

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, October 22, 2013**

The Education Committee met on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:17 pm. In attendance were Trustees Ron Burton (Chair), James Wang ( for item 2), and Harman Pandher, BTA representative Frank Bonvino, DPAC representative Jen Mezei and Assistant Superintendent Heather Hart.

**1. Computer Networking Technician Program**

District Principal, Donna Scott spoke to the committee about The Computer Networking Technician Program. The Computer Network Technician Program is one of Burnaby's District Industry Certification Programs and is hosted at Burnaby South Secondary School. Students attend the program at Burnaby South for a full day on Day 1 and their home school on Day 2 to fulfill their academic requirements. Students earn 16 graduation credits for courses completed at Burnaby South and an additional 4 graduation credits for completing 120 hours of focused work experience at a computer support company.

The program is currently articulated with BCIT's Computer Information Systems Administrators' program. Students who successfully complete the Computer Networking Technician Program at Burnaby South who are recommended by the teacher and who meet specific entrance criteria will receive placement and course credits at BCIT and will ladder into semester two of BCIT's program.

The district is currently working with the University of the Fraser Valley to complete a formal articulation agreement for students to receive Advance Placement and course credits at the University of the Fraser Valley to be able to ladder into their Computer Information Systems program.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

**2. English Language Learner (ELL) Support and Mentorship**

Principal of Byrne Creek Secondary School, Dave Rawnsley along with Becky Koo, Settlement Worker, Burnaby Mountain Secondary, Angela Ferraro, Managing Director, International Education and Katerina Vakakis, ELL teacher, Burnaby South Secondary outlined a wide range of support and mentorship programs available to English Language Learners in the Burnaby School District.

The team identified the need to view these support and mentorship programs through the lens of the "Whole Child"- ensuring that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. They emphasized that all targeted support fits within the context of a broader vibrant and dynamic education program. The themes were explored in the context of three distinct groups of ELL learners: new immigrant and refugees, international students, and Canadian born or permanent residents, who speak a language other than English in the home.

As well as supports and mentorships within the Burnaby School District, outside agencies, non-profit associations and post secondary institutions also join the school district in supporting students. Students develop leadership skills and practice English Language speaking skills while connecting with the community.

A fine example of mentorship in a secondary setting is one where the ELL students in a Math Club become mentors for English speaking students who need help in Mathematics. There is a reciprocal advantage as the ELL student learns and practices English language skills while the English speaker is supported in a content area by the ELL student.

Whether mentorship comes in the form of homework clubs, individual supports, or Sheltered Instruction Protocols, teachers of English Language Learners start students where they are and continue to promote and build English Language Learning and subject specific content. Student support may be offered in areas of counselling, home stays, and Newcomer Orientations.

ELL students enter the Burnaby School District bringing a very diverse set of background skills and level of English proficiency. Throughout the learner's journey the district emphasizes learning, community and connection, in a safe and inclusive environment.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

### **3. Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 4:15 pm.

### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.