

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, January 24, 2012

1. Transitioning to School—"Brandon's Story"

The Burnaby School District's Learning Support Services team works collaboratively with schools and parents to create supportive, inclusive, caring communities where all children, specifically those children who have exceptional learning needs, can reach their full potential. And while the transition to school is a busy and exciting time for families, much planning occurs beforehand to ensure students have access to appropriate learning opportunities and meaningful participation in pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their educational program.

This evening, University Highlands principal, Lori Driussi, is joined by parent, Karen McKitrick-Twaites and her son, Brandon Twaites. Together, they will share "Brandon's Story"—his transition to school and experiences of integration and inclusivity.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Customized Employment Project

The Burnaby School District, in partnership with CBI Consultants (Communication, Behaviour and Instruction) and the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI), has developed a Customized Employment program designed to support students with special needs in their transition from school to a work environment.

Customized Employment is an individualized employment relationship between employees and employers, designed to meet the needs of both. It is based on the work of Dr. Paul Wehman of Virginia Commonwealth University, who has done extensive research on inclusive "real work for real pay" for students with disabilities. The intent of Burnaby's joint project is to promote and demonstrate employment-first thinking and practice, not only in the school system, but also in Burnaby's business community.

Four of Burnaby's secondary students have been identified to participate in the Customized Employment Project. Each student will be supported as they progress through the four steps of best practice associated with customized employment: discovery, job development, job coaching and monitoring.

This evening, Deborah Simak, District Principal and Dr. Paul Malette of CBI Consultants, will present the project and share "Eric's Story".

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement 2011 - 2012

The School Act requires the Superintendent of Schools to prepare and submit a report on student achievement to the Board of Education. This annual report on student achievement is intended to ensure transparency and accountability for each school district in terms of its responsibility for improving student achievement. The report also provides information that will facilitate planning for the continuing improvement of student achievement at the school and district levels.

The Report is required to provide specific evidence and measures of student achievement in the areas of literacy, school completion, early learning, and aboriginal education as well as a progress report on children in care.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive and approve the 2011 - 2012 Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement.