

NEWS RELEASE

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SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES NEW SECRETARY-TREASURER

LANGFORD, BC – The Sooke School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Jonker as the new Secretary-Treasurer. With current Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull set to retire on December 30, 2024, after 12 years of dedicated service to the District, Brian Jonker will officially assume the role in January 2025. With over 15 years of senior leadership experience, Jonker brings a proven track record of financial stewardship, governance expertise, and a collaborative, results-oriented approach to leadership.

Jonker joins the Sooke School District from the BC Government’s Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, where he served as Executive Director of the Marine Branch. In this role, he led complex governance initiatives and oversaw significant operational and capital projects, including negotiating the Coastal Ferry Services Contract with BC Ferries and the fare affordability supports currently in place, contract renewals for operations of the inland ferry systems and delivering major capital projects.

Jonker’s background also includes a solid foundation in education leadership, having served in key roles within the Ministry of Education. As Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, he managed the funding of over \$350 million and oversaw compliance, financial accountability, and policy implementation for over 350 independent schools across the province.

Throughout his career, Jonker has demonstrated an ability to build lasting, trust-based relationships with Boards, Indigenous communities, key interest holders, and staff. His extensive governance experience spans provincial government, Crown corporations and agencies, and the non-profit sector.

"We are thrilled to welcome Brian Jonker to the Sooke School District," said Paul Block, Superintendent of the Sooke School District. "His wealth of experience in governance, strategic planning, and capital project management will be invaluable as we continue to grow and serve our communities. Brian’s leadership and dedication to collaboration will ensure we remain focused on delivering our mandate and preparing the school district for the future."

Jonker shared his enthusiasm for the new role: "I am beyond excited to join the Sooke School District family. I look forward to working alongside the Board, leadership teams, partners, and key interest holders to support students, staff, and families."

As Secretary-Treasurer, Jonker will oversee financial operations, strategic planning, and resource management of the fastest-growing school district in British Columbia. His appointment ensures a



seamless transition as the District continues to focus on delivering high-quality education and infrastructure for its learning communities.

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