

School Board Organizational Meeting
July 1, 2015
Dr. Kanninen's Statement

I would like to thank our former Chair, Mr. Lander, for his great work. I have just completed my first six months on the Board, and Mr. Lander, through your leadership, this entire Board has been tremendously welcoming, as has the Executive Leadership Team, the Superintendent, and so many others on the staff and in the community. All of you have been patient in helping me get up to speed on the issues, as well as professional and passionate. Mr. Chair, your leadership style has been "no drama," especially during the budget season. This allowed us to stay focused on what has mattered to you and to this entire Board, which is, of course, children and classroom learning. It's been a welcoming time for me personally, but also, a very successful period on the School Board. I'm very proud of your work and very proud of the work of the entire Board.

Dr. Violand Sanchez, I am so excited about your leadership going forward. You and Ms. Van Doren have already been hard at work developing a positive set of priorities for the coming year. Your agenda comes not just from you two putting your heads together, but from all of us working as a team and sharing our ideas with each other. My favorite items on your agenda are a focus on the whole child, looking at testing and whether there are reforms we can be making, and a focus on teachers and helping them develop their skills. This is the first time I will be starting at the beginning of the cycle with priorities and I am very much looking forward to this next year together. Thank you.