

# 2019 Retirement Ceremony

College of Alberta  
School Superintendents

Salon C, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton  
Thursday, March 21, 2019

CASS

A large, stylized graphic element in the bottom right corner. It consists of a blue, angular shape that resembles a stylized letter 'A' or a similar geometric form. Inside this blue shape is a grey square containing two white, stylized leaf-like shapes pointing upwards and to the right.



## 2019 CASS President's Message

On behalf of the CASS Board of Directors and CASS members from across Alberta, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to my colleagues who are retiring this year. This celebration has been assembled to ensure that the profound difference you have made as a system leader and an educator is fully acknowledged.

It is my deeply held belief that CASS system leaders serve our education system with the highest levels of integrity and the greatest level of expertise. CASS system leaders are the one group, that above all, devote themselves to what is best for students. As a retiring system leader, you ought to take tremendous pride in your contributions and in becoming a life member for such an honourable organization.

More often than not, CASS system leaders exemplify what Jim Collins wrote about level 5 leaders in his book *Good to Great* "they have a paradoxical blend of deep personal humility and intense professional will". As a retiree, I encourage you to reflect on the impact you have had on students, parents, staff, and school divisions throughout this province. Not only have you helped students learn, you have changed lives for the better forever.

As a retiree, you will have participated in a career that endured some of the greatest challenges and provided some of the finest rewards. You have made countless significant contributions that often go unnoticed or are undervalued. I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your service to our students and our school communities. I wish you the very best in your retirement and this exciting new phase of your life!

Kurt Sacher

CASS President 2018-19



# Retirees 2019

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico	Associate Superintendent Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools
Joe Colistro	Superintendent Medicine Hat Catholic Schools
Evan Dearden	Assistant Superintendent High Prairie School Division
Cathy Fielden	Director of Early Learning Foothills School Division
Richard A. Fox	Superintendent of Education Kainai Board of Education
Daryl Hoey	Director of Technology Buffalo Trail Public Schools
Kathryn Kirby	Assistant Superintendent of Learning Fort Vermilion School Division
Lorelie Lenaour	Director of Learning Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Schools
Brian Macauley	Deputy Superintendent Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Schools
Sheila McLeod	Director, Learning Calgary Board of Education
Dr. Nolen Olsen	Assistant Superintendent Westwind School Division
Dr. Lori Pamplin	Director, Leadership & Learning Calgary Board of Education
Brant Parker	Director, Area I Calgary Board of Education
Dr. Dennis Parsons	Superintendent of Learning Calgary Board of Education
Laurie Pelkie	Assistant Superintendent Human Resource Services Edmonton Catholic Schools
Kevin Pittman	Assistant Superintendent of Operations Fort Vermilion School Division
Pam Rannelli	Acting Superintendent Foothills School Division
Danny Roberts	Director of Learning Livingstone Range School Division
Greg Roberts	Director of Learning Supports Rocky View Schools
Ken Sommerfeldt	Superintendent Westwind School Division
Dr. Cindi Vaselenak	Superintendent Evergreen Catholic Schools
Pat Worthington	Director of Human Resources Rocky View School Division
Kevin Wttewaall	Director of Learning Technology Rocky View School Division
Dr. Norman Yanitski	Superintendent Black Gold Regional Schools

**\*Retirees in this booklet are the retirees that gave  
CASS explicit permission to be acknowledged.**





## **Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico**

Bonnie began her career as a music teacher at St. Joseph's school in Whitecourt where she was introduced to Catholic education and taught first music and later grade 5. Seven years later, she and her family made a move to Brooks and she pursued her graduate studies at the University of Calgary and founded a Family Literacy program through Medicine Hat College for young moms and families. She returned to full time teaching at Brooks Junior High and in 1996 she was hired to be the principal of Holy Family Academy, Brooks' first Catholic school. As the Brooks' Catholic schools grew, a new Catholic secondary school, St. Joseph's Collegiate was created and Bonnie moved into that principalship.

In her 14 years as a principal in Brooks, Bonnie was blessed to be a part of the vibrant and growing community of Catholic schools. The joy and challenge of working with the children, parents and teachers in Brooks formed her into the person and leader she is today. In the fall of 2013, Bonnie was hired as associate superintendent for Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools and also completed her doctoral studies in Catholic leadership. During those 5 years, her work focused in the areas of Faith and Curriculum & Instruction.

The opportunity to be an executive member for the Council for Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) provided Bonnie with the amazing experience of working on behalf of Catholic education within the provincial domain.

Bonnie retired in June 2018 and looks forward to time with family and her growing brood of grandchildren. Part time consulting is also on her horizon.

## Joe Colistro



After more than 40 years in education, Joe is retiring from a rich and fulfilling career. Throughout the journey Joe focused on building relationships, providing servant leadership, and care and compassion, always believing that our lives are molded by the people we meet.

Joe grew up in Alberta attending a Catholic elementary school in Wainwright and then high school in Edmonton. He received a Bachelor's degree from the U of A and then a Masters in Educational Administration from the University of Victoria.

Joe started his career teaching physical education for two years in Kelowna BC before taking up a position in Spruce Grove, AB. At 28, he became the principal of John Paul II. After six years at John Paul II, Joe made a move to Victoria BC where he would spend most of his career as the principal of an elementary school, and the local Catholic high school, before being hired as the Superintendent for Island Catholic Schools on Vancouver Island where he would serve for 12 years.

In 2014, Joe returned to his roots in Alberta and accepted a position in Medicine Hat where he has spent the last 5 years as Superintendent. Medicine Hat was an opportunity to develop new friendships, working closely with an amazing central office staff, and work to improve the District as opportunities allowed.

Throughout his career, Joe has had many exciting and rewarding experiences not only in his role as an administrator but also working for the BC government evaluating offshore schools around the world, acting as a practicum supervisor for the University of Alberta, and doing contract work in a number of areas.

“I have embraced the journey and the opportunities provided over the years. We are agents of hope in a time when hope may seem lost, but through hope we create safe and caring communities. It is within these communities that love is found.”



**Evan  
Dearden**

Evan worked 39 years as an educator in Africa, Europe, and in Alberta with Peace River, North Peace Catholic, Grande Yellowhead, and High Prairie School Divisions and Alberta Education.



## Cathy Fielden



Cathy will officially retire from the Director of Early Learning position at the end of August after more than 30 years of dedicated service to Foothills School Division.

Cathy joined the Division in 1981 as a classroom teacher before taking on the Learning Coordinator and Director of Early Learning roles. In her position she collaborated with teachers and administration in the areas of learning outcomes, student assessment, best practice teaching strategies, and methodologies for early learners.

In the position of Director of Early Learning, Cathy has set a clear vision to ensure that decisions align with FSD's vision and mission, allocated resources in a fair and equitable manner, and contributed as a supportive member of the leadership team.

Cathy has consistently modeled her commitment to career long learning with her Master's degree in Clinical, School and Community Psychology. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our early learners have been well-served. Her commitment, caring, and competence have earned the appreciation of school and division administrators.

Those who have had the good fortune to work closely with Cathy will greatly miss her positive attitude and dedication to the profession.

Cathy shares these parting words...

“I am extremely fortunate to have had such a rewarding, fulfilling career with Foothills School Division where I have been able to live out my passion and purpose every day for the past thirty years. I am proud to say I am part of the Foothills family and have the utmost respect for the ethics, decisions and programming provided to students and their families. While I look forward enjoying retirement, I will miss the collaboration with colleagues and celebrations of student success.”



**Richard A.  
Fox**

Richard began his teaching career in 1978 with Cardston School District, now Westwind School Division. Richard worked for ten years with the District as a classroom teacher and counsellor.

In 1988 Richard was the successful applicant to become the principal of Kainai High School, part of the Kainai Board of Education. His involvement with CASS began in the early 1990's when he, while still principal, represented Kainai School Board at CASSIX meetings.

Richard moved into system leadership in 1998 when he was appointed Deputy Superintendent for the Kainai Board of Education and served in that role until being appointed Superintendent in 2006. Richard retired in summer 2018. During his career Richard served on many committees with Indigenous Affairs, Alberta Education and Treaty 7 Management Corp and continues to support education in the area of policy development and program review in his retirement. In retirement he also has more time to work with his horses and cattle.

Richard is very appreciative of the support he received from his wife Mary Ann, who passed away in 2016, and his children Jana, Kansie, Amanda, Travis, Tamara & Riley.



**Daryl  
Hoey**



Daryl is retiring after 39 years in education, including one year in Canora, Saskatchewan, and 38 years, with Wainwright School Division, then to be regionalized as part of Buffalo Trail Public Schools.

Daryl's last 11 years has been in the capacity of Director of Technology for BTPS. Prior to this, Daryl filled roles of industrial education teacher, senior high math teacher, district technology planner, assistant principal, and principal.

He will sincerely miss working with the people in bringing about authentic learning in the classroom. He has had the privilege of working with, and for, many great leaders and educational innovators.

“It has been a challenge and a joy”!





**Kathryn  
Kirby**

I originally hail from the south shore of Nova Scotia, a place I love to return to regularly. From there I ventured out to Mount Allison University for a Bachelor of Arts degree, to the University of Waterloo for a Master of Arts degree and finally to Dalhousie University where I earned a Bachelor of Education degree.

In 1986, I secured a teaching position with the Fort Vermilion School Division, and I have been honoured to spend the past 33 years here as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and jurisdiction Program Facilitator before moving to Central Office. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Assistant Superintendent for the past 15 years. I am especially proud to have been involved with the division's Mental Health Capacity Building Project since the provincial initiative's inception in 2006, as well as to have overseen the expansion of collaborative Mental Health services to a network of teams that focus on children, youth and families across the division. Ensuring that our most vulnerable students and families are provided the supports they need to succeed in school and life is one of my passions!

Over the years, I have been honoured to serve on several provincial committees and to have presented at provincial and national conferences, including several CASS and CASSA conferences, among others.

After 33 years in the public education system, it is time to hand in my keys and head out on the next chapter of life's journey. Although it will be difficult to leave the FVSD family, I am looking forward to spending time with my husband (who is determined that my life really began on August 8th, 1992!) and two grown sons, relaxing with a book as often as I like and indulging my love of travel. Who knows what possibilities are in store on the vast horizon!

## Lorelie Lenaour



Lorelie Lenaour has served as the Director of Learning for Holy Spirit Catholic Schools for the past six years. In this role, she has provided leadership in curriculum and instruction, assessment, educational technology, and professional learning. As a lead learner, Lorelie plans for and provides professional learning opportunities for all staff through a variety of activities throughout the school year. With the philosophy that adults need to experience learning in new ways in order to build efficacy to teach differently, she aims to provide meaningful experiences that deeply engage learners in new ways of thinking and doing. Lorelie is certified in Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction by H. Lynn Erickson, trained in Cognitive Coaching and applies Adaptive Schools strategies. Lorelie believes strongly in focusing on the learner and setting up the conditions for learners to learn deeply.

Lorelie was a classroom teacher for 25 years and has also served as an educational assistant, school-based Associate Principal and Division Principal for Curriculum and AISI. She has a Master of Education and Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Lethbridge.

Catholic education has been a blessing throughout Lorelie's education experience.

Holy Spirit Catholic Schools hold a very dear place in Lorelie's heart, having attended as a student in Grade 1 - 12, and then going on to work throughout her career there.

Working together with colleagues, now throughout the province, has been and continues to be a constant source of energy and inspiration.



**Brian  
Macauley**

Brian began his teaching career in 1985 with the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education.

Throughout his 33 years in education, Brian has amassed a broad range of teaching experience beginning with high school science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and then teaching at almost every grade level as he progressed through his teaching career. Since January of 2010, Brian has been employed as Deputy Superintendent for Holy Spirit Catholic School Division in Lethbridge.

Early in his career, Brian served as an active member of the ATA taking on roles as Chair of the Economic Policy Committee as well as, the Negotiating Subcommittee. This experience provided him with a fundamental introduction to the world of Human Resources, which has assisted him in his roles in School administration and as Deputy Superintendent over the last 20 years.

Brian would like to thank CASS and its members for their mentorship and the many professional learning opportunities that have been provided to him over the last 10 years. He feels truly blessed to have had so many education partners supporting his work throughout the years.

Brian is dedicated to Catholic Education and is extremely proud to have served both Holy Spirit Catholic School Division and Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education in his vocation. He continues to be a strong advocate for Catholic Education as he volunteers within his home parish, St. Martha's, in Lethbridge.

He shared that it will be hard to leave Holy Spirit. He has always said that relationships are the key to all successful organizations and cherishes the numerous memories and friendships built along the way. He is often heard to say that the grass is not always greener on the other side, but if you carry a little fertilizer in your pocket, you can make it green wherever you go.

## Sheila McLeod



Sheila McLeod began her career at the CBE 38 years ago. While her plan was to be an elementary special education teacher, she found herself teaching ESL at junior high to a group of Vietnamese refugees. Such began her passion for all things related to diversity, language education and global competence. Since that time, she has taken on a variety of roles including consultant, System Principal, and Director of Global Learning/Corporate Partnerships.

Throughout her career she has had the good fortune to serve on several Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) committees including President. For the past seven years, she has proudly served on the Canadian Association of Public Schools - International (CAPS-I) and will retire as past president.

Highlights of her career include being a part of the development of the CBE International Certificate which has now been replicated by several districts across Canada and adapted by the Ministry of Education in BC. In addition, she had the opportunity to provide opportunities to develop global understandings for over 500 CBE staff over a period of several years. These included opportunities for teaching overseas in summer and long-term programs and educational travel opportunities in India, Korea, China, Vietnam, Mexico and Colombia.

Over the next few years, Sheila and her husband Don are planning to join the Traveler's Century Club where they will continue to enjoy new travel adventures.



**Dr. Nolen  
Olsen**

Born in Cardston, Alberta, Nolen started school in Mountain View and graduated from Cardston High School in 1974. He earned his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Lethbridge in the Spring of 1978 and started his teaching career in the Fall at Bowness High School in Calgary. Later, he earned his Master of Education degree from the University of Lethbridge (2004) and his Doctor of Education degree from The University of Montana-Missoula (2008).

Throughout his career, he has been blessed with wonderful relationships with colleagues, students and parents. He has appreciated each of the roles with which he has been entrusted, first as a teacher and coach, and later as a school principal and finally, as a member of the system leadership team. His greatest joy has been to associate and work with extremely talented, good people who really love children. Being an educator is not just something that we do, it's what and who we become, and Nolen truly believes that we can accomplish great things, as long as we don't care who gets the credit. He is truly grateful for his membership in CASS and will miss his associations with exceptional leaders who have served as colleagues, mentors and friends.

Nolen cannot imagine having a career that could have been more rewarding and enjoyable. He is sincerely grateful for the many opportunities for growth, both personally and professionally that have come to him throughout his career. Most of all, he will miss the daily interactions with people he now considers some of his closest friends. So, now Nolen is looking forward to a new phase of life called "retirement" and eagerly anticipates new opportunities and adventures to be shared with his wife Vicky. The greatest accomplishment in Nolen's life is marrying his high school sweetheart and building a life with her. Vicky is his greatest supporter and the love of his life, so it seems fitting that his last official day of work, August 31, 2019, the also the day that they will celebrate their forty-fifth wedding anniversary.

**Dr. Lori  
Pamplin**



I always, and only, wanted to be a teacher. My parents indulged that dream by supporting me through university in Calgary and Paris. The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) then allowed me to live that dream where, for 34 years, I had the opportunity to learn and grow as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, System Principal, Educational Coordinator of Communications, and Director of Leadership and Learning. I have been enriched by the students, staff and families with whom I have worked and am thankful to have had opportunities to impact their learning in return.

I am happy to still be nurturing my passion for learning and teaching at the University of Calgary in the Werklund School of Education and the Galileo Educational Network.

As educators, what we do, and don't do, matters. How we wrap around each student in our care to support their learning is, in so many ways, about the choices we make – and the teams we create. I have been blessed throughout my career to find amazing people who have welcomed me as part of their team. I am grateful to CASS members for providing me with one of those teams as I took on the fulfilling challenge of district leadership.





**Brant  
Parker**

I consider myself to have been extraordinarily privileged to have worked for 30 years with, and on behalf of, thousands of students and their learning.

My career in education started in 1983 in Rocky View School Division, teaching at R.J. Hawkey School in Airdrie. Over the course of the next 16 years, I worked in Rocky View and taught in a variety of positions.

In 1999, I took a sabbatical leave and Susan and I relocated our family of three young children to California so I could attend Stanford University. This led to an unexpected but exciting career detour of 5 years living and working in Silicon Valley leading organizational learning for two internet software companies.

In 2005, after missing the rewards of working in the K-12 education sector, I jumped at the opportunity to work with the Calgary Board of Education. I had the good fortune to expand my experience by taking on system leadership roles as the Director of Innovation and Learning Technology and as an Area Director.

From the day I started my career up to my retiring day, it has been a great ride. First because of the students but also because I have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the most dedicated and effective educators and most skilled and visionary school and system leaders, all of whom have made this journey far more exciting and fulfilling than I imagined. To all whom I have had the opportunity to work and connect with, I want to convey the most heartfelt thanks for making my career so rewarding and fulfilling.

In retirement, I will be relocating to Vancouver Island and dedicating time to SchoolSoft, a software company I co-founded 10 years ago. I also look forward to having more time to do the things I just haven't done enough of - paddling, cycling, mountaineering, travelling and especially spending time with my wife, Susan, who recently retired as a principal.

## **Dr. Dennis Parsons**



When Dennis was a high school student, as part of Education Week activities, he received permission to teach a grade 8 History class. From that day forward, he knew he wanted to be a teacher and made education his career of choice. Graduating from Memorial University at the age of 21, with a BA and a B.Ed., he commenced his teaching career.

Over the next 35 years, Dennis worked exclusively and purposefully in K-12 education to make a positive difference. He served as a teacher (11 years), principal (4 years), and 20 years in the supernitendency, of which 18 years were in the position of Chief Superintendent/CEO. Early in his career, Dennis, supported by his family, made a decision to embrace and welcome change as a necessary part of his own growth and rejuvenation. Subsequently, he periodically moved with his family to take up new and different challenges in K-12 education. A lifelong learner, Dennis completed his Masters in Educational Administration and his Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership. He served as Superintendent of Education/CEO in Newfoundland and Labrador, in the Northwest Territories, and in Alberta.

While there are many career highlights, Dennis is truly honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside many talented and dedicated individuals. He is also grateful for his time as President of NLADE, President of NWTSA, for the mentorship of CASS, for the many opportunities to serve as a professional voice of educational leadership, and for awards like the Premier's Award for Excellence and Innovation.

Throughout his career Dennis, cherished and relied upon the love and support from his wife Joanne and their 3 children; Denise, Jeanna, and Tyson. Their flexibility and willingness to move around eastern, northern and western Canada enabled Dennis to take on new challenges and grow in his career as they grew as a family. For over 35 years his career provided him with great joy & fulfillment.



1<sup>st</sup> year teaching 1976-1977

## Laurie Pelkie

Laurie served Edmonton Catholic Schools for 42 years. She was a classroom teacher, consultant for gifted education, assistant principal, principal, District Principal, Assistant Superintendent for District Operations and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services.

Reflecting on the variety of roles, Laurie's heart always remained that of the classroom teacher. Her fondest memory is working with a group of three students, all gathered and working around her desk. She was determined that these three bright youngsters would move a little faster through the curriculum. And they did! Little did she know at the time, that one of those individuals would become a cherished colleague and friend.

Catholic education has been an integral part of Laurie's life. Her siblings all attended Catholic school, and along with her mother, several taught for Catholic schools. Laurie always felt blessed to have had the opportunity to integrate faith into all of her words and actions on a daily basis.

Relationships were key to all of Laurie's work. Laurie treated her colleagues and students with kindness and respect. The hardest part of retirement was leaving her work family!

Since retiring in August 2018, Laurie has appreciated the opportunity to care for grandchildren on special days, attending Christmas concerts during the day (and not in the crowded evenings!), visiting family and friends, and travelling in the "off-season". The best part is being able to spend time with her husband, Clare.

**Kevin  
Pittman**



I feel fortunate to have spent the last 8 years of my 40-year career in education in Alberta with the Fort Vermilion School Division.

In 2008, after a 31-year career in Newfoundland, I accepted a position as Principal of a K to 12 school in Rainbow Lake. After two separate stints at Rainbow Lake, I concluded my career by moving to the role of Assistant Superintendent of Operations with FVSD.

Throughout my career, I was heavily involved in both school and community life. I coached many high school teams over a span of my years with a particular focus on basketball, volleyball, soccer, and cross-country running. I served as an executive member with the NL-Lab School Sports for 22 years. While all of these years were rewarding, 2004 was memorable with School Sports recognizing me as provincial coach of the year, presenting me the School Sports Honor Award for dedication to school sports, and naming my son as the provincial school sports athlete of the year.

My career has been rewarding in every aspect, but this would not have been possible without the support I have received. I am eternally grateful to my wife, Judy and my two sons, Marc and Kent, for their support and understanding of the demands of being an educator and coach. Many late evenings and weekends were spent away from home and I am so grateful for being able to spend many of them with my two children in sports. I must also recognize the various people I have met along the way. You have made my career enjoyable, challenging, and rewarding. It has brought me to places I never dreamed. I have seen many changes in education, over my career and it is the educator who has the flexibility to change when necessary that will be the greatest benefit to our young minds. As a friend of mine often quotes from an unknown source: "You cannot change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust the sails".



**Pam  
Rannelli**

Education and learning have always been at the core of my belief system. I have been so privileged to have learned alongside many amazing teachers, colleagues, students and their parents over my career. They have shaped and influenced my belief that ALL children have gifts and talents that when given the right support, respect and challenge can achieve their fullest potential. There is no greater honour as educators than being a part of their growth and success.

After completing a BA and a B Ed from St. Francis Xavier University, I began my career in Golden Hills School Division as a Grade 4 teacher. Then moving to the Calgary Board of Education as a teacher for students with complex learning needs. My family and I returned to Nova Scotia where I had the privilege of being part of the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA). During that time, I completed a Master's Degree in Education from Dalhousie University. While at APSEA, it was exciting to work on the National Committee for Vision Health and be a member of the committee that developed the Canadian National Standards for the Education of Children and Youth who are Blind or Visually Impaired. In 2008, I was seconded by AB Ed as lead for the Students with Vision Loss Initiative. One of the projects that I am most proud of being a part of is the creation of the Travelling Low Vision Clinic for Students who are BVI. In 2013, it was my good fortune to join Foothills School Division as the Director of Inclusive Learning and then was named Assistant Superintendent of Learning in 2015. I have been honoured to finish my career as Foothills School Division's Superintendent.

It has been a privilege to serve Foothills School Division and work with so many excellent educators and staff. FSD is where every staff member is dedicated to ensuring that each child has the best educational opportunities possible, and I am so proud to have been a part of it. I am looking forward to new "learning" adventures, but most of all spending time with my family, friends and on my bike(s)!

**Danny  
Roberts**



Danny has served as a Director of Learning for LRSD since the 2015-16 school year. He earned his B.Ed from the University of Alberta and his MSc from the University of Oregon. Over his career, he taught in Fort McMurray and Barrhead, then as vice-principal and later principal of Kate Andrews High School in Coaldale. He was a supervisor of the technology department in Palliser Regional Schools and later served as Hutterite Colony School Principal in Palliser. Most recently, Danny has overseen the professional development, curriculum, home education, off-campus teachers, career practitioners, and teacher evaluations for Livingstone Range.

Danny will continue in the role of Director of Learning until the end of June 2019, completing 35 years working for school boards plus 3 more years privately contracted to Alberta Education. We wish Danny all the very best as he embarks on his new adventures in life. We are confident that he will continue to share his passion for life and positively impact those around him.





**Greg  
Roberts**

34 years working in public education across three provinces - Newfoundland and Labrador to Ontario to Alberta from where I retired from public education, leaving the position of Director of Learning Supports after six years in that role.

Prior to my director role, I was a principal for five years, an assistant principal for five years, as well as a learning support and English and humanities teacher before that.



**Ken  
Sommerfeldt**



Off the top, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the positive impact of so many colleagues, leaders, and associates over my 37 years in Education. I obtained both my B.Ed. (1982) and M. Ed. (1997) from the U of L, and thoroughly appreciated these opportunities for growth and learning. In every year and in each and every assignment of my career I benefited immensely from the example, advice, and generosity of my educational community. Over the course of my career, I had the privilege of serving in the following capacities:

- 1982 – 1984 Teacher Raymond Jr. High School
- 1984 – 1991 Teacher Cardston High School
- 1991 – 1995 Guidance Counselor Cardston High School
- 1995 – 2000 Vice Principal Cardston Jr. High School
- 2000 – 2006 Principal Cardston Jr. High School
- 1982 – 2006 Coached many teams (Great Memories)
- 2006 – 2010 Deputy Superintendent Westwind School Division
- 2010 – 2019 Superintendent Westwind School Division.

There is never a dull moment in an educational career, and there are so many things to celebrate in every aspect of this work. What I know for sure is that you don't do this work alone! Education is a collaborative effort! As I reflect on the richness of the last 37 years, I will be forever grateful for my association with the students, staff, and community in Westwind. As the school year winds down in June of 2019, Wendy and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary, and the arrival of our 13th grandchild. I could have achieved nothing without her continuous support and encouragement. My career is our career, and my retirement is our retirement.



## **Dr. Cindi Vaselenak**

Dr. Cindi Vaselenak is currently Superintendent of Evergreen Catholic Schools in Spruce Grove, Alberta. She has been employed in the teaching profession for thirty-three years in three Alberta school jurisdictions - Red Deer Catholic, Parkland, and Evergreen Catholic - as teacher, curriculum coordinator, assistant principal, principal, deputy superintendent, and superintendent. Cindi joined Evergreen Catholic Schools as a principal in 2001, was appointed Deputy Superintendent in 2006, and was promoted to Superintendent in 2009. Cindi holds a Bachelor of Education degree (ULethbridge), a Master of Science degree (UOregon), and a Doctor of Education (UALberta). Cindi has been a member of CASS for thirteen years.

In 1986, I was hired as a science teacher at St. Patrick's Community School in Red Deer at a time when probationary teaching positions were scarce. I knew what a gift that job was. I began my career and now end my career doing the work I love, surrounded by people I admire who teach me every day about the importance of education. I have been graced with an opportunity to work with exceptional people in three school divisions. Any success I have had has been due to the people who had faith in me and took the time to mentor me. I learned the big lessons of being a superintendent by watching them.

The path to becoming a superintendent began decades ago; I am grateful to every person that has encouraged me along the way. Thank you to my CASS colleagues, who have offered wise advice when I have been stuck, shared stories to make me smile and know that I was not alone, and, most importantly, welcomed me to their table.

**Pat  
Worthington**



I began my educational career with Rocky View in 1984. I served in numerous communities and schools for the first 23 years of my career. During that tenure, I taught elementary and middle school and worked as a vice-principal, assistant principal and principal, most recently at Ralph McCall School in Airdrie. I also worked extensively with extra-curricular programming both in traditional athletics and in outdoor education. In 2007 I left the school environment and moved into the position of Director of Human Resources, from which I retired in August 2018.

Educationally, I completed a Master of Education in 1994 and a Human Resource Management Certificate in 2011. I am close to completing a Certificate in Conflict Resolution; Specialization in Mediation / Third Party Intervention.

Personal highlights during my career included two extended leaves with which my family and I traveled the world. Our first leave was for one year; the second for six months. Our family is forever grateful to Rocky View Schools for those opportunities.

The greatest gift my career provided was to work with thousands of amazing students. Close to four decades ago, I chose education as a career path and it has truly exceeded my expectations! Very sincere thanks to the many colleagues with whom I have worked and the numerous organizations with which I have worked.

Future plans include continuing to work in the education sector in a part-time capacity, pursuit of some new interests, more time outdoors (love those mountains!) and, most importantly, quality family time.

Thank you, CASS for tremendous support and learning. My very best wishes to everyone in this organization and sincere congratulations to my retiring colleagues!



**Kevin  
Wttewaall**

Kevin has had a passion for helping people communicate through technologies for 32 years in public education.

As an educator with the Calgary Board of Education, he spent 14 years teaching students how to harness multimedia. He taught programming, web development, photography, video and animation.

In 1986, he graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in education majoring in industrial education and science. In 2000 he graduated with a Master's in Education through Athabasca University and the University of Calgary.

In 2000, he began work as a senior administrator under the Chief Superintendent's office with the CBE, helping to create a district vision of 21st century learning through research.

In 2006, Kevin joined Rocky View school division. There as the Director of technology for learning, he led several education technology research projects that focused on improving learning for every learner. He led the implementation of broadband wired and wireless networking. He led the Student information system transition and its integration with a number of corporate applications.

Kevin contributed to various Alberta Education committees and Canadian organizations that advanced technology and learning as well as online and blended learning.

He continues to ski and hike and explore the great outdoors. He is also excited to continue world travelling, education development and green energy projects.

**Dr. Norman  
Yanitski**



Congratulations to all the CASS retirees celebrating this momentous occasion. I wish I could be there with you, but I am thinking of you all while I enjoy a trip to Europe with my wife.

CASS has always been such a big part of my career over the past 19 years. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful professionals. CASS members are so supportive, and we are like a family that looks out for each other.

I look back on my career with immense pride - it was both challenging and rewarding. I began in December 1980 in Strathcona County, which became Elk Island Public Schools. The many educational experiences during my time there were extremely fulfilling and set the stage for me to become a CASS member in 2000, when I joined Black Gold Regional Division as Associate Superintendent. In 2005, I became Superintendent of Schools/CEO.

Central to my approach to leadership and teaching, has always been the belief in building relationships. With mutual trust we have achieved amazing goals.

I have had the privilege of getting to know many students and colleagues during my career, which has greatly enriched my life.

I want to thank my wife, Betty, and our two daughters for always being there throughout my career. I am looking forward to the next chapter, which will include some travel and more time with family and friends, while also looking back on the last 39 years - what a fantastic experience!





*Best wishes to our  
retirees for continued  
good health and  
happiness for many  
years to come.*