



SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2025NRSD4615
May 15, 2025

Sunshine Coast School District Announces Educational Leadership Updates for the 2025–2026 School Year

SUNSHINE COAST, BRITISH COLUMBIA – Sunshine Coast School District 46 (SD46) is pleased to announce upcoming changes to our Educational Leadership Team for the 2025–2026 school year. These transitions reflect our continued commitment to delivering irresistible learning experiences for all students.

Celebrating Retirements

We extend our deepest appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to **Jim Vair**, Director of Human Resources; **Kerry Mahlman**, District Principal of Indigenous Learning; and **John Brisebois**, Principal of Elphinstone Secondary, as they step into retirement.

Although Jim has been with SD46 for just two years, his impact has been deeply felt across the district. Kerry concludes an extraordinary 45-year journey in education, and John retires after a remarkable 17 years of dedicated service with SD46. We wish Jim, Kerry, and John joy, rest, and fulfillment in this exciting new chapter.

Recruitment for both the Director of Human Resources and District Principal of Indigenous Learning roles is currently underway through a national search. We look forward to sharing more information in the coming months.

Additionally, **Meg Chamberlin**, current Vice-Principal at Chatelech Secondary, has made the decision to step away from her position to focus on educational consulting and will continue contributing to the district in a reduced capacity. The recruitment process for this role is now active, and an announcement will follow soon.

Leadership Reassignments

We are pleased to share the following leadership transitions for the 2025–2026 school year:

- **Mark Sauer** will step into the role of Principal at Elphinstone Secondary, following the retirement of John Brisebois.
- **Rae-dene Pednaud**, currently Principal at Pender Harbour Secondary, will lead Chatelech Secondary, succeeding Mark Sauer.

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Welcoming New Leadership

We are pleased to welcome Patrick Kinghorn as the new Principal at Pender Harbour Secondary. With over 15 years of experience as a dynamic educational leader in K-12, Alternate, Online, and French Immersion programs, Patrick brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to inclusive, strength-based learning. Most recently serving as Principal of Alternate Programs in School District 20 (Kootenay-Columbia), he is recognized for his innovative leadership, strong community connections, and dedication to student wellness. His work has included leading restorative justice initiatives, advancing inclusive education alongside Shelley Moore, and being named a 2024 Champion by Foundry BC for his contributions to virtual student support. An advocate of Compassionate Systems Leadership and collaborative problem-solving, Patrick is eager to bring his passion and expertise to the thriving community of lifelong learners on the Sunshine Coast. We are excited about the perspectives and expertise Patrick brings, and we look forward to the contributions he will make to our schools and community.

These changes reflect the district's strong leadership foundation and our ongoing commitment to student success. We are confident our new and continuing leaders will bring unwavering dedication and energy to support our learners, staff, families, and the broader Sunshine Coast community.



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Welcome to the 2025-2026 Ed Leadership Team!

Position	Name
Superintendent of Schools	Kate Kerr
Assistant Superintendent	Jennifer Roberts
Director of Instruction for Inclusive Education	Christa Rive
Secretary-Treasurer	Nic Weswick
Director of Human Resources	TBD
District Principal of Indigenous Learning	TBD
District Principal of Learning, Innovation and Child Care	Kirsten Deasey
District Vice-Principal of Learning and Innovation	Desiree Harris
Cedar Grove Elementary Principal	Lia Cuccurullo
Davis Bay Elementary Principal	Jean Janzen
Gibsons Elementary Principal	Lynda Brisebois
Halfmoon Bay Elementary Principal	Bernadette Marie
Kinnikinnick Elementary Principal	Paula Stroshein-Martinez
Kinnikinnick Elementary Vice-Principal	Whitney de Beer
Langdale Elementary Principal	Jenny Groves
Madeira Park Elementary Principal	Nicole Zilkie
Roberts Creek/SPIDER Elementary Principal	Duncan Knight
West Sechelt Elementary Principal	Olwen Cowan
Chatelech Secondary Principal	Rae-dene Pednaud
Chatelech Secondary Vice-Principal	TBD
Elphinstone Secondary Principal	Mark Sauer
Elphinstone Secondary Vice-Principal	Hilary Watt
Pender Harbour Elementary/Secondary Principal	Patrick Kinghorn
Sunshine Coast Alternative School Principal	Chris Lekakis

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Stephanie Murawsky

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent | Communications Officer

T: (604) 886-4489

E: communications@sd46.bc.ca | W: <https://sd46.bc.ca/>

Social: @SD46SC – [FB](#) / [IG](#) / [YouTube](#)

We acknowledge with respect and gratitude the unceded lands and waters – the Temíxw of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and the swiya of the shíshálh Nation, where we learn, collaborate, and journey together.

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