on Saturday Oct 2, 2021, via zoom - with presentations on Truth and Reconciliation by Dr John Chenoweth BCSEA Director, and COVID protocols and update from VIHA, Dr Sandra Allison and Dr. Shannon Waters.

We also hosted several meetings with all board chairs and the VISTA executive over the year, giving chairs the opportunity to share information and gather support as we navigated through the changing dynamics of dealing with the pandemic and new normal.

We were honored to have the opportunity to meet and hear from the CEO's of BCPSEA Bruce Anderson and BCSTA Suzanne Hoffman - at one of our meetings and thank them for taking them time to answer our questions.

Our spring meeting was held via zoom on Saturday March 5, 2022, once again due to the uncertainty of the pandemic

We had a presentation from a group called Stand up for mental health to trustees, this was a group

of comics who with their thought-provoking presentation using humor and laughter, spoke about their own personal journeys, challenges, and struggles with mental health. The purpose was to start a conversation around the stigma of mental health and support those who struggle with all forms of mental health challenges.

Alison Watson from SD 62, newly appointed chair of the BCSTA Climate working group introduced Dr Lori Adamson from the BC Chapter of Physicians for the environment to provide trustees with background information around concerns over impact of climate change and information around curriculum on that topic.

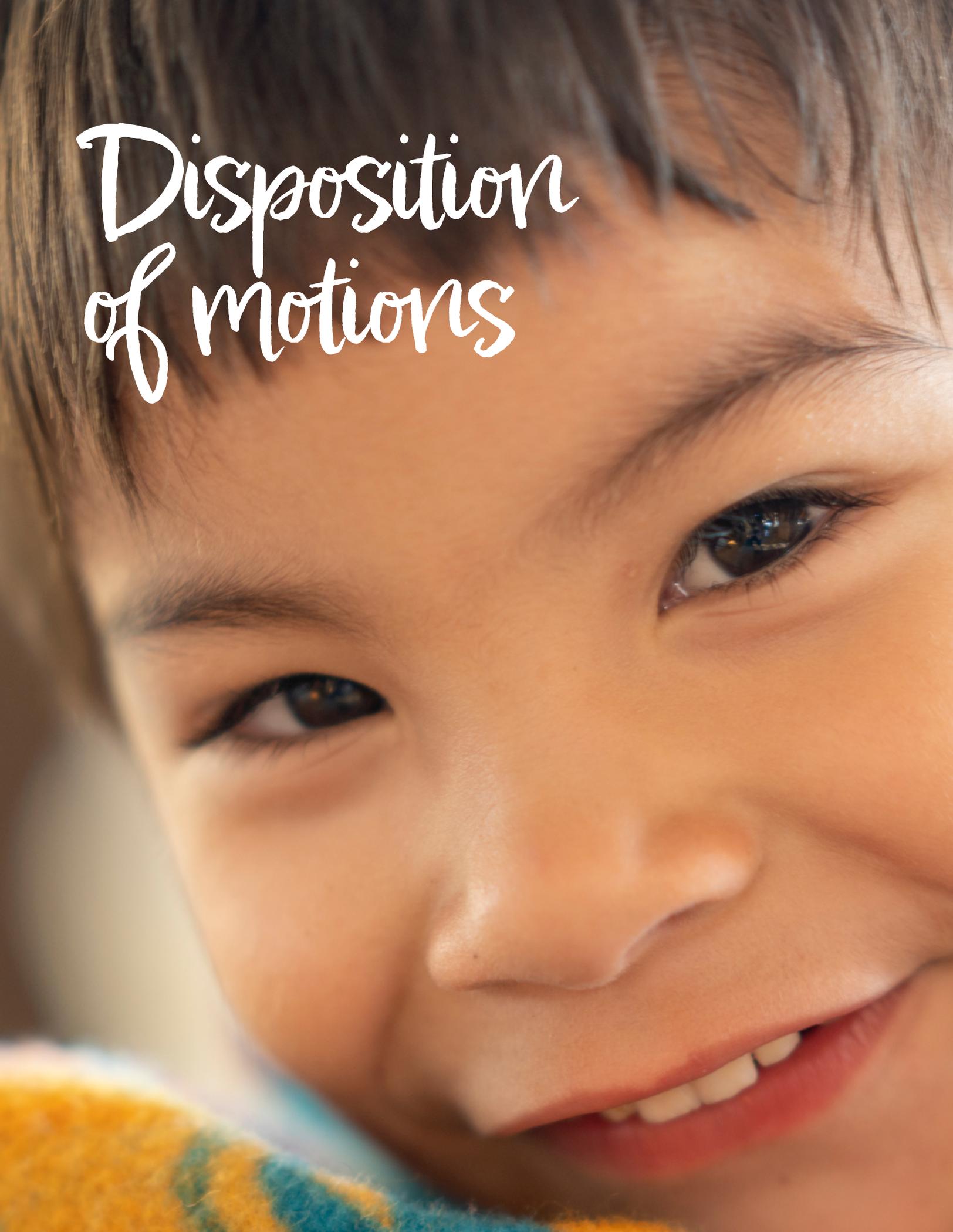
Motions

That BCSTA develop ways to include student voice in the work of the Association, with a report of recommendations to the Board of Directors was passed as amended

Along with the Motion on Advocacy on the Truth and Reconciliation calls to actions # 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, & 57 also passed, and as a branch we are looking forward to the follow up on these two motions.

The April AGM was our final meeting as branch where we acknowledged trustees who are not seeking re-election and held our AGM electing a new executive.

*Submitted by Janice Caton, president
Vancouver Island School Trustee's Association*

A close-up, warm-toned photograph of a young child's face, smiling and looking slightly to the right. The child has dark hair and eyes. The text "Disposition of motions" is overlaid in the upper left corner in a white, cursive font. The child is wearing a yellow and blue striped garment.

*Disposition
of motions*

Motions from AGM 2022

Substantive Motions

1 - A20221: BCSTA COVID Working Group	That BCSTA reinstate the COVID working group in order to prepare an updated report to the Board of Directors regarding the extraordinary costs connected to COVID recovery in the 2021/22 school year as well as potential future costs related to the new norms and expectations coming out of the pandemic.	Carried
2 - A20222: Traditional Territory Acknowledgment in the BC School Act	That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care organize and participate with sector partners in analyzing and making recommendations to revise the BC <i>School Act</i> regarding the acknowledgment of traditional territories.	Carried
3 - A20223: Trustee Honourarium Framework	<i>That the BCSTA develop a framework to assist Boards of Education in determining an appropriate honourarium that will attract and retain a diverse group of trustees and ensure equity in participation.</i>	Defeated
4 - A20224: Indigenous Representation on Boards of Education	That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and Child Care and First Nations Education Steering Committee explore means by which First Nations Representation can form a part of each Board of Education.	Carried as amended
5 - A20225: Access to Education for all Students	That BCSTA develop a template to help Boards of Education remove barriers to registration for students with precarious or no immigration status in their Districts; and that the BCSTA calls on the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care to remove barriers for students with precarious or no immigration status.	Carried
6 - A20226: Student Voice	That BCSTA develop ways to include student voice in the work of the Association, with a report of recommendations to the Board of Directors.	Carried as amended
7 - A20227: Universal Food Programs	That BCSTA requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide new funding to support universal food programs at all BC Public Schools.	Carried

<p>8 - A20228: Advocacy on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action #'s 7,10,11,12 & 57</p>	<p>That BCSTA urge the British Columbia Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Canadian School Board Association to call on the Federal Government to fund and implement the following Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.</p> <p>7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal Canadians.</p> <p>10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation. ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates. iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula. iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses. v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems. vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children. vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships. <p>11. We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.</p> <p>12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.</p> <p>57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti- racism.</p>	<p>Carried</p>
<p>9 - A20229: Attributes of a BC Graduate Review Process</p>	<p>That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care, along with sector partners, establish a process to review and refresh the 'Attributes of a BC Graduate' and that the review be commenced in the 2022/2023 school year.</p>	<p>Carried</p>
<p>10 - A202210: Climate Action – Remove BC Hydro Metering Caps</p>	<p>That BCSTA advocate directly to BC Hydro, the BC Utilities Commission, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, to request the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering caps in all public school facilities.</p>	<p>Carried</p>
<p>11 - A202211: Safe Passing Distance for Safer Routes to School</p>	<p>That the BCSTA request that the Province of British Columbia amend the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to better support safe active transportation by requiring drivers to provide 1 meter of space on roads with posted speeds of 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 meters of space on roads with posted speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking.</p>	<p>Carried</p>

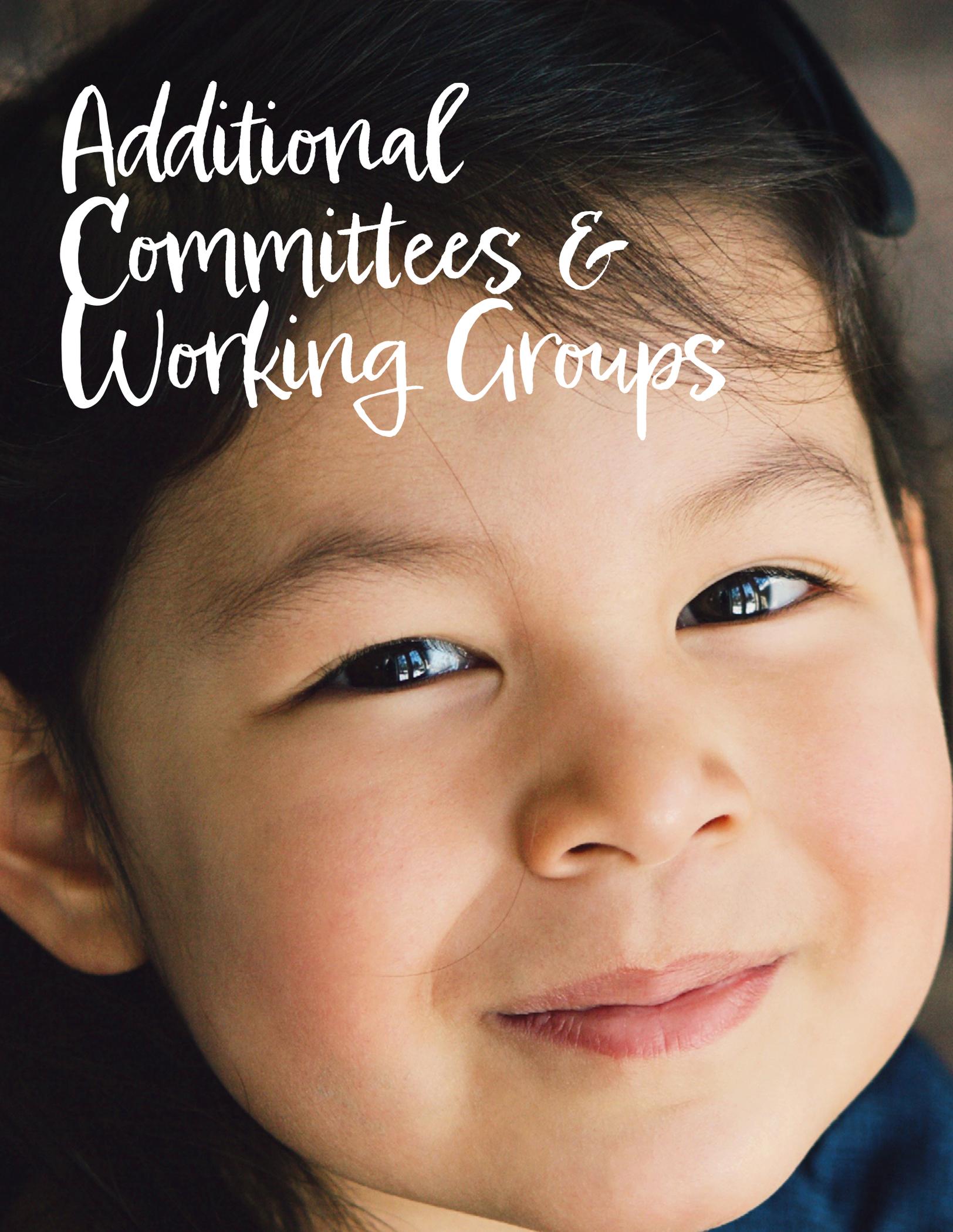


12 - A202212: Funding for Outdoor Learning Spaces	<p>That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To complete the review of its Area Standards for new schools and expansion of existing schools and include guidelines within for covered outdoor learning spaces.• To provide additional funding in the Annual Facilities Grant so districts can create covered outdoor learning spaces on school sites where they currently do not exist.	Carried
13 - A202213: Minimum Standards for Ventilation	<p>That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care provide minimum indoor air quality specifications for existing buildings, addressing issues of ventilation, temperature regulation, and safety in response to recent natural disasters and the COVID 19 pandemic and that funding be provided for districts to implement the standards.</p>	Carried as amended
14 - A202214: Gender Inclusive Washrooms	<p>That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care support universal washrooms and change rooms in public schools by providing new funding to retrofit existing facilities.</p>	Carried as amended
15 - A202215: Capital Funding Announcements	<p>That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care accommodate districts with shorter construction seasons by approving capital projects by February 1st of each calendar year.</p>	Carried

Motions from AGM 2022

Late Motions

<p>16.1 - A202216.1: Request to Ministry for Annual Report on Deferred Maintenance</p>	<p>That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education provide the Association with an annual report on school building deferred maintenance including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The average facility condition index for school buildings in BC, 2. The estimated value of deferred (unfunded) maintenance, and <p>The Ministry's plan to address the shortfall and worsening condition of school buildings</p>	<p>Carried</p>
<p>17.1 - A202217.1: Capital Cost Sharing</p>	<p>That the BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Treasury Board discontinue the practice of requiring Boards of Education to use operating funds towards supported capital projects that should be fully funded by the province (e.g. new schools, school expansion);</p> <p>and further: that the BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Treasury Board commit to respecting local decisions regarding strategic plan priorities, long term financial plans and financial risk management;</p> <p>and further: that the BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Treasury Board acknowledge that, similar to the provincial government, the Boards of Education policy of maintaining contingencies allocations/reserves is a prudent measure to provide for unforeseen and unbudgeted costs that may arise, and to fund local priority initiatives.</p>	<p>Carried</p>
<p>18.1 - A202218.1: K - 12 Operating Grant</p>	<p>That the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education to fully fund all incremental payroll and other inflationary costs that have not been covered in the K-12 estimated operating grants announced for the 2022/23 school year.</p> <p>And</p> <p>The per pupil funding in the K12 operating block funding announced for the 2022/23 school year be adjusted to cover all incremental payroll increases and other inflationary cost pressures being experienced by districts.</p> <p>And</p> <p>That the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education to notify all districts prior to May 31 2022, of changes in the K-12 estimated operating grant for the 2022/23 school year that will cover incremental payroll and other inflationary cost pressures.</p>	<p>Carried</p>

A close-up portrait of a young child with dark hair and eyes, smiling slightly. The child's face is the central focus, with soft lighting highlighting their features. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

Additional Committees & Working Groups

Other committees

Thank you

Thank you to those who served on these additional working groups and committees:

Climate Action Working Group

Mental Health Working Group

Student Citizenship Awards Committee

Ministry of Education and Child Care

Deputy Minister's Sector Advisory Council

Advisor Group on Provincial Assessment

BC Teachers' Council

Elections Committee

SOGI Working Group

Ministry of Finance

Schools Protection Program Advisory Committee

BCPSEA Coordinated Legal & Arbitration

Support Services Advisory Committee

Ministry of Education

Deputy Ministers Leadership Group

Joint Emergency Preparedness
and Procedures Working Group

Joint Partner Liaison Meeting
Planning Committee

Ministry of Education

Leadership Working Group

Ministry Executive Quarterly

Joint Working Group Meetings

Teacher Qualification Service

Joint Board Of Directors

BCTF/BCSTA Group Life Insurance Committee

BC School Sports

K-12 Indigenous Education Partners' Group

English Language Learners Consortium