

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Monday, May 14, 2018**

The Education Committee met on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 4:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Harman Pandher (Chair), Meiling Chia and Baljinder Narang, DPAC Representative Kristin Schnider, and Assistant Superintendents Heather Hart and Wanda Mitchell.

**1. Welcome to Kindergarten / Gradual Entry**

Jeannette Laursoo, Director of Instruction, Angela Meredith, Early Learning Helping Teacher and Darlene Allanson, Kindergarten Teacher, Aubrey Elementary shared work being done in the district around education in the early years, including Welcome to Kindergarten and the Gradual Entry process.

Early years educators have been focussing on ways to engage incoming kindergarten families and support their children as they transition into Burnaby Schools. There continues to be ongoing collaboration and dialogue between StrongStart educators and kindergarten teachers around common values and beliefs about learning in the early years and how to best welcome families into our school communities.

Welcome to Kindergarten is an orientation program that welcomes children and families into schools prior to kindergarten entry. As we continue to be responsive to the needs of students and families, 15 schools are piloting a new kindergarten orientation process. This includes providing resources that align with the redesigned curriculum and a focus on nurturing creative thinking. During the Welcome to Kindergarten event, students receive a district designed book bag, a book, and hands on learning resources which invite children and families to engage while learning together in their home environment.

Our Kindergarten program offers students meaningful opportunities in a play-based environment. In order to help children transition from pre-school, child care settings and the home environment into a formal school setting, we offer a gradual entry process. This includes smaller groups, an increasingly longer day and the opportunity for students to meet individually with their teacher. The team shared an example of how the gradual entry process at Aubrey Elementary nurtures a confident, collaborative and creative community of learners.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information

**2. Educational Assistant Program**

Kevin Brandt, Director of Instruction and Elizabeth Gardner, District Principal, Learning Support Services (LSS) provided the committee with the information on how the district

has been engaged in organizing a training program for new Educational Assistants. This will be run through Burnaby District Adult and Continuing Education Programs.

Dr. Gail Krivel-Zacks from Vancouver Island University, has been hired to design the coursework topics and content, in conjunction with District LSS Administration and District LSS Specialists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Behavior Analysts, Fraser Health Nurses, Occupational and Physical Therapists, and the Provincial Resource Program for Autism and Related Disorders, as well Education Assistant (EA) Engagement Workers.

The program will be a full-time program beginning the first week of July running through to the beginning of December and will include classroom work and practicum experiences. Courses topics will include; Child and Adolescent Development, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, First Aid, Functional Behavioral Assessment and Positive Behavioral Support as well as Supporting Personal Health Care.

There will be approximately 25-30 students in the first cohort, with five spots held for current grade 12 students graduating from Burnaby Secondary Schools. Each applicant will submit a resume and references and from this, a short list of students will be interviewed. Students who successfully meet the requirements of both course work and practicum will be ready for employment in December.

A second cohort of EA training will begin in January 2019. This will be a part-time program running evenings and weekends. Students that successfully complete this training will finish their program in December 2019. The second cohort will be a blended program with online and in-class coursework. Practicums will be scheduled during the school year.

Burnaby School District is working with other Metro Districts that currently run EA training programs to develop a consistent standard of programming across districts.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information

### **3. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

### **4. Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

**YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Reporting to Public Session Monday, May 14, 2018**

The Youth and Community Services Committee (YCSC) met on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Baljinder Narang (chair) and Larry Hayes, Assistant Superintendent Roberto Bombelli, and DPAC representative Jocelyn Schonekess.

**1. Reports from Community Committees**

Trustees who represent the Board on community committees updated the YCSC on items that would be of interest to the Board.

**Parks & Recreation**

Trustee Hayes reported that it was announced at the March 21 meeting that the City of Burnaby will be implementing a bike patrol by-law officers unit, a one-year pilot project commencing May 19, 2018.

**Public Safety**

Trustee Hayes reported that in response to correspondence regarding pedestrian safety in front of Windsor Elementary School the city is planning to make improvements in the area. The District 1 Community Policing Office – Brentwood commended the District for improvements in lighting at Brentwood Park and at the District 2 – Lougheed office Burnaby Mountain students have been actively contributing. All the Community Policing Offices are looking for additional student volunteers.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Vancouver International Tennis Academy**

Khristina Blajkevitch, General Manager, Vancouver International Tennis Academy (VITA), gave a presentation about the organization and outlined potential opportunities for Burnaby students. VITA is a new organization that offers “*Tennis in Schools*”, a cost-free program where a certified Tennis Canada instructor works along with the PE teacher to teach students the game. Length of the program varies by school and all equipment is provided.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information and approve the “*Tennis in Schools*” program.

### **3. New Business/Updates**

Burnaby North Secondary students will be presenting at the City of Burnaby Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. The presentation is a culmination of a joint project between Burnaby North Re-Think students, ICBC, Burnaby RCMP and the City of Burnaby. The goal of the project is for Re-Think students to prepare personal pedestrian safety messages geared to their peers. The aim is to create awareness about the dangers that pedestrians face and to stress the importance of public safety in a fun, interactive way.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Youth and Community Services Committee is June 5, 2018.