

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Monday, November 14, 2016

1. District Student Advisory Council (DSAC)

The role of the District Student Advisory Council (DSAC) is to provide a formal process for Burnaby students to express their ideas and concerns regarding district programs and operations. They assist in decision-making and provide feedback in regard to school district programs, policies and practices. The council provides students with an opportunity to explore issues concerning youth in the community.

Each year DSAC participates in a Leadership Retreat to discuss their goals and plans for the new school year. This October the retreat was held at the North Shore Outdoor School in Pemberton, B.C. The goal of the retreat was to instill and reinforce effective leadership skills and build strong team dynamics and relationships. This year, the event was attended by 39 students from all 8 secondary schools as well as the YouthHUB. Sessions on personality profiles, leadership styles, interpersonal communication, student voice and leading educational change were offered by Brandon Curr, District Principal Aboriginal Education, Peter van den Hoogen, District Student Intervention Coordinator, Lee Anne Kristmanson, Principal Burnaby Mountain and Noam Samet, Youth Services Worker at Alpha Secondary School.

The new DSAC council members for 2016-2017 are Gresa Ibra, Chairperson (Burnaby South); Nick William, Vice-Chairperson (Cariboo Hill); Reece Avila, Vice-Chairperson (Byrne Creek); Huda Ashraf, Co-Secretary (Burnaby Mountain); Michela Banks, Co-Secretary (Burnaby Mountain); Diana Charlie-Iraheta, Aboriginal Representative (Burnaby Central); June Lee, Student Voice Representative (Burnaby Mountain); and Shania Shankar, BYSN Representative (Moscrop).

This evening, Ron Hall, Director of Instruction will introduce members of the Burnaby DSAC who will share highlights of their experiences at the 2016-2017 Leadership Retreat.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Youth Summit 2016

This year Burnaby School District hosted its 6th annual Youth Summit. The summit brings together approximately 100 Grade 8 to 12 students from all Burnaby secondary schools for a day of workshops that focus on self-awareness and self-identity. Some of the workshop topics that have been presented over the years include privilege, stress and mental health, substance use, career preparedness, exploring “self” through art and music, and healthy relationships.

Bringing together this number of youth in a setting outside of their classroom is a rich opportunity for students to practice skills in all social emotional competencies in the areas

of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships skills and responsible decision-making.

Tonight, Sue Dorey, Manager Safe & Caring Schools will introduce Suzanne Vardy, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator, students Esther Basabase from the YouthHUB and Fabian Ortiz, Joshua Raul and Ernesto Martinez from Cariboo Secondary School who will talk about their experiences in attending the Youth Summit.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.