



Board Chair Report

October 29, 2024

Good evening and welcome.

This is my final regular public meeting chairing this board and I reflect on our commitment to effective leadership. While some boards of education opt for a chair to serve a full four-year term or longer, Burnaby has upheld a tradition of rotating leadership to build capacity within individual trustees and the Board as a whole. And at November's meeting we will be electing a new chair.

Before stepping into the role of chair, I served as vice-chair, gaining valuable insights from a distance. Our board strongly believes in building capacity, which is increasingly vital in today's political landscape.

A recent provincial election has highlighted the fragility of our public education system. This province was perilously close to a government indifferent to the needs of public education.

The BC Conservative Party unveiled an education platform that revealed a fundamental misunderstanding of the requirements of public schools and their students. If they had formed government, their proposed policies threatened to roll back essential support for Burnaby students, families, and caregivers.

Their agenda threatened to divert funding from public schools to benefit elite private institutions. They wanted to eliminate SOGI 123 - a