

January 28, 2020

Good evening. Welcome to the first Board Meeting of 2020.

It certainly has been a busy January. There's a lot going on in Burnaby Schools and the weather conditions earlier this month have also contributed. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all of the district employees for their dedication and support during the snow. Whether it was in readying our buildings, going all out to keep everything moving smoothly in the District, or in welcoming our students to schools, we appreciate your extra efforts. I also want to thank families and students for being respectful of our winter weather procedures.

A particular area of focus for our schools this month has been supporting students and their families with planning for the 2020-21 school year. Schools have been hosting open houses and information evenings that showcase educational options available in the District.

At the elementary level, tomorrow there will be a session on early and late French Immersion. At the secondary level, each of our eight high schools offer programs that give students the chance to excel in a specific area of interest – all while fulfilling their academic requirements. There are dozens of what we call Programs of Choice, with everything from technology, educational enrichment, sports academies and the arts to trades and career training. Many of our Programs of Choice are done in partnership with higher education institutions or industry.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to close by saying how proud we are to offer educational choice that allows our students to explore their interests, support their strengths, get exposed to a career, and open up their worlds.

Gary Wong, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education