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PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – JUNE 26, 2012

Welcome to the end of another successful school year. As is so much the norm in Burnaby, our 2011/12 year has had many successes that we can all celebrate.

2011/12 District Highlights

- Education Minister George Abbott toured the District in the fall of 2011. Stops included Burnaby Central Secondary, the Youth Custody Centre and Brantford Elementary.
- Board of Education named Xtra West's newsmaker of the year for the passing of Policy 5.45 Sexual Identity – Gender Policy which ensures that all members of the school community work together in an atmosphere of respect and safety regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Burnaby Central opened its “new” doors to 1,281 students after three years of planning and construction.
- Approval received for \$17 million in seismic upgrading of Alpha Secondary
- Burnaby North launches New Media Tech Lab, one of six schools in Canada to receive a \$50,000 grant from Future Shop towards its development
- Now in its 12th year of conservation initiatives, the District has once again been recognized by BC Hydro as the top performing school district in BC through the PowerSmart Partner Program. The District continues to follow its long term strategic plan to upgrade facilities with such things as lighting retrofits, boiler replacements and solar power installations.
- Byrne Creek Secondary had a successful pilot year as a Community School and will continue in that capacity for another year.
- The School Meal program was expanded to include a secondary school and another elementary school. This brings the total number of schools that provide a subsidized program for students who might need food to 15.
- Three district elementary schools received funding from the Vancouver Sun's Adopt-a-School Campaign. They include Edmonds and Stride Community Schools and Morley Elementary.
- Vancouver Canucks Manny Malhotra, Dan Hamhuis and their families, in partnership with the Canucks for Kids Fund and Habitat Systems Inc., installed a new playground at Edmonds Community School.
- The Ministry of Children and Youth selected the Burnaby School District as a recipient of the “Innovative Service Award of Excellence” recognizing us for “showing a great deal of sensitivity to the culture and life-circumstances” of Tamil migrant families while providing educational services to 47 school aged children.

- Byrne Creek Secondary School is awarded the 2012 “Vision in Action: The Whole Child Award” by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Byrne Creek Secondary School is the first Canadian school to receive this prestigious award from this international educational leadership association. It recognizes schools that move beyond a narrow focus on academic achievement, creating learners who are knowledgeable, emotionally and physically healthy, civically active, artistically engaged, prepared for economic self sufficiency and ready for the world beyond formal schooling.
- Westridge teacher Brian Tesan was one of 17 teachers from across Canada recognized for exceptional teaching (by Grand & Toy).
- Windsor crossing guard, Deanna Gay was named Canada’s Favourite Crossing Guard. (FedEx and Safe Kids Canada)
- Students from the BC School for the Deaf visited Gallaudet University in Washington DC, the world’s only university specifically for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Edmonds Leadership Team students were presented with the “John Gibbard Award” by the United Nations Association of Canada that recognizes dedication and commitment to working for humanity and making the world a better place.
- A grade 11 student at Burnaby North Secondary School (Atalanta Shi) was recognized by the Royal Canadian Legion as the first prize winner from entries across Canada for her poster commemorating Remembrance Day.
- Burnaby Mountain students (Grace Jin and Jamal Dumas) represent Canada at the International Competition for young Debaters held at Oxford University in England and place 5th in the world.
- Forest Grove Elementary receives the BC Green Games “Viewers Choice Award” for a documentary featuring their school garden.

Of course, I could go on ... and on ... and on. All-in-all, another school year to celebrate! Although we all look forward to September after a relaxing summer ... we know that it will be a year of challenges. If we continue to do what we always do in Burnaby ... all point in the right direction ... these challenges too we should overcome. Thank you to our partner groups who are with us on this positive journey.

In that, I say a fond farewell and best wishes to our graduating students and to those staff who are moving on to either retirement or other challenges. Special thanks go to our Superintendent, Claudio Morelli, retiring after a thirty-four year career in public education ... and to Director of Instruction Reno Ciolfi, moving on to an exciting position with the Coquitlam School District. Your dedicated service to the learners of Burnaby is something that we all greatly appreciate.

Have a wonderful summer!

Larry Hayes
 Board Chair / Trustee
 Burnaby Board of Education SD41