

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, May 14, 2018

The Education Committee met on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 4:30 pm. In attendance were Trustees Harman Pandher (Chair), Meiling Chia and Baljinder Narang, DPAC Representative Kristin Schnider, and Assistant Superintendents Heather Hart and Wanda Mitchell.

1. Welcome to Kindergarten / Gradual Entry

Jeannette Laursoo, Director of Instruction, Angela Meredith, Early Learning Helping Teacher and Darlene Allanson, Kindergarten Teacher, Aubrey Elementary shared work being done in the district around education in the early years, including Welcome to Kindergarten and the Gradual Entry process.

Early years educators have been focussing on ways to engage incoming kindergarten families and support their children as they transition into Burnaby Schools. There continues to be ongoing collaboration and dialogue between StrongStart educators and kindergarten teachers around common values and beliefs about learning in the early years and how to best welcome families into our school communities.

Welcome to Kindergarten is an orientation program that welcomes children and families into schools prior to kindergarten entry. As we continue to be responsive to the needs of students and families, 15 schools are piloting a new kindergarten orientation process. This includes providing resources that align with the redesigned curriculum and a focus on nurturing creative thinking. During the Welcome to Kindergarten event, students receive a district designed book bag, a book, and hands on learning resources which invite children and families to engage while learning together in their home environment.

Our Kindergarten program offers students meaningful opportunities in a play-based environment. In order to help children transition from pre-school, child care settings and the home environment into a formal school setting, we offer a gradual entry process. This includes smaller groups, an increasingly longer day and the opportunity for students to meet individually with their teacher. The team shared an example of how the gradual entry process at Aubrey Elementary nurtures a confident, collaborative and creative community of learners.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information

2. Educational Assistant Program

Kevin Brandt, Director of Instruction and Elizabeth Gardner, District Principal, Learning Support Services (LSS) provided the committee with the information on how the district

has been engaged in organizing a training program for new Educational new

3. New Business/Updates

Burnaby