

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, October 27, 2020

1. Action on Racism

On June 23, 2020, the Board of Education passed a motion designed to engage with, listen to, and learn from the Burnaby community—in particular, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC).

The Board's motion clearly stated that the district engage in broader conversation with Black, Indigenous and racialized communities to inform a district anti-racism action plan and update anti-racism policies.

In addition, it was stated that the district establish an ad-hoc working group to support the development of an engagement process that would allow for broader community conversation including meaningful, safe, and culturally sensitive opportunities for students, staff, and families.

Since that time, conversations, presentations, professional learning, anti-racism training and workshops, collaborative projects, and engagement regarding school-based anti-racism and anti-oppression committees and groups have occurred and continue. From building awareness within the district, to sharing a trauma-informed lens and remaining sensitive to how some BIPOC students and families may see authority, much work has been done to create an environment for conversation and dialogue.

This evening, Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent, and Beth Applewhite, District Vice-Principal—Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, will share some of this foundational work.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Programs of Choice Review

The Burnaby School District has a long and successful history of offering a variety of programs of choice for students at both the elementary and secondary levels. One of the goals in the Board of Education's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan is to engage students in individualized, relevant and innovative learning opportunities with consideration for the future expansion of program options that meet the needs and interests of our student population.

In March 2020, the district began a thoughtful and focused review of these district programs of choice to provide the opportunity to identify and build upon key strengths of current programs, as well as to address possible gaps in existing operations and services.

This evening, Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, will provide an overview of the *Programs of Choice Review*, outlining purpose, processes and timelines.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.