



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 1, 2026

Chilliwack Teachers Endorse Seven Candidates for Board of Education

Members of the Chilliwack Teachers' Association have voted to endorse the following candidates in the 2026 Chilliwack Board of Education election:

Katie Bartel
Brooke Bouwsema-Cardinal
Leah Kelley
Christine Kruger
Margaret Reid
Willow Reichelt
David Swankey

The endorsement followed a process that invited all candidates to engage directly with teachers and respond to questions about the issues affecting students, staff, classrooms and public education. CTA members also considered candidates' willingness to engage constructively with educators, families and community partners.

Some candidates have chosen not to engage with teachers in the district they wish to represent. That choice matters. There is a difference between speaking about public education and being willing to sit down with the people who work in it every day.

"What stood out to our members was not that these candidates claimed to have every answer. It was their willingness to acknowledge where challenges exist, listen to the people working in schools, and have serious conversations about how we move forward. Leadership is not simply telling a community what is wrong. It is being prepared to work with people to make things better," said Reid Clark, President of the Chilliwack Teachers' Association.

CTA members believe these seven candidates can bring a thoughtful, collaborative and solutions-focused approach to the Board table, along with a willingness to listen, ask difficult questions and work constructively with the people and communities they serve.

The Association believes effective governance requires more than campaign slogans or easy answers to complex problems. It requires judgment, openness, respect for different perspectives and a willingness to do the work.

"Decisions made at the Board table eventually reach every classroom. Our members value candidates who are prepared to recognize the challenges facing our schools, engage with the people doing the work, and work collaboratively toward solutions. That is the kind of approach we believe these seven candidates can bring to the Board," said Clark.

The CTA encourages Chilliwack residents to learn about the candidates, review their responses and records, talk about the issues affecting local schools and, most importantly, vote.

School board elections matter. The decisions made by trustees shape the experience of students, families and educators across this community. Learn about the candidates. Make a plan to vote.

Reid Clark
President