

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, April 28th, 2020

1. Burnaby School District Acknowledgement

extraordinary efforts of all Burnaby School District employees during these extraordinary times. And while the past few weeks have been challenging for people, both personally and professionally, school district staff have come together with dedication and grace like never before.

Since early March, staff have worked as one to ensure a coordinated path forward. From the health and safety of our community, to providing critical public services; from supporting the heroic efforts of the essential service workers in our community, to ensuring continuity of learning for our students it was a responsibility that was embraced with commitment and further defined who we are as an organization.

In addition, I would like to extend sincere thanks to our District Pandemic Planning Team (including each of our partner groups

-Principals Association, District Parent Advisory

support and dialogue.

To our students and parents for your infinite patience as we navigated such large-scale change, and the recognition that we are, each one of us, doing the very best that we can - I thank you.

To our students who have buoyed us with their creativity, warmed our hearts, and provided ideas and insight on how we can continuously improve our efforts to support you. Thank you.

And (managers, principals, vice principal you all know who you are) hardly seems enough. And a very special thank you to my senior management team - your unwavering loyalty, commitment, expertise and leadership are, truly, remarkable.

In closing, I would like to thank the Burnaby Board of Education for their trust and confidence. Chairperson Wong and Vice-Chair Mezei, Trustees Brassington, Cech, Cunningham, Hayes and Stewart, whose visionary governance has provided tremendous leadership and guidance. The key priorities developed by the Board: thriving students, an inclusive and caring community, an inspired workplace, a district strengthened by partnerships, and a modern, safe and sustainable learning environment, has ensured that we look ahead to the future with a plan. And, as we can all well see, a future that, unbeknownst to anyone at the time, included a pandemic.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Pandemic Update

The second item in my report tonight work during the past few weeks and preparations for the future.

Following the announcement by the Ministry of Education to suspend in-class instruction on March 17, school district staff have been working, along with the guidance and support from the Ministries of Health and Education, to best provide supports for students, staff, families, and our community. Informing our work have been the 4 guiding principles as set by the Provincial Government and, as such, it is an expectation that we:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees
2. Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

To that end, the following report is an update in each of these areas:

1. Healthy and Safe Environment

In order to assist with physical distancing and limiting the spread of COVID-19, we have limited access in our buildings and request that families and members of the general public call ahead regarding any inquiries - access will be by appointment only. This includes all our schools as well as our school district office.

All facility bookings have been cancelled up to June 30 - we are now looking ahead to bookings by all outside and community groups to August 30.

Current registrations for enrolment in our schools (including kindergarten, newcomers to Canada, families with work and/or study permits) can be completed online. This information can be found on our district website

3. Support for Vulnerable Students Who May Need Special Assistance

In addition to the global uncertainty, we recognize that families face additional pressures

around the world with a focus, of course, on our own local context. Staff are currently consulting about what might be possible many ideas and hybrid models are being discussed in order to ensure a thoughtful, gradual and coordinated approach.

I want to reassure staff, families, and our community that we will, as always, work alongside our local and provincial health authorities to ensure appropriate health and safety standards are in place. The health, safety and well-being of all continues to be paramount.

These past few weeks have not looked anything like our typical school days. While the innovation and creativity displayed by so many staff and students certainly provide hope for the future, we have not been without our challenges. We knew that there would undoubtedly be some bumps along the way and indeed there were. I know that things have not gone smoothly for all students and families. And I know that there continue to be many unanswered questions about graduation, reporting, assessment, and more. And the big question of course "when will students be going back to school Or, as Dr. Theresa Tam (Chief Public Health Officer of Canada) We are working hard on answers to these questions and more moving forward. Information will be shared just as soon as it is available. As always, should you have any questions in the meantime regarding your learning or previously planned school events, please check in directly with your school principal.

Again, as I have said before, the strength and resolve of our entire community has allowed us to navigate through these challenging times together and, perhaps most importantly, define our collective future.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.