

## Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby April 23, 2013

### TRUSTEES

Chair  
Baljinder  
Narang

Vice-Chair  
Ron  
Burton

Meiling  
Chia

Larry  
Hayes

Harman  
Pandher

James  
Wang

Gary  
Wong

This Friday, April 25 is Public Education Day in BC.

For 107 years Burnaby's public school system has supported the learning needs of generations of families in Burnaby. The district is fortunate to have had leaders with vision and the passion to keep the district moving forward.

Leaders have come from many places within the district. But tonight I am dedicating my Board Chair report to a man who has given 25 years of public service to education in Burnaby.

Burnaby Board of Education vice-chair, Ron Burton.

Ron was first elected as a Trustee in the fall of 1987. At that time the district had an enrolment of 17,000 students in 39 elementary and 6 secondary schools that spoke more than 40 different languages at home.

Today the district enrolls 25,000 students that speak more than 80 different languages. To accommodate this growth, Ron has been supportive of the expansion of Burnaby's public school system that has included the addition of:

- two new elementary schools:  
Taylor Park in 2004 and University Highlands in 2010

- two new secondary schools:  
Burnaby Mountain in 2000 and Byrne Creek in 2005

The replacement of two secondary schools:

- Burnaby South 1993 and Burnaby Central 2011

- and since 2001 an investment of \$187 million has been put into Burnaby schools for the completion of 16 capital and seismic projects.

During his tenure, Ron has worked alongside 6 Superintendents: Elmer Froese, George Miller, Henry Kojima, Sheila Rooney, Claudio Morelli and our current Superintendent of Schools, Kevin Kaardal

He has also balanced budgets ranging from \$67.8 million in 1988 to \$249.5 million in 2012, with three Secretary-Treasurers, Peter Boyle, Bob Ingram and since 2000, Greg Frank

And he has worked with 9 different Board Chairs – Dorothy Caddell, Pietro Calendino, Carol Jones, Anne Smith, Mondee Redman, Kathy Corrigan, Diana Mumford, Larry Hayes and myself – and on three occasions he has taken over the reins as Board chair for three terms.

I would like to acknowledge that two of the Board's former chairs are here with us today to honour Ron – Dorothy Bell (Caddell) (1989-90) and Kathy Corrigan (2007- 2008).

Since 1987, existing programs have expanded to meet the learning needs of the community. These include:

- two new elementary Community Schools and a pilot secondary community school program
- Expansion of the French Immersion Program
- An expansion of the programs offered for career programs
- An expanded summer session program to support upwards of 8,000 students who take courses - up from 3,000 in the late 1980's.
- And a revitalization of the district's alternate programs to include Royal Oak, the Youth Hub and Trades Training.

Additionally, during the past 25 years the district introduced:

- Full day kindergarten in 2010
- An International Education program in 2002 with 92 students. Today the district welcomes more than 1,000 students from 29 countries
- Burnaby Online - that began in 2003 with 55 elementary students enrolled. Today there are almost 1,000 K to 12 students and adults taking online courses.
- An Advanced placement program that began in 2003 and is now one of the largest AP programs in Canada
- Confederation Park became an elementary Fine Arts school in 2004 with 90 students. Today there are more than 250 students at this school.
- Four Parent & Family Literacy Centres opened in 2004. The Ministry of Education adopted this early learning program provincially and in 2007 opened the first of 12 StrongStartBC Centres in Burnaby.

- A new Mandarin Language Arts Program that began in 2010 enrolled 22 kindergarten students. Today, there are 56 elementary students in this program, grades K to 2.
- New programs to support Literacy that include Reading Recovery in 16 schools and the Fast ForWord program in 38 schools.
- And a Settlement Workers in Schools program that began in 2007 and helps more than 4,800 newcomers to Canada settle into the community and our schools.

This is a snapshot of just some of the highlights of the past 25 years.

We've certainly come a long way – just imagine where we will be 25 years from now!!

It is fitting that April 25 is Public Education Day in BC – and with 25 years behind him as a trustee, there couldn't be a more fitting spokesperson for public education and our district than Ron Burton.

Ron – We are grateful for your commitment and dedication to Burnaby's public schools.

And on behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education and the Burnaby community – I would like to extend our congratulations and our thanks.

Thank you.

Baljinder Narang, Chair  
Burnaby Board of Education