

December 14, 2021

Good evening and welcome to the final Board Meeting of 2021.

It's hard to believe that this is that last week before Winter Break.

As trustees, it has been a pleasure to join virtual events, concerts and see art installations that celebrate our school communities and are a testament to the board's commitment to Visual and Performing Arts education.

School performances have a special place in my heart. From Kindergarten students performing for their very first time to senior students in their final Gr. 12 Voices 41 District Choral performance, the concerts in the last month remind us of the breadth of Visual and Performing Arts opportunities available in our schools and the many dedicated hours that happen behind the scenes.

I would like to thank everyone who have made these performance opportunities possible. Whether an in-school performance for students, a digital recording, or a live streamed event, thank you to the many educators who have found innovative ways to connect their students with their audience and help families stay connected – albeit virtually.

It has been a difficult month for many in our province, and many of our school communities have also been finding ways to help those that have been affected by flooding and landslides, including some of the initiatives highlighted in tonight's Inside Burnaby Schools report.

Across the district, the many ways that our schools are supporting the community – here locally, and further afield – reflect the importance of connection and empathy.

And it is this sense of community, and the commitment of school-based, district and support staff that have kept our schools at the center of our communities.

On behalf of the Board – Thank you. I want to wish you and all the people you care about a safe, joyful and restful holiday – all the best for the New Year.

Jen Mezei, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education