



# OCEAN CREST ACADEMY

2739 Dunsmuir Avenue, Cumberland BC V0R 1S0

## Board of Directors

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The Ocean Crest Academy Board of Directors brings together a group of dedicated professionals, educators, parents and community members who share a common belief: that young people deserve an education that is both rigorous and deeply meaningful. While the Board fulfills its formal responsibilities of governance, strategic direction, and fiduciary oversight, it is equally grounded in a shared vision of what school can and should be.

Ocean Crest Academy began not as an abstract idea, but as a response to a very real and immediate need. As parents of children approaching high school age, the founding directors found themselves searching for an educational environment that did not yet exist in the Comox Valley. They were seeking something more personal than large institutional settings, more connected than traditional classroom models, and more reflective of the kinds of experiences that help young people grow into capable, curious, and resilient individuals.

What emerged from those conversations was a collective commitment to build that alternative. Drawing on their varied backgrounds—in architecture, inclusive education, classroom teaching, business, and school leadership—the founding group came together to create Ocean Crest Academy. Their goal was to establish a school that prioritizes relationships, small class sizes, and learning that extends beyond the classroom into the natural world and the broader community.

This origin continues to shape the Board's work today. Decisions are guided not only by governance best practices, but also by a lived understanding of what families are seeking and what students need in order to thrive. The Board remains closely connected to the community it serves, balancing its oversight role with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility.

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### Tara Bishop – Founding Director

Tara Bishop is the Owner and Executive Director of Footholds Therapy Centre, where she leads a multidisciplinary team supporting children, youth, and families with developmental and complex needs. She founded Footholds in 2010 and has since grown it into a respected, community-based organization focused on individualized, evidence-based care.

Tara brings experience in organizational leadership, strategic planning, and program oversight, with a focus on managing complex teams across clinical and educational settings. She has a proven ability to guide multidisciplinary staff, oversee integrated service delivery, and ensure programs are responsive to community needs and aligned with best practices.



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Tara brings to the board a strong perspective on community-based care, organizational leadership, and advocacy for accessible, high-quality services.

## Tanis Frame – Founding Director

Tanis Frame is the founding director of Ocean Crest Academy and principal of Thuja Architecture. She brings extensive experience in design leadership, project management, and the development of intentional learning environments. Tanis previously served on the Board of the Squamish Waldorf School, where she gained valuable experience in independent school governance. Her leadership contributes to the Board's oversight of strategic planning, infrastructure, and long-term vision.

Tanis's vision for the school is for holistic, place-based education. A place that offers a truly diverse and enriching learning experience—one where students are not only academically engaged, but feel inspired, enlightened, and deeply fulfilled in their educational journey.

## Amy Johnstone – Director

Amy Johnstone is a teacher at Beachcombers Academy with over 20 years of experience, and provides the Board with current, practical insight into classroom practice and student engagement. She holds a Master of Education from UBC, and a Bachelor of Education from UoA, along with her BC Teaching Certificate. Her professional experience informs Board discussions related to curriculum, pedagogy, and the day-to-day realities of school operations.

Amy has teaching experience with neurodiverse learners and brings a wealth of knowledge to the board in respect to experiential and “out of the box” teaching and learning methodologies. Amy has been instrumental in designing OCA's framework for the program.

## David Hall – Director

David Hall serves as Assistant Director at Footholds Academy, where he is involved in program delivery and organizational operations. He contributes experience in educational leadership and administration, supporting the Board's work in operational planning and program oversight.

## Greg Burroughs – Director

Greg Burroughs is a business systems advisor with experience across international development, social performance, food and beverage, agriculture, and hospitality. His work in the extractives and infrastructure sectors in West Africa focused on social performance, shaping how large-scale development projects operate within the communities they impact. This work involved managing large, culturally diverse teams in complex geopolitical environments, under demanding conditions.



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More recently, his work has focused on developing and strengthening small businesses and supply chains here in British Columbia, including the build-out and operation of local hospitality ventures. Success in this work has been driven by team leadership and improving how organizations perform within their communities.

At OCA, Greg serves as an Advisory Board Member, providing guidance on business systems, talent management, compliance, organizational structure, and operational oversight.