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Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby January 22, 2013

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year - tonight being the first public meeting of the Board of Education for this calendar year.

As we begin 2013 – the Board wishes to advise that we have had preliminary discussions with all Metro-Vancouver school districts to consider the 2013/14 school calendar and to explore the pros and cons of synchronized breaks.

In February we'll begin a detailed public consultation process that will look at both sides of the issue and include all of our partner groups. It will consider the timing of spring break as well as its length. Presently Burnaby and New Westminster are the only two Metro school districts who have not adopted a two week spring break. This becomes particularly important to those families who work in Burnaby School District but reside in other municipalities or conversely, those families from Burnaby who work in other school districts and whose children go to school in Burnaby.

As per Board policy 6.05.00, the calendar for the 2013/14 school year will be confirmed by March 31, 2013.

Another initiative in 2013 is the **revitalization of our technology platform**. This will be the single biggest improvement to our technology since networks were first introduced into the district.

This two-year project will improve the security, adaptability and resiliency of core data services and enhance the online experience for all of our users. It will place the District in an advantageous position with respect to technology changes and opportunities. It will position our technology environment to be forward facing and flexible to ensure that our commitment to 21st century learning is seamless.

We look forward to speaking with our partner groups and the community in the coming months. Thank you in advance for your commitment to public education in Burnaby.

Baljinder Narang
Board Chair
Burnaby Board of Education