

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, May 30, 2023

1. Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network and SFU Climate Project Challenge

The Burnaby School District published a Sustainability Strategic Plan in February of 2022. Since that time, and as part of the Strategic Plan, school district staff have been consulting with community partners, including Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the City of Burnaby (City). Both SFU and the City have collaborated with Vancity on a joint Urban Resilient Futures – Neighbourhood Climate Action Project. The aim of the project is to increase community awareness and engage Burnaby residents to participate in climate action projects.

Simon Fraser University, in the hopes of engaging youth, reached out to the Burnaby School District and attended a Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) meeting earlier this year. SFU introduced the project and shared details with Burnaby students.

As a result, the school district's BYSN and the SFU Centre for Dialogue are jointly hosted a BYSN Climate Project Challenge. The Challenge invited teams of students, kindergarten through grade 12, to submit proposals challenging their schools and communities to impact and improve sustainability. The event took place on May 18, featuring a keynote address by Mireta Strandberg-Salmon, a Burnaby School District and SFU alumni, who was recently named one of Canada's Top 25 Environmentalists Under 25. Students presented their ideas and projects, in the hopes of receiving funding for their proposals.

This evening, students from University Highlands Elementary, and Moscrop, Burnaby South, Burnaby Mountain Secondary Schools will be recognized for their winning proposals. Eliza Brenman, the District's Manager of Energy and Sustainability will outline the project and share the results of the Climate Project Challenge.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the information

2. Sharing our Stories

The Burnaby School District's *Sharing Our Stories* initiative saw grade 7 students from across the District participate in a public speaking forum. Students were provided with an opportunity to use the "Share our Stories" prompt to share authentic moments from their lives in speeches that were between 3-5 minutes in length. The event provided students with an opportunity to participate in a showcase, fostering public speaking skills and providing a platform in which students could share their authentic voices.

This year's event took place in schools and encouraged students to share their unique experiences and perspectives. While the initial stage of the event was held in students' respective schools, two finalists from each school were then selected to participate in a zonal showcase event. Finalists were selected at schools using a universal rubric that aligned with curriculum guidelines.

At the Zonal Showcase, talented finalists shared their speeches and stories with students, parents, teachers and community members. The event was a celebration of inclusion and the multitude of voices in Burnaby's schools.

This evening Belinda Chi and Juliana Cipparrone, District Learning Leads, will introduce Alexis Wilson, grade 7 student from Inman Elementary School and Parker Diaz Gulkison, grade 6 student from Parkcrest Elementary School. The students will share their speeches.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the information