

May 28, 2024

Good evening and welcome.

As we enter the last month of the school year it is a season of both endings and beginnings, marked by moments of celebration, gratitude, and anticipation. It is a time when we honour the journeys we have completed and the new paths that lie ahead.

This past week, many Trustees and senior staff had the privilege of participating in School Leaving Ceremonies. Last week our Grade 12 students celebrated graduation, marking the culmination of their high school experience. Their journey has been filled with hard work, dedication, and personal growth. Graduation is a momentous occasion, not just for the students but for the entire school community. It is a testament to the collective efforts of students, teachers, staff, and families who have worked together to create a nurturing and inclusive environment. We look forward to the coming weeks when we will honour our Indigenous students and students in our Adult Education programs. As all of our graduates step into the next phase of their lives – whether it be post secondary education, the workforce, or other endeavours – we send them forward with our unwavering love and support. We take pride in knowing that the values of community, inclusion, and mutual respect instilled here in the Burnaby School District will guide them in their future pursuits.

In tandem with our students' milestones, we also celebrate the retirements of so many loved teachers and staff members. These individuals have dedicated their careers to fostering the intellectual and emotional growth of our students, contributing significantly to the rich tapestry of our school communities. Their commitment to education and their unwavering support for every student have been cornerstones of our inclusive environment. As they retire, they leave behind a legacy of love, wisdom, and inclusion that will continue to inspire future generations. Their departures mark the end of an era, but also the beginning of new adventures for them, filled with opportunities for rest, reflection, and personal growth.

The themes of community, love, support, and inclusion are woven into the fabric of our school district. They are evident in every classroom, in every interaction, and in the way we celebrate our shared successes. These values are not just ideals we aspire to; they are the principles by which we live and learn together. As we bid farewell to our graduates and retirees, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude for the contributions they have made to our schools. Their journeys remind us that our community is strengthened by the diverse experiences and perspectives each member brings.

As we look forward to the new beginnings that await us, let us carry forward the spirit of community, love, support, and inclusion that defines our school district. Together, we will continue to create a nurturing environment where every individual is valued and empowered to achieve their fullest potential.

Thank you.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education