

April 9, 2018

It is with a heavy heart that I begin the Board Chair report this evening.

This weekend, and in an instant, the tragedy in Humboldt, Saskatchewan has turned a nation upside down. The unimaginable loss to the families and communities has left a deep hole in the hearts of many Canadians. Words cannot adequately convey the sadness felt by this loss.

In my work in sports I, like many, have been on those team buses ... like that group of young men and adults were on that fateful evening. Those are some of the best parts of being on a team ... laughing, happy, thinking about the upcoming playoff game that night ... and fulfilling their dreams ... and it's just not supposed to end that way. I've been in some of those Saskatchewan towns ... Melfort, Tisdale, Nipawin, Humboldt ... where the local ice rink is the gathering place for community and junior hockey players are kings ... and I've been through that very same intersection of highways ... as non-descript as the thousands of other highway intersections on the flat, seemingly endless prairie. But this time ... it just wasn't supposed to end that way.

Fate can be cruel and have no explanation ... two intersecting rural highways ... two speeding vehicles ... and a one-in-a-million chance. Five seconds either way and it wouldn't have happened. But it did ... and the world of so many turned upside down.

Our hearts and thoughts are with the parents/caregivers, families, friends, teammates, classmates, billets, coaches, teachers, staff, fans, communities and countless others who have been impacted by this tragedy. Also, one must not forget the heroics of passers-by and emergency services who were first on scene and the health services at local hospitals in caring for the injured. There are literally hundreds and hundreds who have been directly affected by this unthinkable accident ... and our World, our Country, our Province and our School District are honoured to take a moment to remember.

I would ask that you all stand for a moment of silence in memory and support of the Humboldt Broncos. Thank you.

Larry Hayes, Trustee
Burnaby Board of Education SD41

It was said that the young Humbolt Broncos players did not play for the names on the back of their jerseys, but for the crest on the front. They epitomized team. It is not always about “the win” but about the bond of the team.

We have our own team here tonight and I’m sure they can attest to that. It is with great pride that we recognize the exceptional talent, dedication and inspiration of the Byrne Creek Bulldogs who placed 2nd in the Provincial AAA finals. The Bulldogs had an incredible season, winning the Lower Mainland championships and, ultimately only losing to the South Kamloops Titans in a hard-fought battle.

Tonight, it gives us great pleasure to recognize the Byrne Creek senior boys’ basketball team and to extend sincere thanks to coaches Bal Dhillon and Shawn Hake for their coaching excellence and countless hours of work in supporting our Burnaby team.

On behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education, thank you to each of you.

**Ron Burton, Chair Burnaby
Board of Education**