

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, May 25, 2021

1. An Evening with Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) Series

The Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) held a three-part series in April and May called *An Evening with BYSN* for secondary and elementary school students who share the same interest and passion for sustainability and environmental issues. The focus of this student organized and led event was to bring the Burnaby community together to learn how one can live more sustainably.

The idea for the evening series came from the intention of BYSN to build community during the pandemic. By hosting a virtual series over three evenings, participants had the opportunity to re-engage with each other over a longer period while learning about sustainability. Each evening featured a different speaker who discussed what sustainability means to them, their involvement in the field, and how sustainability could be improved in one's community. The speakers included Maria Fadiman from National Geographic and Florida Atlantic University who spoke about the human interaction with Earth through plants, Indigenous Enhancement Student Engagement teacher Mary Hotomanie and grade 12 student Nathaniel Frank-Piche, who spoke about sustainability from an Indigenous perspective, and BYSN Executives who shared information regarding sustainable diets, Indigenous diets and insects for food.

The Burnaby Youth and Sustainability Network has been supported by staff members, District Principal Rob Smyth, and Manager of Maintenance Services, Matt Foley. BYSN Executives Alisha Zhao and Luciana Brewer are here this evening to share more information about this event.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Student Safety Youth Summits

As the Burnaby School District continues its journey to support an equitable, diverse and inclusive environment for all, voices of students, staff, parents and community partners are integral to building on successes, addressing concerns, creating actionable strategies and making necessary change. And one of the most critical aspects for the success of this journey is school safety. Opportunities to hear students' voices and their lived experiences are crucial to building greater understanding and supporting action to enhance safety at school. There are many aspects to creating an environment where people feel safe. In combination with our broader anti-racism engagement and surveys, we hope to attain a clearer picture of our students' perspectives and thoughts. In addition to the Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion Surveys underway now, in the coming weeks, the school district's

Safe and Caring Schools Team will invite students to share their thoughts and feelings about safety at school. The hope is to meaningfully engage with youth to listen and learn about their experiences. Student delegates will have the opportunity to share their stories and experiences in classrooms, school-wide initiatives and community events.

The Student Safety Summits will be held through Zoom and will be led by the district's Safe School Specialists, Counsellors, and Principals and Vice-Principals. Students will be invited to the summits and broad representation from students across the district will be sought. Participation is optional and parent permission is requested.

Student voice matters and we are looking forward to learning more from our youth. Their input and perspectives will be used to improve and enhance student safety and sense of belonging for all students.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.