

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, November 25, 2014

1. Take a Hike Program

Burnaby's new Take a Hike program opened this September with 10 students. This program is offered in cooperation with the Take a Hike Foundation. Burnaby is now housing the third program in the province following on the success of the Vancouver and Kootenay's school district programs. This evening, Director of Instruction Ron Hall will introduce district teacher Dallas Plensky and Manager of Youth Services, Sue Dorey who will provide an update on the program and the specific activities that the students have undertaken this fall.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Community and Continuing Education Healthcare Vocational Programs

Burnaby Continuing Education offers high quality, affordable vocational training programs that provide hands-on instruction coupled with authentic practicum placements. Adult students are provided the opportunity to quickly move into rewarding careers in the health care industry.

Three very successful health care programs; Health Care Assistant, Medical Office Assistant and Dental Office Administration are currently being offered. Enrollment in each of these programs is high, with 88% of students in the Medical Office and 95% of students in the Health Care Assistant Program finding employment within three months of graduation.

The success of these programs is due in part to the strong partnerships we have developed with Vancouver Coastal Health, Interior Health, Fraser Health Authority, Provincial Health Services Authority and Providence Health Authority.

This evening, Linda Ohashi, District Vice-Principal and Linda VanderHeide, Coordinator, Community and Continuing Education, along with students Yasira Hernandez, Jan-Lorraine Belda and Ricci Pamintuan will share highlights and experiences of the Health Care training programs.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. District Student Enrolment/School Organization for the 2014-2015 School Year

The enrolment counts for the 2014-2015 school year have now been finalized and reported to the Ministry of Education.

The K-12 school-aged enrolment is below the district's 2014-2015 projections by 142.5 FTE students and it is below the 2013-2014 enrolment by 142.0 FTE. Overall the October 17th school-aged enrolment is 22,970 FTE students. This figure excludes students who are enrolled in the distributed learning, community and continuing education and international education programs.

Enrolments in these programs are reported at three intervals during the year and then are added to the overall district enrolment.

For the school-age program, Elementary enrolment is 151 FTE below the 2014-2015 projection of 13,318 students. Secondary enrolment is 8.5 FTE above the projection of 9,795 students.

Each year, the district provides the Board with a school organization report. Tonight, Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent, will demonstrate for the 2014-2015 school year, that classes in the district have been reviewed, appropriate processes have occurred and that school organizations are appropriate for student learning.

Prior to submitting their school's organization report to the Superintendent and a declaration stating that all classes are appropriate for student learning, principals have the responsibility to consider all factors deemed relevant for each class or division. In reaching an opinion as to whether or not a class with over 30 students is appropriate for student learning, principals and the Superintendent consider a variety of factors including, but not limited to:

- the number and background of students in the class
- the number of designated IEP's for the class
- the type of IEP's present and their relevance to the class
- the course in question and its academic demands for students and the teacher
- the grade and subject composition of the class
- the experience and background of the teacher
- whether or not other persons such as education assistants or First Nations support workers attend the class to assist students or the teacher
- what additional time, resources or supports are provided to the teachers and students
- processes completed prior to September 30th to ensure the balancing of students, resources, and needs between classes over time
- other general factors such as room size, safety, technology, and equipment
- any other factors the Principal believes is relevant, including information presented by the teacher.

Class Size Requirements

The following chart outlines class size requirements:

Grades	Maximum	Exceed Maximum
K	22	No
1-3	24	No
4-7	30	Unless in the opinions of the superintendent and the principal of the school, the organization of the class is appropriate for student learning. Compensation is provided except in excluded classes.
8-12	30	

Process to Assist in Ensuring Compliance with Class Organization Requirements

- Information provided to principals of the new requirements as a result of the adoption of Bill 22 and the addition of the Learning Improvement Fund in anticipation of preliminary school organizations and staffing.
- Preliminary class loading with teacher involvement occurred in May/June 2014.
- Preliminary organizations, consultations and timetabling of classes loaded to meet the School Act regulations in terms of class size and composition—May to September 2014.
- School Act requirements for the organization of classes were reviewed with all administrators in late May, June, August and September 2014, with a special focus on the revised Section 76 requirements and Learning Improvement Fund implementation regulations.
- School-based principals provided a declaration to confirm that the organization of classes for their schools is in compliance with the provisions of the School Act and is appropriate for student learning.
- Report on the organization of classes in the school district for 2014-2015 submitted to the Board of Education November 25, 2014.

Elementary Schools

There are forty-one K–7 elementary schools in the district each offering additional options and programs for students including band, music, and choir. A summary of the school organizations include:

- 580 K-7 enrolling divisions are at or below the allowable class size limits outlined in the School Act. There are no enrolling divisions which exceed the allowable class size maxima.

23 excluded or non-enrolling classes at the elementary level have more than 30 students, as noted below:

- 11 non-enrolling choir classes have received teacher consent. Music teachers consider large groups acceptable, and in many instances, preferable for choir instruction. Schools have created unique organizations to deliver these classes if it is deemed appropriate to have more than one teacher involved.
- 11 Grade 7 band classes have received teacher consent. Band teachers consider the organization to be acceptable and view the larger classes as a means of encouraging more students to join the program.
- 1 general music class has received teacher consent.

Secondary Schools

There are eight 8-12 secondary schools in the district each offering comprehensive curricular programs for students. A total of 2,668 classes are being delivered to students in secondary schools.

- 2,634 classes or 99 % are at or below the allowable class size limits outlined in the School Act.
- 34 classes or 1% exceed 30 students.

The reasons for classes exceeding thirty students vary from school to school however the rationale can be summarized by the following:

- The learning conditions were considered and are appropriate. All reasonable solutions to balancing class sizes were attempted. The best alternative available to meet the educational programming needs of the greatest number of students was followed.
- Band, Music, Dance and Choir are organized in larger classes to facilitate performances, support ensemble classes, and to encourage greater student participation. Past practice has taught us that these learning conditions are appropriate.
- A course is a singleton offering. The current class organization provides the opportunity for a number of students to meet specific requirements of their learning program that would not occur without enrolment in the course. The learning conditions have been considered and are appropriate.

- Supports have been put in place to ensure that the learning conditions in the class are appropriate.

Summary

This is to verify that the organization of classes in School District #41 (Burnaby) is in compliance with the class size provisions and is, in the opinion of the Superintendent, appropriate for student learning.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information