

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, June 11, 2018

1. *We For She* Burnaby

Mandy Huyn, grade 12 student at Burnaby South Secondary School was initially involved in *We For She* Vancouver. *We For She*, Vancouver runs through the Vancouver Board of Trade and has a diverse membership. The intention of *We For She* is to encourage women to go into leadership positions. As Mandy's interest in this group grew she volunteered as a member of the Youth Advisory Council. Her excellent work was recognized and as a result she (the only youth) was selected to be part of four person panel that posed questions to former First Lady, Michelle Obama during a recent Vancouver Board of Trade event.

As a result of Mandy's work with Vancouver Board of Trade conference, and with the help of Vancouver Board of Trade, the first ever *We For She* Burnaby conference was organized. Mandy teamed up with Guneet Pooni, the founder of Burnaby South's Fem Club, to organize the *We For She* Burnaby Conference. Guneet, is also Burnaby South's District Student Advisory Representative and the former president of We Council, a group dedicated to helping those in need locally and globally. Together, Mandy and Guneet designed a student conference for youth in our school district focussed on finding strong role models.

This evening, Victoria Lee, Principal Burnaby South Secondary will introduce students Mandy Huyn and Guneet Pooni and tell us about their work in the school. Mandy will share her experiences in meeting Former First Lady Michelle Obama and together Mandy and Guneet will explain the impact and messages from the *We For She* conference.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Raising Autism Awareness Project

Debbie Siu, grade 2/3 teacher at Gilmore Community School, in conjunction with Bev Gilliam, educational assistant at Gilpin Elementary School, engaged students in a project that raised awareness about autism and supported fundraising efforts for the Canucks Autism Network (CAN).

Debbie Siu and Bev Gilliam took on the challenge of planning a school wide buddy project between the two schools. Students initially designed individual puzzle pieces to show that everyone is unique and part of a bigger puzzle at school. The two schools met for an afternoon to assemble the collaborative piece.

At an evening event, hosted by the two schools, tables were set up for crafts, original art was sold and a concession stand was set up with proceeds earmarked for CAN. A few weeks later, a Canucks Autism Network representative and mascot attended the cheque presentation assembly. The two schools presented a cheque to CAN for \$5000.

This evening, Dennis Taylor, Principal at Gilmore Community School will introduce Debbie Siu and Bev Gilliam, along with their students Kaitlynn and Cameron Siu and Charlotte Johannes from Gilpin Elementary, and Chiara Cuccione and Kyla Norton from Gilmore Community School. They will share their experience with this joint project.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.