

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**1. School Restart Update (Transition to Stage 3)**

The Ministry of Education has a five-stage approach for resuming in-class instruction in a measured way that aligns with B.C.'s Restart Plan. As part of that plan, the focus for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) sector is to increase in-class instruction in a gradual and controlled manner while ensuring the health and safety measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 are in place. School density targets have been established to ensure the number of students in schools is manageable and aligns with public health guidance. A framework and guidelines for days of in-class instruction have also been established by the Ministry of Education for each stage of the K-12 Education Restart Plan.

The Burnaby School District is, as are all districts across the province, preparing to move to the next phase of B.C.'s Restart Plan. On June 1, more parents will have the opportunity to send their children to school for in-class instruction. It is important to note that the decision to send children to school is voluntary for parents. Parents and guardians have the option to decide what will work best for their family and determine whether or not their child will return to school for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of what parents and students can expect in a gradual return to Burnaby schools including:

- An overview of increased health and safety measures;
- An outline of the options to attend school in-person (K-12); and
- A review of on-going learning and supports.

On May 21, the Burnaby School District sent a survey to all parents and guardians of children in Kindergarten through Grade 12. The survey provided a high-level outline of the District's return to school plans and requested information as to whether or not parents would be sending their child to school on June 1.

The following survey results are now in and guide our planning:

- Elementary results: 4540 students
- Secondary results: 1539 students

As we share our plans for making in-class instruction available for more students, it is critical to note that we will continue to adhere to strict health and safety guidelines. Since Spring Break, schools have been operating successfully with protocols and guidance provided by the Ministry of Health, the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Ministry of Education, and WorkSafe BC. The health, safety and well-being of our entire community remains our priority as we, together, battle COVID-19.

The Burnaby School District has done a tremendous amount of work to synthesize Ministry and Provincial Health Office information and requirements, develop educational programs

and supports, and plan for a gradual return to school in a coordinated manner. The health and safety guidelines and protocols, as well as program plans for students in Kindergarten – Grade 5; Grade 6 – 7; and students in Grades 8 – 12 will be made public and posted on the district website.

There is no doubt that our schools will look and feel different on June 1. We will see fewer students and have smaller classes. Classrooms will be configured differently in order to reduce contact and increase physical distance. Drop off and pick up to and from our schools will be different. Schedules, breaks and movement through schools will be organized differently. Students will not be congregating at lockers. Staff and students will be asked to assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19 with clear direction not to come to school if they are unwell.

Undoubtedly, we will encounter challenges. And we know that whatever we learn in the coming weeks will allow us to not only plan for September and beyond, but to manage the inevitable challenges and change that will continue to come our way as we navigate and manage this global pandemic.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

## **2. Acknowledging the Class of 2020**

This past week would have marked the Burnaby School District's annual school leaving ceremonies held at Bill Copeland Centre for the Class of 2020. Without a doubt, for the graduates of 2020, this is not the ending of a final year in high school that anyone had hoped and certainly not what any one of us—parents, staff, family and friends—had wished.

And while we know that nothing can quite replace the traditional graduation ceremony that graduates and their families had been looking forward to for some time, it is our sincere hope that somehow this journey to graduation can be honoured in a very special way, nonetheless.

With the District Commencement Ceremony replaced with a virtual event planned for the week of June 22, each one of our secondary schools is working hard to put the finishing touches on unique plans for their graduating class. From small groups of graduates crossing the stage outdoors, to pictures of grads in full, formal regalia as they leave their respective secondary school for the “last time”, the ideas and will to make these special events happen are commendable.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to the principals and vice-principals at each of our secondary schools who have been working tirelessly to plan and implement some truly creative ideas for memorable events. With the Provincial Health Officer issuing orders regarding size of gatherings and physical distancing measures, there were some immediate implications for our traditional graduation events. Creative options had to be considered.

It is with deep gratitude that I recognize the many, many volunteers including parents, students, staff and community members who are putting in many hours to make these events possible.

Our hearts ache for our graduates—we know that the Class of 2020 is courageous and resilient as we have seen in all that they have accomplished in these past 13 years. And, without a doubt, they will make the best of everything and enjoy creative and safe ways to celebrate. There is not a single doubt that our graduates are the leaders of today and tomorrow. Their strength, courage and strong voices set examples for us all. In a world of uncertainty, we do know one thing for certain—our future is in good hands. Thank you Class of 2020.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.