

## Tim Lorenz Bio

I was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada to a family of educators. My parent's hard work and dedication played a major role in my decision to become an educator. Early on I witnessed great examples of strong student advocacy in the public education system.

Sports were always an important part of my life. I played hockey, football and baseball in high school. I eventually was forced to decide on one sport and like most Canadian kids, chose hockey.

My parents reluctantly allowed me to leave home at 16 years of age to pursue my dream of becoming a professional hockey player. It didn't take long for the hours on the ice to far outweigh the hours in the books. My interest in school began to fade. However, I started witnessing teammates dropping out of high school and they appeared to have limited opportunities when hockey was over. At that point, I made the decision to focus on both hockey and my high school education. In 1983, I became the Vancouver Canucks' fourth round draft pick and a high school graduate.

In 1984, I chose to leave hockey and accept a football scholarship at the University of Hawaii. This gave me the opportunity to play a sport while getting a college education.

In 1988, I was drafted into the Canadian Football League and while playing professional football, I made the decision to complete my undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Barbara. It was there that I read Jonathan Kozol's book, "Death At An Early Age". Jonathan's book had a powerful impact on me. I knew that I wanted to follow my parent's footsteps into public education.

While still playing football, I enrolled in a teacher's credentialing program and received a single subject general education teaching credential at California State University. I taught for 3 years in Canada before deciding to return to teach in Los Angeles. While working in Los Angeles, I completed a second teaching credential and a Master's Degree in Special Education.

A few years later, I completed a credential in Educational Leadership. For the past 15 years, I have served as the high school principal and I am currently the Superintendent of Odyssey Charter Schools of Nevada.