

October 26, 2011

PRESS RELEASE FROM BURNABY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

BTA ENDORSES THE BURNABY CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Burnaby teachers have voted to endorse the incumbent and new candidates running under the BCA banner at their October Staff Representative Assembly, the organization's monthly meeting of school union representatives.

"Although it is a lot of work to create questions and survey the candidates to compare their responses, the exercise provided compelling reasons as to why we should support BCA candidates", stated Richard Storch, President of the Burnaby Teachers' Association.

Mr. Storch elaborated on the specific strengths and weaknesses of each group running for school trustee in Burnaby:

"Parents' Voice did not respond to our trustee questionnaire, opposes policy 5.45 on sexual orientation/gender identity and seemed lacking in knowledge on issues critical to teachers in this round of bargaining, when responding to questions on CBC Radio this week. Green candidates did not respond to our questions. TEAM Burnaby is led by the former Burnaby Board of Education Human Resources Director, Bonda Bitzer, who presided over the largest increase of union grievances in the history of our organization. TEAM has deep ties to the current provincial government, which seems determined to halt any progress for teachers at the bargaining table. BCA candidates were the only respondents who stated their support for a return of stripped collective agreement language on class size and composition and keeping teachers in the classroom rather than gutting public education as part of the provincial government's 21<sup>st</sup> century learning initiatives."

Teachers will be active in this election campaign, calling active and retired teachers who live in the district, publishing a report card on trustees, purchasing ad space and attending all-candidates' meetings around the city.

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