

December 13, 2022

Good evening and welcome to the final Board Meeting of 2022.

I want to begin by acknowledging our outgoing Chair, Jen Mezei, and thank her on behalf of the entire Board for her leadership over the past two years. She helped guide our previous Board through many challenging times, including the pandemic. Trustee Mezei, you have my deepest gratitude for all you have done, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with you, returning Trustees Peter Cech, Larry Hayes and Gary Wong, as well as new members of the Board: Vice-Chair Kristin Schnider and Trustee Mikelle Sasakamoose.

It was a pleasure to connect with all of you and meet our counterparts from across the province earlier this month at the Trustee Academy, which was put on by the BC School Trustees Association. I was proud to see the leadership of our own district, with three of our staff members presenting on important topics to the provincial audience.

Each of us, as Trustees, have had opportunities to go to schools to enjoy holiday shows, concerts and traditions. I am looking forward to seeing more in the Superintendent's report tonight where we will be treated to performances by some talented students. All that seasonal cheer that our schools and the wider community get to enjoy comes with many dedicated hours from those behind the scenes. On behalf of the Board, I want to extend our thanks to everyone – including the volunteers – for all you do to help make the season shine.

On that same note, I am very much aware of how hard people are working on so many things, and I hope that everyone is able to take some time over the holidays and enjoy a well-deserved break.

Many of our schools benefit from community support and this is also true for the holidays. Special thanks to our partners who do so much to support the people who need it the most, including by helping with hampers to ensure that everyone has a holiday to enjoy. I want to thank our friends at the City of Burnaby, as well as our local Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament for all they do, as well, to support public education here in Burnaby. As a Board, we extend our thanks to outgoing Minister of Education and Child Care Jennifer Whiteside for all she has done. And we warmly welcome the new Minister, Rachna Singh. Our Board looks forward to working with her.

And finally, however you mark the season, on behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education, I want to wish you and those you care about a wonderful holiday. All the best for the New Year.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education