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Welcome back, everyone, to what promises to be an exciting new school year! Tonight, you're going to hear about what's been going on in Burnaby schools over the past couple of months ... the ongoing success of our summer programs, the excitement of getting ready for the big step from elementary to secondary school and the hustle-bustle in getting our doors open last week.

Along with continuing to provide an excellent educational program and a positive working environment to the thousands that call the Burnaby School District home, this school year will also see us all having to meet the challenges of change and uncertainty.

We welcome Assistant Superintendent Heather Hart to the role of Acting Superintendent as we begin a search for our new CEO ... we've said goodbye to some long-serving District employees and have greeted new ones ... we welcome our teachers back to, what we hope, will be the normalcy of the wonderful work that they love to do everyday ... and we also look forward to some positive and progressive initiatives for education in this Province.

Let's not fool ourselves, though ... we will face challenges. The ongoing struggle to meet the needs of our learners in financially difficult times ... the appointment of a new Minister of Education ... the upcoming dialogue with our teachers and support staff with the goal of reaching fair and negotiated collective agreements ... and the looming Provincial election next May. It certainly promises to be a school year to remember ... and one that we all can collectively play a role in making sure it's a year of engagement, of optimism and of keeping the Burnaby School District moving forward in so many positive ways.

Larry Hayes
Board Chair / Trustee
Burnaby Board of Education SD41