

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session Monday, April 25, 2016**

**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 and then advance to the district finals. This year the district finals were held on Wednesday, March 9 at Byrne Creek Secondary School with the theme of "What If".

Recently the Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf & Hard of Hearing launched their first Deaf Connections Week Celebration which brought students from across the province. One of the events was the Optimist Speech Competition where 24 students presented on how their optimism has influenced others. This was the 21st year for the Optimist Speech Competition.

This evening, Deborah Simak, Director of Instruction, will provide an overview of both Public Speaking Challenges. Kai Bhardwaj, Grade 7 student from Capitol Hill, will share his winning speech from the District Public Speaking Challenge, and Nina Ward from BC School for the Deaf will present her winning speech from the Optimist Speech Competition using American Sign Language.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Burnaby's Got Talent**

Over the past 13 years, Burnaby District Student Advisory Committee (DSAC) has organized and hosted a district talent competition. This year *Burnaby's Got Talent* was held on April 5 at the Michael J. Fox Theatre with an audience of over 500 attendees. There were sixteen acts, representing each of Burnaby's eight secondary schools, competing to raise funds for a worthy cause. It was an incredible showcase of Burnaby's best student talent. After a panel of guest judges faced the difficult task of narrowing it down to four acts, the audience cast their votes.

The talent in this year's competition was very diverse ranging from singers, dancers, beatboxers and musicians. The overall title went to Byrne Creek Secondary students, sisters Avery and Veronica Amores, for a duet. The real winner was the Burnaby YouthHUB, a group that supports youth by providing medical services, counselling and community connections, as the students raised over \$5,000 for their cause.

This evening, members of the DSAC are accompanied by singers Avery and Veronica Amores from Byrne Creek who will showcase their performance from the event.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.