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Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby April 9, 2013

Tonight I would like to take the opportunity to highlight how community comes together to support Burnaby School District's educational success and in particular to thank parents, staff and the broader community for their engagement and input on the following recent initiatives:

- Participation in our calendar consultation process and support of the Board's decision for a one-year pilot of a two week spring break for the 2013/14 school year. The Board acknowledges that this was not an easy decision and is very appreciative of the community input received during the consultation period.

And for

- Taking the time to review the budget for the 2013/14 calendar year to understand the difficult decisions that we face as we try to do more for our students with increasingly shrinking funding. The Board appreciates the thoughtfulness of our many contributors that help us put forward a balanced budget as required by the Ministry of Education.

I would also like to acknowledge a community organization that continues to engage with us and shares the district's collective vision of lifelong learning. For 40 years, the College of the Retired has provided an invaluable network of knowledge and lifelong learning opportunities in Burnaby. The district supports them in the operation of their multiple initiatives and through the promotion of their courses in our Community & Continuing Education brochures.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the many contributions made by volunteers from the College of the Retired making it a 40-year success story. Burnaby's seniors are great role models for education, leading by example and enrolling in courses and demonstrating that you are never too old to learn.

In fact, at their 40 year celebration event I had the pleasure of meeting one of their enthusiastic 95 year old students!

Thank you for your interest in public education.

Baljinder Narang
Board Chair