

November 22, 2022

Good evening, welcome, and thank you for joining us at our inaugural meeting.

It is my honour to share with you my first report as your Chair. I want to thank my fellow board members for the privilege to do so, as I welcome back Trustees Peter Cech, Larry Hayes, Jen Mezei, and Gary Wong. We are all very excited to welcome to the table Trustees Mikelle Sasakamoose and Kristin Schnider. Congratulations to all of you, and I look forward to working together.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the people of Burnaby for putting your trust in each of us to represent the interests of public education in our great city, as your school trustees. Regardless of who you cast your ballot for, we are here to listen, and to work together – always with students at the centre of the decisions we make and the action we take. I would also like to thank our families for their support during the last year leading up to the election and for their support over the next four years.

As Trustees, we do not move the work forward alone. Partnerships strengthen all we do and every employee in the district makes a difference. We look forward to continuing the important work on many issues like our continuing journey of Reconciliation, Action on Anti-Racism, and the Long-Range Facility Plan. We look forward to continuing the important work in our district with partner groups that represent support staff, teachers, school principals and vice-principals, and of course students and families. We're so pleased that the presidents representing those groups are able to join us this evening. I also want to thank the Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and the whole senior management team for ensuring the operations are effective and efficient, and to thank them and all staff across the District for the invaluable work they do each day to support children, youth, and their families.

Everything we do is stronger when we work together with our partners and listen to the voices of students and families and we collectively listen with our hearts, eyes, and arms wide open. I look forward to continued conversation and collaboration, as we build on the achievements of the past, while looking ahead to the future of education in Burnaby.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education