

## TRUSTEES

Chair  
Ron Burton

Vice-Chair  
Harman  
Pandher

Katrina  
Chen

Meiling Chia

Larry  
Hayes

Baljinder  
Narang

Gary  
Wong

**October 13, 2015**

### **DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (D.S.A.C.) RETREAT 2015**

I would like to make a brief report on DSAC District Student Advisory Council's annual retreat which happened last week at the Cheakamus Centre near Squamish. There were close to 30 students, along with Director of Instruction, Ron Hall, District Vice-Principal, Brandon Curr, Burnaby South Principal, Lee Anne Kristmanson, and Student Intervention Coordinator, Peter Van Den Hoogen.

During this two-day retreat, DSAC elected their executive members, and had the opportunity to learn about issues concerning the student community, public education, their role as student leaders in the district, and how to work together as a team.

I was very lucky to have the opportunity to join them for a morning when they had a discussion about "leadership." I was truly impressed with their knowledge, creativity and critical thinking skills. Through their discussion, I also had the opportunity to think about what real leadership means. For example, they compared a good leader to a tree, always growing, and always willing to learn and work with everyone. A real leader does not have to be big to be powerful - but should be selfless, not being a leader simply because he/she loves the spotlight, but actually doing things for the right reason, and always putting the group's best interest first.

Although we probably all know how difficult it can be for one person to have all these very noble and almost superhero qualities, as a Board, I think we all need to make sure that we try our best to be good leaders and good examples for these young activists. That is why I was looking forward to sharing this report with you this evening so we can also learn and work together as a team.

I would like to close by thanking all of the outstanding students for volunteering their time to work with DSAC and to be so willing to step up to be leaders of the student community. I would also like to thank all the staff, educators and parents who have given these young leaders their support and encouragement. I am sure that they will be a strong team that will do many great things for our District in the coming year.

**Katrina Chen, Trustee**  
**Burnaby Board of Education**