

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, March 26, 2013

1. District Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge

The District's Public Speaking Challenge, open to all Grade 7 students in the district, began in 1983 when then Burnaby principal, Dave Carter, thought of creating a district-wide public speaking challenge for elementary students. Every year since then, hundreds of students have participated in the competition designed to develop confidence and pursue excellence in public speaking skills. Students compete at the school level after which they are selected to move forward to the zone level. A final two from each of the four zones then advances to the district finals. This year the district finals were held on Wednesday, March 13th at Byrne Creek Secondary.

This evening, Literacy Consultant, Ben Pare, will provide an overview of the Public Speaking Challenge. The 2013 Challenge champions: Erika Yu (South Slope), Elyse Willan (Lyndhurst) and Goldin Joghataie (Marlborough) who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively will speak to the prompt of *"It Starts Here"*.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. School Calendar Conversation

In December, Metro Superintendents and Board of Education Chairs met to discuss whether they could achieve a common school calendar with common winter and spring breaks. As a result of this meeting, the Burnaby Board of Education requested staff engage in conversations with community and district partner groups (District Parent Advisory Council, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Burnaby Teachers' Association, District Student Advisory Council and Burnaby Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association). The district also organized a public forum held on February 21st and electronic surveys for the community and Burnaby school district staff which were available for input from February 4 to March 4, 2013.

Over 4,100 community members and 1,667 staff responded to the survey within the time limit. The district also received over 330 hand written paper surveys after March 4 which have been included in the results. The overall results indicate that community and partner groups are in support of a common school calendar. Concerns were expressed around the potential adverse effects for some families in finding additional programs or childcare for their young children during the additional week of spring break.

This evening, Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools will present an overview of the district partner group conversations and the results of the community and staff surveys.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education receive this information and approve the adoption of a pilot one year common school calendar as presented as part of Option B in the Superintendent's report.