



BOARD CHAIR REPORT

INAUGURAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 2014

Good evening and thank you all for being here tonight.

I would like to begin by expressing my thanks and appreciation to the residents of Burnaby for electing us to represent the interests of Burnaby's public schools as your school trustees. You have entrusted us with the task of continuing to move Burnaby School District forward, ensuring that we meet the growing and changing needs of our learners. And continue to do so with a balanced budget.

A special thank you to James Wang, for his dedication in serving the Board for the past six years. We will look forward to continuing to work with James in his new role as a Burnaby City Councillor.

I'd also like to thank Trustee Baljinder Narang who has made a significant contribution as Board Chair for the past two years. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment.

And as I welcome back to the table, five incumbent trustees, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new trustee, Katarina Chen, whom we all look forward to working with.

As we begin anew, it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments the District has achieved during the last Board term and to take a glimpse at the four year term ahead.

The greatest focus for the Board is student achievement and success. And the numbers speak to this success. Our completion rates and our transition rates to post-secondary continue to be well above the provincial average. In fact, our completion rate is at a ten year high of 86.6%. And annually, more than \$6 million in scholarships is awarded.

To create this success for each learner, it's important to determine each learner's unique needs.

Thirty years ago, we recognized that supporting the integrated needs of the community led to stronger families and improved student learning. Lochdale was the first Community School to open in Burnaby, and soon thereafter, 6 elementary schools became Community Schools. Following in the success of this model, we were proud to officially designate Byrne Creek as the first Secondary Community School in the District.

As the Province emphasizes personalized learning in the 21st century, we continue to enhance program choices to support learners' needs.

Since 2012, the District has introduced the AP Capstone Diploma Program, Multi-Age Cluster Classes (MACC), the Take-a-



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