

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

**1. Holiday Celebration**

With the Winter Break quickly approaching, students and staff in Burnaby Schools have been busy with school events and festivities. While winter concerts and holiday schedules may have been altered due to the pandemic, students have continued to celebrate their talents and the gift of music.

The Burnaby School District has long provided rich and varied opportunities, both choral and instrumental, for students. This evening, two virtual performances will be shared, showcasing the talent of students and staff in celebration of the holiday season.

Under the direction of Mark Yang, music teacher at Cameron Elementary School, the grades 2 through 4 classes will bring some holiday spirit. The group of 95 students will be singing “Ding Dong Merrily” and “Silver Bells”.

Capitol Hill Elementary School’s handbell ensemble will share a performance of “On My Own”. The group is comprised of students in grades 5 through 7, and is led by music teacher, Theresa Lui.

This evening, Al Post, Principal of Cameron Elementary School and Casey Armstrong, Head Teacher at Capitol Hill Elementary School, will introduce the virtual performances.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Programs of Choice Review**

The Burnaby School District has offered a variety of Programs of Choice for students at both the elementary and secondary school levels for many years. As part of the Board of Education’s 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, a review of several District Programs of Choice was conducted in order to build upon the strengths of current programs, as well as to identify and address possible gaps in existing programs and services.

The district engaged an external consultant to conduct this review. Areas of focus included an examination of the alignment with the district’s programming to the BC curriculum’s emphasis on personalized learning, differentiated instruction and inclusion, geographical access to Programs of Choice across the school district, and the diverse interests of the student population.

The following elementary school programs were reviewed: French Immersion (early and late), Mandarin Language Arts, Multi-Age Cluster Class (MACC), and the Challenge Program.

At the secondary school level, Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone, Bringing Exceptional Thoughts Alive (BETA) Mini-School, French Immersion, DigiPen Game Development Academy, Microsoft Office Specialist, the Volleyball Academy, and the Lacrosse Academy were included in the review.

This evening, Nancy Brennan, external consultant, will outline the process undertaken for the review and share key findings and recommendations.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.