

November 28, 2023

Good evening and welcome to our November public board meeting.

I would like to use this board chair report to give an overview of the work this Board is currently doing, and in particular give you a deeper insight into one task in particular, and also focus on how we are listening to Burnaby students.

As trustees, teachers, and staff we need each student to have a voice. A voice that needs to be heard and respected. In fact, student voice in classrooms has shown it develops mutual respect and leads to feelings of inclusion and increases in student academic performance.

So why not also listen to students outside of the classroom. This Board, and its predecessors, has intentionally been seeking students' thoughts and opinions. Through our online survey and Anti-Racism listening circles, feedback on the Long-Range Facilities Plan, our SOGI Committee, and Committee of the Whole structure, we are intentionally seeking and encouraging lesser-known lived student experiences to come to the decision table.

And we have included student voice in perhaps our most important task as a Board. The search for a new leader, a new superintendent.

After 33 years of amazing and dedicated service in various roles throughout this district, and as the Superintendent for almost the last nine years, Gina Niccoli-Moen has decided to retire. This Board is currently searching internally and externally across the country for a successor.

Burnaby is this province's fourth largest school district and as we all are aware it is rapidly growing as the city rapidly grows. The one position that a Board of Education hires in a school district is the position of Superintendent.

We engaged an executive search firm to assist us in the search for a Superintendent, and we outlined that, as we had previously done, we wanted to engage our partner groups in the candidate interview process. BTA, CUPE, Principals and Vice-Principals Association, DPAC, and students (DSAC and students identified by school staff who are not engaged in student government).

We are the first Board of Education, that the national executive search firm is aware, involving youth in the interview process.

There are almost 26,000 students in Burnaby and their voices need to be heard. The hire of a Superintendent is a generational hire. A generation of Burnaby students will be impacted by this decision and it is this Board's obligation to listen.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education