



# BOARD CHAIR REPORT

January 26, 2016

*I begin by acknowledging and thanking the Coast Salish Nations of Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish on whose traditional territories we teach, learn, and live.*

As our next Board meeting will be on February 22, I'd like to remind everyone that we will be celebrating the Lunar New Year in the coming weeks, as the first day of the Lunar New Year is February 8. As you already know, the Lunar New Year is celebrated by many communities all over the world, including China, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Vietnam - and Taiwan where Trustee Chia and I came from. Many families in Burnaby School District will also be celebrating this important and auspicious occasion.

The celebration of the Lunar New Year can go on for 15 days or longer. Traditionally, there will be many activities happening every day. I fondly remember when I was young, a nice dinner celebration at my grandmother's house. At the table were my family members and relatives, as well as friends of my grandmother's who were invited and included as they had no family nearby. Those "grandmas" and "grandpas" were mostly immigrants and veterans who left China and moved to Taiwan after the civil war. They would get together to share stories about the old time, and miss their hometown together. I learned that

The Burnaby School District, of course, is committed to meeting the diverse needs of our students with different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We are also committed to promote multiculturalism, multicultural cooperation between different groups of students and families.

Today, we are very lucky to have a special guest joining us.