

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Monday, February 27, 2017

1. ReThink at Burnaby North

The skills students require to thrive in the world around us are changing. As a result, students, families, and educators are keen to learn in a flexible, fluid and dynamic environment that facilitates this change. *ReThink* is a program option for students and families at Burnaby North who want a different school experience which is built around student interest, driven by inquiry, lives in the community, and aligns with the changing curriculum and demands of the world in which we live. *ReThink* is inquiry-based, driven by projects that exist beyond the walls of the school and built on a foundation of community and collaboration. To date, the school has forged partnerships with multiple local organizations, including: Simon Fraser University, BCIT, BC Hydro, General Fusion, KMBR Architects and North Burnaby Neighbourhood House.

Students participating in the *ReThink* program select areas of exploration and pursue their learning through essential questions and authentic problems. Some students have chosen to dedicate time within their timetable to *ReThink* projects and earn graduation credits through the demonstration of competencies in a range of curricular areas while others opt in as learning opportunities present themselves. Working as individuals, cohorts and learning teams, students engage with members of the community to address the learning opportunities presented to them. Burnaby North teachers connected to the program work with students to identify their “spark” and develop the skills and habits of mind necessary to thrive in school and in the world beyond the walls of the school.

Recently, 22 students from Burnaby North completed a three-month project with BC Hydro. The learning task challenged students at Burnaby North to explore the issue of electrical safety and develop a marketing campaign and communication strategy to engage youth in this important issue. In preparation, staff from BC Hydro facilitated two sessions with Burnaby North students. The first session was dedicated to the issues around electrical safety and the current programs offered by BC Hydro while the second explored the key components of effective marketing campaigns. BC Hydro staff concluded the session with a list of “We Wonder” questions and a challenge to create a cohesive campaign dedicated to youth. On February 3rd, the students travelled to BC Hydro’s downtown office to pitch their ideas to a panel of BC Hydro staff, including Cheryl Yaremko - Executive VP and CFO, Janet Fraser – Senior VP and Chief Human Resources Officer and Hugo Shaw – Senior VP, Safety, Security and Emergency Management.

This evening we are joined by B.C. Hydro Director of School Programs, Barry Fergusson, along with Burnaby North Principal, Dave Rawnsley and teacher Meena Mangat who will introduce students Davis Li, Danny Huh, Angela Han, Vincente Amoretto and Jamie Whittemore. Students will share their experiences with the *ReThink* program.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.