

by

Brian Leonard

2022-2024 President

BCPVPA

When I am visiting local Chapters, BCPVPA members frequently ask how they can get more involved in the Association. I also received this question at the past two Foundations for New School Leaders sessions, as our members – both new and seasoned – were eager to know how they could play a larger role in the life of the BCPVPA.

The BCPVPA exists to support members in their work, and even though school leadership can be deep and challenging, it is heartening to hear so many people eager to give back in support of their colleagues. Your participation makes our Association stronger and better.

What are the opportunities to get more involved?

- Committees:
 - Budget
 - Contract
 - Indigenous Leadership
 - Professional Learning & Development
 - Workplace Intensification & Well-Being
 - Ad Hoc Anti-Racism
- Working groups and sub-committees
- Facilitator roles

GETTING INVOLVED

- Coaching and Mentorship
- Chapter Council Representative
- Board Member
- President

Committee Work

Principals and Vice-Principals are busy people. And, as is often the case, the busiest people can be the ones most likely to seek out new opportunities and challenges. In other walks of life, when you mention the word 'committee', people may look at their shoes, or look for the exit: that is not true of the BCPVPA's member community!

Committee work is the ideal way to get involved without a huge commitment of time. It is also a great opportunity to network and meet members from across the province, usually those with a similar interest or passion. The BCPVPA supports several advisory and special committees that assist and advise the Board of Directors in carrying out the Board's governance role. And, from time to time, the Board may also appoint a working group to undertake a specific task or a short-term assignment.

Every spring, the Association circulates a request to members, through eNews and a special Member Update, for applications for our Standing Committees, and every year we get a significant number of applicants from across the province.

2023-2024 BCPVPA Board of Directors

Brian Leonard, SD43

President

Dr. Shannon Behan, SD47

President-Elect

Jacqueline Borosa, SD68

Darren Danyluk, SD6

Heidi Grant, SD91

Renee Hislop, SD62

Sid Jawanda, SD27

Sanj Johal, SD44

Paul Marsden, SD36

Tina Pierik, SD61

Navshina Savory, SD38

Tara Zielinski, SD45

The following criteria is used for selecting members to sit on each committee:

- An active member (either current Principal or Vice-Principal)
- Demonstrated knowledge or skills in areas within the committee mandate
- Balance of a variety of aspects of personal identity and geographic representation
- Appropriate representation from elementary, middle, and secondary schools
- Balance between new and returning committee members

Members may serve for a two-year term, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. There are just a handful of seats available on the committees each year, and it can be hard to winnow down the list of interested applicants. The President and Executive Director, in consultation with senior staff, make a recommendation to the Board of the proposed committee members for approval and ratification.

In addition to appointed members, each committee has one or more representatives from the Board, and one or more representatives from senior staff; the President is an ex-officio member of every committee. The senior staff provide support, resources, and advice to the committee, and assist the committee Chair – a Board member – in preparation of the agenda and reports. Board members on the committee are voting members, chair each meeting, and act as a liaison between the Board and the committee. Ultimately, each committee provides invaluable advice and perspective from the field to assist the Board of Directors in their decision-making. Currently, the Association has five Standing Committees, and one Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee.

Find out more about the 2023-2024 Committees

bit.ly/BCP_23-24Committees



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@bcpvpapresident

Facilitation and Coaching/Mentorship

Leadership development is a key component of the BCPVPA's mission, and coaching/mentorship is a critical aspect of leadership as we work to foster and encourage success for the next generation of leaders. Facilitator opportunities are available with some of our key programs, including Foundations for New School Leaders and Explorations for Aspiring School Leaders, and the BCPVPA is in the early stages of developing a coaching network to help develop future leaders, using the guiding principles of Cognitive Coaching. These are rich opportunities for experienced Principals and Vice-Principals to share their knowledge, pass on professional learning, and inspire newly-appointed 'next-gen' school leaders. It is the ultimate way to give back to the profession.

Chapter Council

The Principals and Vice-Principals in each district are members of a local 'Chapter', or Association. All 60 school districts have a local Chapter, and *all* Chapters are members of the BCPVPA. Chapter Council, held three times each year, is a gathering of school leaders representing every part of the province, and it is an amazing networking opportunity. Chapter Representatives are determined at the Chapter level.

Formally, the most important role of Chapter Council is to "provide guidance, advice, or direction to the Board."¹ Chapter Council meetings can also provide members with the chance to communicate directly with senior officials from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, as well as other influencers in the education sector.

Board of Directors

The ultimate way to get involved – and to have a direct role in shaping the priorities and direction of the BCPVPA – is to be elected to the Board of Directors. It is not a role that can be taken on lightly, and it requires a considerable commitment of time and energy away from your school and home life. While there are no pre-requisites for nomination, other than

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being an active member, it is useful for prospective Directors to have a solid grounding and experience as a school leader.

Once elected by your peers, Directors of the Board will experience unique professional learning opportunities – sometimes challenging, and always interesting. Directors are continually exposed to the provincial perspective on issues within the education sector, and give valuable input to government on the development of educational policy or new initiatives.

President

The President is the chief elected officer, representative, and spokesperson of the Association. It is an honour and a privilege to serve in this role. It is also an awe-inspiring responsibility to represent the interests of more than 2,700 members living and working in our massive province. While BC is large geographically, we are small as a school-leader community, and spread over a huge area.

BC has one of the highest performing educational jurisdictions in the world due in large part to the leadership of our Principals and Vice-Principals. The work of a school leader is complex and challenging, but it is also invigorating and rewarding.

¹ BCPVPA Constitution and Bylaws 6.4.a

I ran to be President of the BCPVPA on a platform with three key elements:

- 1) Support for Member Health and Well-Being
- 2) Employment Equity
- 3) Leadership Development

These are all goals of our comprehensive Strategic Plan.

As President, my role is to work with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and senior staff to breathe life into the goals and objectives of our Strategic Plan, to communicate and give voice to the experiences of our members, and to ensure that our sector partners, school communities, and the public understand the vital work of Principals and Vice-Principals in keeping schools safe and operating, and ensuring a steady focus on student success and achievement.

The strength of any successful organization lies in its members. The BCPVPA has an amazing pool of skills, capacity, and impressive leadership abilities within our membership. When members can bring those talents to supporting the Association, and can further develop their own knowledge and experience through this work, it is a winning formula.

There are many ways that you can get in touch. Email Executive Director, Scott Robinson scott@bcpvpa.bc.ca or me bleonard@bcpvpa.bc.ca, or connect with your local Chapter President or Chapter Representative. Watch for information in the spring about nominations for the Board of Directors, and for the application window to join a committee. Contact our BCPVPA staff with any questions; you can find their contacts at bcpvpa.org, or through My BCPVPA.

The first step in getting involved is making the call to find out more! We look forward to hearing from you.

bcpvpa

TELL A FRIEND!

BCPVPA Members: do you have a colleague who has not yet joined our Association? Help them to be part of our community of leaders, and to get access to employment relationship support, professional learning and development, committee opportunities, and much more.

bcpvpa.org/membership/application

