

APRIL 2023

REPORT to CSBA

Report to the Canadian School Boards Association

AGM and Events

The association's annual general meeting (April 27-30) encourages trustees to 'level up' their skills by partaking in professional development opportunities alongside our regular business session while focusing on strategies for student success. We are very pleased to have Jody Wilson-Raybould join us this year to discuss "True Reconciliation" as our keynote speaker. She's built a strong reputation as a bridge builder and champion of good governance and accountability. She shares her unique perspective as both a community and political leader on topics such as Indigenous rights and reconciliation, democracy and governance, leadership, and justice.

BCSTA has provided members with four virtual orientations since our [New Trustee Orientation and Academy](#) in December, touching on the subjects of governance, working with people and relations with First Nations. Recordings are available for members via the HUB, and CSBA members may reach out to CEO [Suzanne Hoffman](#) for access. The three upcoming fall sessions include the subjects of values-based, evidence-informed decision making, planning for student success, and financial and resource management. Dates will be posted soon.

Board & Provincial Council

During the association's February 2023 Provincial Council Meeting, councillors elected Tracy Loffler as BCSTA's vice-president and Allison Watson as a director. The moves were required as the former vice-president, Tim Bennett, stepped down and did not run in the October 2023 local trustee elections. New for 2023, the next board of directors elected at our April AGM will, for the first time, hold two-year terms.

As part of the Provincial Council meeting, two motions were passed and the association has requested that government continue the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) as an annual targeted fund and that the provincial government fully fund [exempt staff compensation](#).

Learning Guides

BCSTA continues to update our members-only Learning Guide, with our latest module on Student Success going live in April. Other subjects include communication, development and leadership, governance, Indigenous education and legal accountability. The final module, Vision, Planning, Improvement & Reporting for Boards of Education, will be posted this spring. As the guides remain exclusive to BCSTA's membership, CSBA members may reach out to CEO [Suzanne Hoffman](#) for access.

Strategic Plan

BCSTA's 2022-25 strategic plan is a living document that highlights our three primary goal areas:

- Student outcomes
- Indigenous relations and reconciliation
- Equity and inclusion.

The plan also affirms our commitment to anti-racism, supporting diversity and our ongoing relationship and advocacy work. Download it [here](#).

Public Engagement Guide

BCSTA has published a [guide](#) to public engagement during board meetings for members with examples of questions, policies and practices that boards may want to consider as they continue to welcome the public to meetings that are productive and engaging. CSBA members may contact CEO [Suzanne Hoffman](#) for access.

SOGI-Inclusive Education

The Ministry of Education and Child Care and all B.C. K-12 education partners have a collective commitment to ensure schools are free from discrimination. The ministry has recently shared examples of [anti-SOGI tactics](#) with boards to reference. Learn more about [SOGI 1 2 3](#).

Advocacy Day

BCSTA staff continue to work and plan for an advocacy day this fall that will bring members of the Legislative Assembly and board chairs together. The event will take place during our regular meeting of board chairs and is currently scheduled for October 19, 2023. Leading up to advocacy day, BCSTA will work with board chairs and vice-chairs on the subject of how to effectively advocate and raise education issues locally, provincially and federally.

BCSTA Scholarship

BCSTA is once again recognizing three graduating B.C. public school students who have displayed exemplary citizenship within their school and community as recipients of our Scholarships for Student Citizenship. We are proud to announce the following individuals as this year's recipients:

- Harshvir Dhaliwal
North Surrey Secondary School, SD36 (Surrey)
- Rylan Domenichelli
Edward Milne Community School, SD62 (Sooke)
- Sofia Peckenpaugh
Doctor Charles Best Secondary School, SD43 (Coquitlam)

We wish all applicants great success in their studies.

New Graduation Requirement

In support of the province's commitment to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, starting July 1, 2023, students must complete at least four credits in Indigenous-focused coursework to graduate with a B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Certificate) in English or French. Details on data specifications and transition timelines for the new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement are available [here](#). The province has shared a [video](#) and [brochure](#) that explain the reasons behind the change and answer several frequently asked questions.

Bargaining Agreements

The final provincial collective agreement between BC Public School Employers Association and the BC Teachers' Federation has been posted [online](#). The agreement covers approximately 49,000 teachers in B.C.'s 60 public school districts. The current round of support staff bargaining is also complete, with all local agreements now fully ratified. Just over 40,000 K-12 support staff are now covered by 69 local agreements ratified under the Province's Shared Recovery Mandate. All public sector employees are receiving the high end of the wage increase this year. Details can be found [here](#).



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association