



# WHAT WE HEARD

2019 STRATEGIC PLAN MID-YEAR CELEBRATION

On March 6, 2019, 160 stakeholders reunited for the one-year anniversary of the unveiling of the draft 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. Parents, students, staff, alumni, board, and community members directly engaged with the teams who have led much of the Year 1 Strategy implementation through a showcase activity. Following that, small groups came together for a facilitated discussion on the progress to date, and a look at the year 2 and 3 strategies to provide feedback and propose revisions, where necessary.

400 post-it notes and 100 "place mats" with feedback were collected, inputted and analyzed for common themes and clear recommendations. The aggregate results have been organized into major themes and are captured in the following pages.

## THE FOUR GOALS



Students surpass their potential.



Staff strives for excellence.



Instruction is innovative and effective.



Decision making reflects a student-centred approach.

## THEME ONE:

More support for students

*“Lots of great work, but always room to improve.”*

Participants indicated that overall the school is becoming more responsive to student learning. Additional support for mental health, social skills, and learning support services (such as psychology and occupational therapy) are a strong interest. Clarity around the supports available, and embedding the supports into the entire program rather than in separate courses, is desired.

## THEME TWO:

Assessment

*“Assessment drives everything related to learning.”*

Staff indicated that additional information on changes to the assessment of student learning are desired. Greater communication of the student data collected would be appreciated, and a consistent assessment process for assessment communication across divisions was stressed.

## THEME THREE:

### Professional Learning is supporting desired change

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*“Let’s continue to learn together.”*

Participants indicated a clear shift in how professional learning is delivered has occurred and is fulsomely supported by the community, and appreciation for the great variety and diverse options for how to participate. The mentorship program has become stronger, and capacity building is occurring across all teachers – but there is still work to be done. The community stressed that Universal Design for Learning (UDL) training cannot be rushed, and that additional support on Project Based Learning (PBL) is required. An area for improvement was the desire to engage more outside experts, and clarity on how to access external learning opportunities.

## THEME FOUR:

### Collaboration

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*“We’re strongest when we work together.”*

Calls were made for additional opportunities to engage across every level and stakeholder group. Collaboration between the different divisions of the school, both as teachers and as student leadership groups, is desired. Additional access to the Assurance team was also suggested, along with clarity on how to engage and collaborate with the School Council of Calgary Academy (SCOCA). Specific time to collaborate was also suggested.

## THEME FIVE:

### Communication

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*“We’re on our way.”*

Participants indicated strong support for the

direction of the Strategic Plan strategies, but that an area to improve and reflect on would be clearer communication across the entire organization. More frequent progress updates, clearer information on supports available, and communication of the results of our initiatives is desired. “How do we share the amazing work we’re doing” succinctly articulated the common sentiment. The Alberta Education Results Report (AERR) was highlighted as a great resource document, and that the public sharing of such rich information was appreciated, but a more accessible document particularly for students would be supported. Additional information on Headwater Learning Solutions, its relationship to Calgary Academy, was is desired.

## THEME SIX:

### Master Facility Plan

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*“Great job, now let’s build it.”*

Excitement around the progress of this strategy is very clear, and the desire for additional engagement into the detailed designs of this plan was voiced by all stakeholders. Specific direction on lights, space planning, and design elements were collected. The community did note that interim progress on gender neutral washrooms requires additional support and attention.

## THEME SEVEN:

### Technology

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*“Recent investments are great to see.”*

Following the announcement of a \$1.5 million investment into furniture and technology for the upcoming school year, the community’s spirit was high. Participants were pleased with the new technology additions but cautioned that a clear roadmap was required, and that attention to the PowerSchool platform was needed to ensure consistency. More assistive technology options were requested, along with additional training on the existing tools available to the community.





## NEXT STEPS

These seven themes were reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team as they proposed changes to the Year 2 and 3 Strategies for the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. Those revisions will go forward to the Board of Directors for approval in **May 2019**. Year 2 implementation of the Strategic Plan will commence **September 1, 2019**, and stakeholders will be invited back in **March 2020** for a similar process.