



PLATFORM **VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD**

Students must be the centre of our schools, and our schools should be the hearts of our communities. With every decision your Vancouver Green School Trustees will ensure that we focus on the best interests of students and that we are creating a school district that meets every student's needs and in particular supports the most vulnerable.

We will take a broad view of public education to provide excellence in learning, build respectful relationships, advocate for our students, support local communities, and ensure good stewardship of our school district. We will work to create the best possible education system to enable our students to succeed in a rapidly changing world. We will listen to our students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, and the local community, working respectfully and collaboratively to make the best future for our students and our city.

Fully Funded Public Education

A fully-funded public education system is the best investment we can make to create a better future for our province. After many years of underfunding by the previous government, Vancouver Green trustees are look forward to working collaboratively with other VSB Trustees and with the new Green-supported provincial government.

We will seek to:

- **Effectively implement the Supreme Court-ordered reinstatement of the collective agreement with teachers.**
- **Advocate for funding, both operational and capital, that meets our district's needs.**
- **Implement the new provincial funding for basic adult education courses and English Language Learning to best support these students. Vancouver's Main Street centre was recently closed and, to accommodate increased enrolment this centre, should be reopened.**
- **Seek provincial support to build new schools in areas of the city where there are more students than school spaces, such as the downtown peninsula (Coal Harbour Elementary, King George Secondary) and south east False Creek (Olympic Village). Looking further ahead, plan for more capacity in future growth areas along the Cambie Corridor, at UBC, and the Fraserlands.**
- **Resist any provincial government pressure to sell VSB land, such as Kingsgate Mall, to cover the costs of operational budget cuts.**

Schools As the Heart of the Community

All Vancouver families should feel confident that their neighbourhood school is an excellent learning environment, giving young people the tools to build their lives and communities. Schools are so much more than buildings where students learn during the day - they are places that bring communities together.

Vancouver Green Trustees will work to:

- **Improve the two-way communication between the VSB and parents by better hearing what parents have to say and better providing VSB information. Continue to improve the VSB website and work closely and respectfully with the Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC).**
- **Explore all opportunities for providing childcare spaces at school sites.**
- **Support use of school spaces outside of school hours by neighbourhood organizations and the community, repurposing surplus school space to meet this goal.**
- **Continue to work closely with the Park Board to collaborate on providing local sports and recreation opportunities.**
- **Not sell any school sites to ensure the investment in public land is available for future generations of students. Explore options to generate capital funds for new projects through targeted development of portions of large school sites or non-school sites.**
- **Work with the provincial government to secure stable and adequate funding so budget cuts do not lead to consideration of school closures.**
- **Work to restore the French Immersion spaces that were not available this year due to implementation of the teachers' collective agreement.**
- **Support and seek to expand art and music programs in our schools.**

Safe Schools For Everyone

Every student has the right to be safe at school. School safety includes a sense of security and wellbeing in addition to a student's physical and mental health.

Working collaboratively with all levels of government and stakeholders we will:

- Accelerate the seismic projects such that all Vancouver schools will be safe by 2030. There are more than 60 schools to be addressed in 13 years.
- Ensure a safe and respectful workplace for all employees as well as a safe and respectful environment for all students and their families.
- Continue to support the Active Routes to School partnership with the City of Vancouver and work to implement action plans.
- Seek funding and partnerships to provide cycling safety education in all schools that request it.
- Support wellness and mental health initiatives for all students, teachers, support staff and administrators.

Inclusive Schools That Support Vulnerable Students

Vancouver has a very diverse student population, which presents much strength but can also present challenges. All students must feel safe and welcome and be ready to learn.

Vancouver Green Trustees will:

- **Support access to food programs for vulnerable students as any hungry student will struggle to learn.**
- **Seek to enhance Indigenous students' sense of belonging in our schools and address barriers to student success. Increase knowledge, appreciation of and respect amongst all Vancouver students for Indigenous cultures and their contributions.**
- **Continue to implement the education recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.**
- **Support English language learners, Multicultural Liaison workers, and family support programs to accelerate student success.**
- **Continue the implementation of the guidelines for the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities Policy and monitor success. The only amendment to the 2017/18 budget was Trustee Dr. Janet Fraser's successful motion to restore the anti-homophobia mentorship role.**
- **Continue the successful School Age Children and Youth partnership to address substance use prevention.**
- **Focus on excellence in our district: excellence in student success, in support for all staff, and in all district operations.**

Financial Stability and Transparency

To improve services to our students Green School Trustees will pursue budget stability and transparency. Voters, including parents, want to know that the district's funds are being spent wisely, so want a better understanding of funding sources, income, and spending.

- **Continue to update and be informed by the VSB's five-year strategic plan.**
- **Work with the provincial government to create stable, multi-year funding for school districts and plan multi-year district budgets.**
- **Explore online bookings for school rooms and fields, working with the Park Board as appropriate.**
- **Continue to explore revenue opportunities from outside-of-school hours rental of school rooms, fields, parking lots, and school sites for film and TV production.**

Sustainability In Schools

We must work towards making our schools more environmentally sustainable and educate our students about environmental sustainability.

- **Work with the provincial government to allow the district's provincial carbon taxes to be directly applied to locally administered carbon-reducing sustainability projects. This money could be used in Vancouver without the administrative costs of the provincial program.**
- **Explore options to implement energy and cost saving projects in Vancouver's schools, such as solar panels on school roofs, that would enable short to mid-term cost recovery.**
- **Work with the provincial government to enable sustainability upgrades in conjunction with seismic upgrades.**
- **Explore ways to strengthen the connection students have with growing and processing food, such as through support of school gardens and food-related community partnerships.**
- **Complete and implement the district's Sustainability Action Plan, ensuring that student education is at the plan's core.**

Your School Trustee Candidates

Dr. Janet Fraser

Dr. Janet Fraser was first elected in 2014 and served Vancouver's students with commitment and integrity. As a Trustee she worked hard to build and maintain good relationships with VSB stakeholders, staff, community partners and other levels of government. Janet always made her decisions based on the best interests of students. For example, she voted not to approve the 2017/18 balanced budget, as the cuts too deeply impacted students, and she brought forward a successful motion not to sell any entire school sites.



Born and educated in the UK, Janet achieved BSc and Ph.D degrees in chemistry from the University of Bristol. Since moving to Vancouver, she has worked as a scientist, project manager, at home parent, program administrator and Vancouver School Trustee.

Janet has lived in Marpole for 16 years and has three teenage children, two in Vancouver's public schools and one attending post-secondary in BC. She served on school PAC executives for ten years and is active in the local community.

Estrellita Gonzalez

Estrellita Gonzalez is a small business owner, author and wellbeing educator. With a BBA in Human Resources Management and 20 years of senior management and corporate experience, she provides consulting advice on human resources, operations, sales and marketing, and project management. In 2012, Estrellita launched the Derma Bright Clinic, a Vancouver-based wellness centre and medispa.



Estrellita is committed to the supporting the wellbeing of Vancouver students and ensuring all students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential. As a Trustee, she will work collaboratively so Vancouver's children are well-served by a district that meets their needs and creates bright futures – for students and for our city.

Estrellita has lived in Vancouver since 1992. Her son is a student in the Vancouver School District. She serves as Co-Treasurer for Eric Hamber Secondary's studio and as a long-time volunteer with CHILD Foundation, at the invitation of the late Grace McCarthy, and served as a VANOC assistant.

Your School Trustee Candidates

Dr. Judy Zaichkowsky

Dr. Judy Zaichkowsky is an experienced and award-winning educator. She began her teaching career in the Vancouver School District at Templeton and Point Grey secondary schools. She was born and raised in Vancouver attending Sir Guy Carleton Elementary, Killarney Secondary and the University of British Columbia before completing her M.Sc. at Guelph University and her Ph.D. at University of California, Los Angeles.



Judy is currently Professor of Marketing in the Beedie School of Business at Simon Fraser University. She has led research on the effect of women on boards of directors and served on the SFU Board Of Governors for five years. She has written five editions of the leading consumer behaviour textbook in Canada.

Her experience includes serving as a Director of the Beedie School of Business MBA program, teaching and researching in several countries, and serving on a number of marketing journal review boards. She has been a Big Sister as well as member of the Minerva Foundation.

As a Trustee, Judy will work cooperatively to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of students wherever they live in the city and whatever their circumstances.