

June 22, 2021

Good evening and welcome to our final Board Meeting of this unprecedented school year.

I have two items on the Board Chair Report tonight.

With yesterday being Indigenous Peoples Day, I wanted to provide you with an update on the Community Hub for Indigenous Learning and the community engagement visioning sessions at Stride Elementary.

As highlighted in the project proposal:

As a district we have been focus-~~0c 0-5)A iron tg-2 ghn0g -6ph0 (4p) 6-5)2 33 h2..7 03h-408-98)5(a)0(e)2~~ on a horrible discovery at Tk'emlups te Secwépemc. It was an incredibly humbling experience to be part of a powerful gathering, and what was shared by Elders underscores the desire for a gathering space as a place and a healing space within Burnaby. and it is with an open heart that I share some of what I heard and what I learned as planning takes place.

I heard that we need to create a welcoming space for everyone to feel at home where their own cultural teachings are respected and welcome. A space that is safe and where others can be invited and come together with one heart, one mind to create space for their children. And a space that inspires, cultivates connection, individuality of each child and also promotes unity.

It was a meeting that will stay with me as a milestone on my journey towards reconciliation and I am incredibly grateful to the Elders and community members who are walking with us through this process who have guided us with conviction and generosity of spirit.

It has been a full school year of virtual meetings and adapted operations. But this year, like every other, trustees have been privileged to virtually celebrate the many incredible accomplishments of our students and staff in public education. We have seen the resiliency and fortitude of students and look forward to virtual graduation ceremonies this week.

This year was only possible because of the dedicated staff at school and district sites who been able to provide a sense of normalcy in a year that was anything but normal. While the words "thank you" feel wholly inadequate, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank all our staff for everything that they have done to make this highly unusual school year a success.

Thank you to our school staff and administrators for adjusting to safety protocols and updated Public Health