

School Trustee Sophia Woo

Elected in 2011, this is her first term on Vancouver Board of Education. She is a member of Board Committees: Education and Student Services Committee; and, Finance and Legal Committee. She also serves as trustee representative to English Language Learners Advisory Committee which advises the Board on reception and promotion of English as second language students.

Sophia is recognized as a community leader and passionate promoter of public education. She is a recipient of Outstanding Chinese Woman Award, 2007, and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Her background as a mental health clinician gives the VSB a key perspective on human resource issues and youth behaviour. She is able to quickly defuse seemingly complicated matters in order to smooth relationships with employee groups and parents.

Her role in Vancouver City committees (Women's Advisory Committee, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee) reflects a sensitivity to a diverse population with special needs. She was instrumental in lobbying BC Transit to retain the Taxi Saver program.

This sensitivity to a diverse population is recognized by parents and she is often the first call from parents needing advice on how to handle complicated situations.

In her professional role, Sophia is recognized by her peers for selfless devotion to fair play, transparency, and personal integrity. She is Chief Steward, Community Mental Health, Health Science Association, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Sophia came to Vancouver from Hong Kong in 1978 to attend secondary school. She is educated both here, a graduate of Simon Fraser University, and in Hong Kong with a Master's Degree in Social Work from HKU.

Sophia publishes in professional journals and medical educational booklets. She speaks at local, national and international conferences, co-ordinates community workshops and facilitates parents and family support groups.

Through this wide involvement in VSB and professional life, Sophia is concerned about fiscal responsibility and a sustainable future for education. She recognizes the quandary of delivering quality education without unduly loading students with future public debt.