

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, April 23, 2019**

**1. The Spoken Word**

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 zonal level. From here, two students from each of the district's four zones advance to the district finals. This year the district finals were held on Wednesday, March 13, at Byrne Creek Secondary School with the theme of "**I may be young but...**".

This evening, Peter Dubinsky, Director of Instruction, will provide an overview of the Public Speaking Challenge and introduce Elizabeth Woods, grade 7 student from Second Street Community School Elementary, Thomas Einstein, grade 7 student from Capitol Hill Elementary and Vivian Yang, grade 7 student from Capitol Hill Elementary who will share their winning speeches from this year's challenge.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.