



Board Chair Report

Good evening and welcome to our first virtual Board Meeting.

I would like to begin by acknowledging that today – April 28 – marks the Day of Mourning: a day designated across Canada to remember and honour workers killed or injured in the workplace.

One of our former teachers was among those who died in the recent mass shooting in Nova Scotia. While it's been about twenty years since Lisa McCully – who was then Lisa Kierstad – taught in Burnaby, her memory is still honoured.

Whether or not you work directly with students, you are making an incredible difference. While we can't comprehensively name everyone's role here, please know that we see you and appreciate you: staff who are implementing the critical health, safety and cleaning protocols; staff who are providing food for students and families; staff who are maintaining important functions for business, information technology, and administrative supports; administrators who are reaching out directly to families and so effectively communicating the needs of your school communities; and teachers who are using creative approaches for students' continued learning and inspiring us all. All of you, whether named or not, are single-handedly, and together, maintaining our district's mission in the midst of a pandemic:

Our schools are the heart of our community, and it is truly wonderful to see how they are continuing to serve in that role, even in this new age of social and physical distancing. It is not lost on us that you are doing all of this while managing your own concerns about your loved ones and the world around us in these challenging times.

It is incredibly inspiring to see how the District has come together to ensure all learners have access to technology, food security and other assistance, such as support for mental health. It is another example of how caring and compassion are woven into the very fabric of our district's culture.

This time apart from our "normal life" has made us all reflect on and reassess our priorities. While things look different and can't be perfect, we're so proud of how you have managed to maintain what matters most. You are truly remarkable. We are truly grateful.

We look to you with confidence and appreciation, while wishing you and your loved ones the very best of health in these challenging times. Thank you for supporting our students, their families and each other.

Stay well and strong.