

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, November 23, 2021

1. Paddling Together for Indigenous Student Success

Students and staff in Burnaby Schools are continuing the journey of reconciliation set forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The school district is continuing to deepen its understanding about our true history and to collectively focus on improving Indigenous student experiences and outcomes. This work is grounded in relationship and connection with our urban Indigenous community, as well as with local Elders. Together, we are in the same canoe paddling to a destination that is brighter for all.

This evening, examples of the organizational learning and changes underway to create a more equitable experience for Indigenous learners will be presented. Examples of curriculum implementation, school projects, best practices in teaching and the District's speakers' series will be shared.

Rob Smyth, District Principal – Indigenous Education, and Brandon Curr, Director of Instruction, will provide insight to the District's work and introduce some next steps in this journey.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Action Against Racism

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 have been integral in understanding perspectives and creating actionable strategies moving forward.

The District's anti-racism engagement process began with the anti-racism working group, as outlined by the priorities set forth by the Burnaby Board of Education.

After establishing core values for the collective work and defining a commitment statement to introduce the District's anti-racism engagement process, a survey was created. The survey was launched on June 4, 2021, and 8820 survey responses were received.

While the quantitative data was shared with District partners on September 13, 2021, over 11,000 open-ended responses were also received and were reviewed this fall. Five analysis teams comprised of district and school-based staff, including membership from the District's partner groups, Burnaby Teachers' Association, CUPE 379, Burnaby Principals'

and Vice-Principals' Association, District Parent Advisory Council and the District Student Advisory Council, determined themes and trends in the responses.

This evening, Beth Applewhite, Acting District Principal – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, will share the summary comments and provide insight regarding next steps in the District's action against racism.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.