

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, March 30, 2021

1. Action Against 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 motion 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. A key component of the motion outlining the Board’s commitment to meaningful engagement and moving anti-racism work forward in the district, was the development of a district Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Working Group.

This working group, including students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, school and district-based staff, and trustees, has been working tirelessly over the past few months. The group came together to offer their insight and expertise in supporting the development of an engagement process that would allow for broader community conversations including meaningful, safe and culturally sensitive opportunities for students, staff and families.

The Anti-Racism Working Group met regularly from November 2020 – March 2021. They began by establishing core values for their collective work and collaborated to define a commitment statement to introduce an anti-racism engagement process for consideration for the district’s community.

This evening, Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent will share the proposed engagement process on behalf of the Anti-Racism Working Group, including recommendations for the process and its implementation.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information and approve the recommendations as presented.

2. Planning for September

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, school districts have been following the Ministry of Education’s 5 – Stage Return to School Plan, managing and mitigating the risks of COVID-19 in schools.

The Ministry of Education’s 5 – Stage Return to School Plan is supported by four foundational principles. These principles have guided the district’s work throughout the pandemic: maintaining a healthy and safe environment; providing supports and services to

support essential service workers; supporting vulnerable students who may need special assistance; and providing continuity of educational opportunity for all students.

Since September 2020, schools have been operating in Stage 2 of government's Return to School Plan. Stage 2 clearly defines specified cohort and learning group sizes, as well as density targets and, as a result, school districts have offered a variety of in-person and remote program options.

While there remains uncertainty regarding the pandemic and implications for schools in the months ahead, it is anticipated that schools will return to Stage 1 of the Ministry's K – 12 Education Plan in September 2021. This would see all students, Kindergarten – Grade 12, attend schools in-person, full-time.

This evening, Assistant Superintendents Jeannette Laursoo and Wanda Mitchell will share some key takeaways from this school year and plans for elementary and secondary school schedules for September 2021.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.