

January 24, 2023

Good evening and welcome.

Children and youth in Burnaby are at the centre of all we do. In support of them, we're engaging Burnaby, as we prepare for what current and future students will need in schools. We would like to hear from you.

This Board is seeking feedback as we work to create a comprehensive Long-Range Facility Plan and strategy. When complete, the plan will lay out a multi-year roadmap that supports students by understanding our current and upcoming facility needs, with an emphasis on what's needed for school buildings.

All of our work needs to be grounded in what's happening in our community. We can all see how quickly the city is increasing in its densification and in the growing number of people choosing to call Burnaby home. A growing community means more public school students.

What we see and what we know are not necessarily the same things. In order to ensure we are making the best decisions for Burnaby students, we need to base our decisions in data. To that end, District staff began the process of gathering updated information from the City of Burnaby back in March of last year. The City's long-range plans and neighbourhood population projections help us to understand in what parts of the community, and therefore in which schools, to anticipate growth. I would like to thank the Mayor, Council, and city staff for helping create an environment where we work together collectively to support Burnaby's children and youth.

We are a rapidly growing school district and fortunately we do *not* need to look at closing schools. Instead, we are focused on how to best manage more students. In that regard, each of our four education zones has its own anticipated growth, challenges, and potential solutions.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our gratitude to the First Nations Elders who, as a critical part of this process, are taking time with District staff and Trustees to share their thoughts. We are also seeking input from internal partners and reaching out with an online survey to parents, students, staff, and the broader Burnaby community. We want to know what we should be paying attention to as we plan for future growth and develop options for each educational zone.

The online survey opens this Wednesday. Tomorrow evening also marks the first of our public information sessions. There will be one for each educational zone, and District staff and Trustees will be in attendance to provide information, context, and to listen to your thoughts and feedback.

Anyone looking for details about how to attend, do the survey, find out where their local school fits, and see the analysis for each zone, can find information on the Burnaby School District website.

This Long-Range Facility Plan is a key document. It will influence the shape of things to come in the Burnaby School District. We both need and want your input. I'm excited to hear and see people's feedback.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our thanks, in advance, to everyone who takes the time to help us by sharing their thoughts through the survey or visits one of our in-person information sessions.

Your voice matters as we work to make sure we get it right and that Burnaby students' needs now, and in the future, continue to be at the centre of our plans for buildings.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education