

February 25, 2020

Good evening and welcome. I want to share with you some of what's been going on in recent weeks and what's coming up. This "snap shot" in time captures some key elements of our strategic plan in action. Our plan includes an emphasis on partnerships, collaboration, and core values – all with a view to helping students thrive.

It goes without saying that one of our most important partners is families, who are their children's first teacher. Last week Trustees engaged with parents from schools throughout the District. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the District Parents Advisory Council for hosting a panel that provided us with the opportunity to share our role more broadly with families, as well as the impact of the important work of our committees.

Tomorrow we'll be joining the Burnaby Board of Trade for their annual Local Government Reception. Earlier this month our district partnered with them for a "Career and Leadership Exploration World Café." It connected about 120 students in Grades 10 through 12 with professional women from diverse career paths, including entrepreneurship, leadership and STEAM – Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering, and Math. This is but one example of how our partnership with Burnaby businesses provides students with the chance to explore a career. We extend our thanks to our local business community for their support.

Our strategic plan also affirms the District's dedication to establishing a culture of belonging in our schools. Throughout the year there are multiple ways students explore kindness and respect for others. These themes support an inclusive and caring community and will be central tomorrow when our schools participate in Pink Shirt Day.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to close by saying how proud we are that our district works together with staff, students, families and the broader community to provide engaging, inclusive environments that help our students thrive.

Gary Wong, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education