

June 26, 2017

GUEST REPORT – by Trustee Larry Hayes

The end of the school year includes great joy and celebration.

We have taken the time to celebrate the graduation of our Grade 12 students – the Class of 2017 – and also honoured the dozens of employees who have retired from the District ... some like Director of Instruction Deborah Simak, who's been with our District since 1986, 12th Avenue Teacher Chris La Page, who started in 1980, Inman Teacher Joyce Raffin, who began her career with us in 1976 and Administrative Secretary Nina Ennis, who formally concludes an amazing 42 years of service with the Burnaby School District in just a few days. Just imagine ... these four individuals alone represent 151 combined years of service and experience in our schools! To them and all of our other retirees, a sincere thank you for helping to make Burnaby such a great place to learn!

As we move into a relaxing summer, celebrating Burnaby's 125th birthday and Canada's 150th ... I also want to highlight a personal education milestone with this year being the 50th anniversary of my graduation from 2nd Street School in 1967. Although my 2nd Street neighbourhood has seen so many changes over the past five decades, it still remains a great place to visit and to reminisce about the simpler times back in the good ol' days. My visit to their school play last week was extra special, me with my 1967 report card and class picture in hand, as Principal Mark Harding presented me with my "School Leaving Certificate" ... just to make sure things were official. At that time, I had the

opportunity to let the parents and students know just how special their school was ... and how I hoped that their children also had the opportunity to come back and let the class of 2067 know what a difference their school and teachers made to their lives. Those individuals who developed our motivation to dream big and inspire to do like those who've done great things.

With that, my heartfelt thank you to my 2nd Street teachers from 50 years ago ... Ms. Smith, Ms. Gullion, Ms. Gates, Mr. Shewchuk, Mrs. White and Mr. Johnson. It's dedicated and caring people like them who do so much to make the world a better place ... one student at a time.

In closing the Board Chair report I'd like to share that we were sad to learn, that as of August 15, 2017, Shaw TV stations will be closing in Metro Vancouver, which means that the public meetings will no longer be broadcast to the community.

I'd like to acknowledge the key role that Shaw TV has played in our school district for more than 25 years. Since the 1980's, employees of Shaw TV, many of them volunteers, have been the silent observer behind the camera in our Board room, filming our public meetings to share with the Burnaby community all the great things that are happening in our schools and in our District.

They've remained the constant as our District has evolved – increasing in enrolment and diversity of our families, putting a face to at least 8 Boards of Education, sharing the opening of new schools, even a new Board room, and introducing new programs that meet the changing needs of our students. Shaw TV has been our silent partner, there to record it all.



Board Chair Report

Communities are known, by the schools they keep...and we are grateful for the support of SHAW TV throughout the years. For in sharing our success, you have instilled community pride in Burnaby's public schools.

We thank you for your years of support for public education in Burnaby.

And if I may borrow a phrase from Ted Baxter of WJM--TV when he signed off his last broadcast – Good night, and good news.