

November 26 2024

Good evening and welcome.

To begin, I would like to thank the Chairs who came before me. The most obvious recognition is owed to Trustee Brassington who has just concluded two successful years as the Burnaby Board of Education Chair, but additionally to recognize the other three Trustees seated here this evening who have also led Burnaby School District: Trustee Mezei, Trustee Wong, and Trustee Hayes.

Through the leadership of these individuals, the Burnaby School District has been able to navigate many storms the School District has faced over the years such as a global pandemic, a generation of provincial underfunding and undersupported classrooms, and an LGBTQIA+ backlash after adopting one of the first SOGI school district policies in the province of BC. These are a few examples of the challenges this District has weathered and come out the other side even stronger. Our Board, and in particular, the Board continues to stay focused and committed to the overarching goal of ensuring every learner has equitable access to education in a safe, inclusive learning environment where they are valued and stay focused

beliefs, and our priorities:

First and foremost, that means walking a path of Truth and Reconciliation, both organizationally and individually.

When I reflect on the learning experiences I have had and when I look at what my children and their peers are seeing and learning a stark contrast is painted. I graduated from high school

A truer statement could not have been spoken. For this statement is not only true of art, but it is also accurate of Truth and R

So, to reference where I started this report, whatever storms may be brewing in the distant future or in the coming weeks, am of