BOARD OF EDUCATION BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT 41

# Board Chair Report

**May 25, 2021**

Good evening and welcome,

As we quickly approach the final weeks of school before summer break, planning is well underway for the 2021-22 school year, including preparation of the budget. Before we get to it in the agenda tonight, I want to take a moment to share some context.

- time Safe Return to School funds for the 2020-21 school year from both the Federal and Provincial governments. These funds from either level of government that these funds will continue for the next school year.
  Additionally, we have also been tasked to plan for Stage 1 for September.
  All of these factors add up to get us to a place where maintaining the status quo budget would leave us with a significant shortfall.

  That is a reality in many districts and many school districts have. As a result, we have had to align resources and staffing levels to match that of our revised student enrollment numbers. From whatever angle you look at it, these are not easy decisions.
  There are a number of factors that have guided us as trustees through this process. The first is listening. We have sincerely appreciated the chance to hear directly from our partner groups representing parents, students, teachers and support staff, as well as principals and vice-principals. We have also heard from individuals who offered their perspectives. We deeply valued all the input provided to us. We heard how these decisions would impact the school, classroom and students. And we heard your ideas.
  In making decisions as a Board, we took a deliberate approach to look at everything through the lens of having the least possible impact on students, staff and families – especially for vulnerable students and students with diverse abilities and disabilities.
  In this regard, the priorities and values outlined in the strategic plan that put students at the centre and reflect the power of diversity, equity, access and inclusion helped us navigate through these difficult choices.
  We have applied the surplus to this year's balance as much as possible, recognizing that we must also be fiscally prudent for future years.