

2018 VSTA AGM Candidates' Statements

FOR PRESIDENT



Katharine Shipley, VSTA

Despite ongoing challenges around funding, recruitment and the restoration of our language, we do now have a government who supports public education, an elected Board of Trustees and a fully functioning Senior Management – a big change from where we were a year ago. I want to thank all our Union representatives in our schools – these colleagues keep us informed and support everyone on the ground. Our focus this year has been on training and support of our Union representatives, connecting with new teachers and getting ready for bargaining. We've worked hard to make our Executive a place for all voices and perspectives and it has been a privilege for me to work with my fellow Table Officers, our Executive, our school based Union representatives and of course, Mo and Kim. If elected President again for the 2018-2019 school year, I will continue my work in building collaborative and respectful relationships with the Employer – as we head into Bargaining, it is important that we are able to approach difficult conversations in a co-operative and purposeful manner.

FOR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



Treena Goolieff, VSTA

2017-18 school year has provided me with a tremendous opportunity to grow, and to serve the VSTA and I ask again for your support as I put my name forward for 1st Vice-President. If elected, I will continue to focus on preparations for our next round of bargaining. Our current Collective Agreement expires June 30, 2019 and it would be a privilege to pour all I can into the bargaining process. This commitment will help to strengthen our teams as they work to achieve a fair and well-deserved deal for teachers both at the local and provincial tables. I thank my colleagues Katharine, Rory, and Terry for their mentorship, and Mo and Kim for their guidance this year.

I have been a member of VSTA Executive since 2006 and I have served as WLC/B Chair, Social & Environmental Justice Chair, TTOC Chair, and Local Representative to BCTF. Within the BCTF, I sat as a member of the Committee for Action on Social Justice and currently I am a BCTF Women in Negotiations (WIN) workshop facilitator.

FOR SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT



Rory Brown, VSTA (and part-time member of the BCTF Executive)

I am happy to put my name forward for a final year of service to our members as 2nd Vice-President. In the VSTA office in 2017-18, we have accomplished a great deal of work to make Vancouver's public education system a more equitable place to work and learn for teachers and students. As a member of the BCTF Executive Committee for 2017-18 and 2018-19, teachers will be well-served to allow me to continue for an additional year at the VSTA as a support for the President and the rest of the team. Teachers are entering a bargaining year for next school year and stability and consistency in our Local officers will serve the membership well. Thanks for your support.



Trish Mugford, Vancouver Technical

We are in the midst of yet another challenging year, one in which I was able to experience first-hand how frustrating our working environment continues to be. Teacher shortages, CS/CC violations, loss of prep time are common daily reminders that restoration of our language is not complete.

I am running for 2nd Vice-President. The most rewarding work I have done outside the classroom has been serving and supporting my colleagues. It was the best part of my year in the VSTA office and it is a large part of the work I am doing this year at Van Tech where I am a Staff Rep, Pro D and School Culture sub-committee chair. Both teachers and students remind me daily how much more there is to learn.

My teaching and union experience has deepened and broadened my empathy. I am a BCTF Parent Presenter and a member of the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice. I work with BC teachers on issues which have taken me to the BC Legislature and to Vernon. This has broadened my perspective as a teacher, working mother and citizen.

FOR THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT *at .4285 FTE release when a fully released President or Vice-President serves as a part-time member of the BCTF Executive (By-law 3.1.d)*



Terry Stanway, VSTA / Vancouver Technical

I have been teaching in Vancouver at Vancouver Technical since 1992. Over this period, I have had several tenures on Staff Committee and have chaired our school Technology and Finance Committees. I have been a member of the Executive Committee since 2011 and I am currently our 3^d Vice-President, dividing my time between Van Tech on Day 1's and the VSTA office on Day 2's. I have previously held the role of VSTA Treasurer. In the community, I am the Past-President and current Treasurer of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC. I have been a member of the ANHBC Finance Committee since 2005. As part of my work with ANHBC, I sat on a committee which oversaw a building redevelopment with a construction budget of over \$11 million dollars. I am interested in good governance in general and how financial management influences organizational structure and governance. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee to address the challenges facing the VSTA and district - including the challenges presented by the potential redevelopment of the VSTA/VESTA building.

FOR TREASURER



Phil Lee, Vancouver Technical

My first year as the Treasurer for our local has been very informative, insightful, and at times challenging as I learn about our finances. Our local's budget is one of the largest in the province and as a result, a careful and detailed reading of the budget line items is of prime importance.

My background in Physics, Mathematics, and as well as having previous experience in working with large budgets (managing resource exploration projects whilst working as a Geophysicist) has taught me to be detailed, methodical, pragmatic, and to be critical of how numbers can affect a program and/or enhance it.

It would be a great honor to serve as the Treasurer again for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. I hope that you will vote for me as a Treasurer. Thank you.

FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE – 3 positions - “one of which shall be the President” (By-law 3.7.a)



Madeline Brewster, Killarney

I teach Spanish and Social Studies at Killarney Secondary, and have been a Member-at-Large on the VSTA Executive for one year. During this year I have deepened my understanding of the work our union does for each and every member, and I have listened to the issues that Vancouver teachers are currently facing. I believe strongly in the strength of our union to fight for what teachers deserve, which is why I'm running for the position of Local Representative.

I have had the opportunity to attend several BCTF Zone meetings, the Federation Leadership Institute, and my third BCTF AGM! These opportunities have allowed me to gain leadership skills and collaborate with fellow colleagues from around the province. In the position of Local Representative, I hope to build on the skills and relationships that I have fostered in order to ensure that VSTA's perspective is heard at the provincial level. Thank you for considering me for this role.



Phil Lee, Vancouver Technical

It has been an honour to represent VSTA as a Local Representative (LR) to the BCTF's Representative Assembly (RA) for the past four years and I would like to continue in this role.

Being a LR is to act for our members and our local. It is to bring forth issues/concerns of our local to the BCTF.

Volunteering as a LR has given me the opportunity to make connections with other LRs and Presidents from different districts. I have learned about their challenges and how it relates to our own issues and how difficulties can be handled through strategic and collective actions. Learning from and collaborating with others to overcome challenges is very important to me and I bring these skills and values with me.

I am proud that I have been given the opportunity to be a LR and I would be honoured to continue in this capacity for the upcoming school year.



Sara McGarry, Templeton

I am currently working as a TTOC in Vancouver secondary schools on day 1, and 'on contract' day 2 teaching Social Studies and Planning. For the last three years I have had the opportunity to represent TTOCs on our local executive. This past year, I also took on the role of attending BCTF Representative Assemblies and the 2018 BCTF AGM as a VSTA Local Rep. It was a privilege to bring a VSTA perspective to discussions and debate at the provincial union level. I hope to continue in the role of Local Representative and as a member of the VSTA Executive Committee next year.

In addition to my involvement in VSTA, my union activism includes; facilitating BCTF workshops throughout the province (6 yrs); and as a BCTF Action on Social Justice Committee member (3 yrs). I have also attended four BCTF AGMs, three Metro-West Zone meetings, and two BCTF Summer Conferences.

I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our local staff reps, VSTA Committee Members, our local Executive Committee, and by the work that *all* teachers do to support working and learning in our district.



FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

8 positions. 7 Member-at-Large positions (if immediate Past President is active), except in years where a Third Vice-President is elected, then there shall be 6 Members-at-Large (By-law 3.1.g)



Nikitha Fester, Vancouver Technical

It is with a sincere interest that I am submitting my candidature for the position of Member-at-Large for the VSTA. I feel that I am an exceptional candidate for this position because I am an effective communicator, problem solver and empathetic listener. A union represents its members and makes decisions on their behalf, therefore as a representative of a collective, it is critical to be able to communicate the ideas and the desires of the group and also relay information back clearly and effectively. Presently, many aspects in our line of work are changing and evolving, to that end it is necessary to be able to navigate through the uncertainty and develop realistic and applicable solutions. Finally in dealing with these various situations, it is imperative to listen with your head and your heart in order to develop a solution that bears witness to what has been shared with you. These qualities are essential for someone who intends to represent a collective and are qualities that I possess. Therefore it is with confidence that I am submitting candidature for the Member-at-Large position.



Scott McKeen, Lord Byng

I currently teach Social Studies and First Peoples English, coach Rugby and field hockey, and serve as a Staff Rep at Lord Byng Secondary. For the past three years I have been honoured to be a Member-at-Large on the Executive and hope to continue in that position next year. In serving on the Executive I hope to continue to build our capacity to embrace the challenges of the new curriculum and to enhance our ability to make reconciliation a reality in the school system. This year I stepped into the role of VSTA Aboriginal Education contact for BCTF Zone Meetings. At Byng, I have been actively engaged in the Curricula Implementation process, which includes working on an inquiry group that is looking at developing an interdisciplinary program focused on Community Stewardship and Environmental Sustainability using the First Peoples' Principals of Learning and Indigenous Ways of Knowing.



Sylvia Metzner, Tupper

Having returned to the classroom in the past two years, it has been a pleasure to re-connect with staffs as a whole and the School Union Teams in particular. Many thanks to Eric Hamber and Sir Charles Tupper for being so welcoming. Despite our successes, there is always important work to do as we struggle to have our Board fully implement our restored CA language and prepare for the next round of bargaining. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to share my passion for Special Education and my knowledge base from 6 years at the VSTA Office as a Member-at-Large of our Executive.



Nancy Palejko, John Oliver

I currently teach languages and psychology. My teaching specialties include French, Spanish and ELL. I have been a VSTA Staff Representative at for at least 9 years now, and I have been a Member-at-Large for the last 5 years.

If re-elected, I will continue to speak up when I feel more clarity is needed. I will continue to bring members' concerns to the table. I feel one of my strengths is speaking up when something uncomfortable or unpopular needs to be said.

My particular interest lies in increasing member involvement in our union and helping our members understand how much the BCTF and the VSTA actually support us. I feel our union is our only source of hope in maintaining our high BC educational standards in these times of cutbacks and market driven ethics.

I welcome the opportunity to offer my time and skills to serving as a Member-at-Large for the VSTA.



Alyssa Reid, Windermere

I have been teaching with the VSB since 2008 and I started my career off with a series of layoffs. Being a new teacher I did not understand how our collective agreement played into the process of staffing and I was often left feeling unsupported and alone. Now that I have settled into a school, as Staff Rep I strive to make sure that our new teachers know that the union is there to support them! I have been a Staff Rep for 3 years, and I feel that I have learned a lot about how our union works, how to improve my interpersonal skills, and I am growing to love the leadership role. Being Staff Rep has allowed me to build relationships with many of our staff members which has helped me grow in my teaching practice and personally. Starting the year as the only Staff Rep I have relied heavily on Katharine, Rory, Treena and Terry and felt so supported that they have inspired me to put my name forward for Member-at-Large.



John Silver, John Oliver

I am currently a Technical Education teacher at John Oliver. I have been honoured to be a Member-at-Large with the VSTA Executive for the past several years. Further, I have also been a delegate at the BCTF's AGM over these years as well as being a member of the Local Bargaining Team in the last round of local bargaining.

To put it mildly, the transition back to our restored language is still a work in progress. It's very obvious that our students continue to have oversized classes when we look at the amount of remedy which teachers in Vancouver are receiving. We must advocate for our students in order for them to have the learning conditions they deserve.

The VSTA is currently preparing for the next round of local and provincial bargaining. Our association and its committees will play an essential role in these negotiations to set a bright future for our students.

FOR TEACHER TEACHING-ON-CALL REPRESENTATIVE – endorsed candidate



Karine Ng, TTOC

I am currently working as a TTOC in Vancouver secondary schools. In my 14 years of teaching in the district, I have come to know the working conditions of beginning and professional TTOCs.

Heartened by the opportunity now to make long overdue changes to a chronically underfunded school system, I strive to contribute to VSTA's efforts to further its members' interests. I am particularly interested in increasing the diversity and involvement of members. It is my conviction that the inclusion of different voices and members' active participation are fundamental to a healthy democratic organization such as VSTA.

If elected, I will continue to schedule regular TTOC info sessions, organize workshops, reach out to TTOCs, maintain an up-to-date email list and TTOC VSTA website, as well as continue to advocate for TTOC issues both locally and provincially.

FOR HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR



Michael-Don Borason, Vancouver Technical

Currently, I am the Van Tech Learning Assistance/Life Skills Program Teacher. I have been a Member-at-Large with the VSTA for the past 3 years. This past year, I was the VSTA representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), as well as Co-Chair of our Executive meetings. I've proudly served on our VT union team for the past 10 years as a Staff Rep, and W/LC Rep, and a BCTF AGM delegate for 9 years. As a Member-at-Large, I have done my best to give counsel and direction to my fellow colleagues. As a Standing Committee Chair for Health & Safety, I would have an opportunity to learn another facet of our school structure and system, but more importantly, to collaborate with more colleagues in the district. My advocacy for public education shall remain, and along with my union colleagues I will continue to strive, achieve and maintain a working and learning environment that all students and teachers deserve.

FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR – seeking endorsement at May meeting



Leanne Hagglund, Pinnacle Alternate (VASS)

I'm a teacher with the Pinnacle Program. Over the past year, I've served as the Professional Development Chair. Through my work on the Executive I have learned an incredible amount about the inner workings of the union, having attended the BCTF AGM, Metro-West Zone Meetings and, more recently, the BCTF Women's Institute. I have had the rewarding opportunity to work with members of the Executive, all of whom bring thought-provoking perspectives to the table, on issues important to the membership. The In-House Table Officers have been incredibly supportive, mentoring fellow members into the world of union activism. I also have had the chance to work with the wonderful VSTA office staff, both of whom are incredibly supportive. Most importantly, I learned how vital the union is to teachers and to public education. We as teachers must support our union. I look forward to my continued involvement on the VSTA Executive as the Professional Development Chair for the 2018-19 year.

FOR SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CHAIR – endorsed candidate



Shelby Calman, Lord Byng

I am currently an English, French, Career and Spanish teacher at Lord Byng, and I am the Chair for the Social and Environmental Justice Committee. I previously acted as a representative for the Committee for three years for Hamber and Byng. Over the past year, I helped the Committee organize a Social Justice based Curriculum Implementation Day Conference for the Core Competencies. I have also been an active member of EC and have participated in various BCTF Conferences.

This year I completed my MA in Environmental Education and Communications. I focused on student-based research of environmental leadership in connection to the new curriculum and I am hoping to eventually apply my research at a local and provincial level. I would like to put my name forward for the SEJ Committee Chair. It is my hope that with my background and previous experience, I will be able to continue to advocate for social and environmental justice issues through the VSTA.

FOR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR – endorsed candidate



Peter Halim, Vancouver Technical

2017-2018 is my second year chairing VSTA's Technology Committee and sitting on Executive Committee. I feel privileged to be representing our members' voices in Technology related committees such as; Employee Digital Strategy Portal, Bring Your Own Device, ICT Advisory, and Secondary Laptops Committee.

I am looking forward to representing VSTA for another school year, 2018-2019, a crucial period considering that we will be receiving new laptops, transitioning through new websites, and interacting with new communication applications.

As a Technology Committee we look forward to exploring, researching, and advocating for more succinct cellphone (and other personal technology) usage and policies in our district. Hopefully this work will lead to possible Pro-D opportunities and an increased awareness around evidence based suggested pedagogical practices in the classroom for managing technology.

FOR WORKING/LEARNING CONDITIONS & BARGAINING COMMITTEE CHAIR – endorsed candidate



Treena Goolieff, VSTA

I ask for your support for a third term as Chair for WLC/B Committee. See comments for 1st Vice-President.