



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

A Community

CONVERSATION REPORT



For April 9, 2014

How can we maximize the engagement of students
in the learning process?



Memorandum

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: David Keohane, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: April 28, 2014
RE: April 9, 2014 Community Conversation Report

Background

The Board is aware that on April 9th, a community conversation was conducted for the purpose of exploring the question: *How can we maximize the engagement of students within the learning process?* What follows is a report of the results that will be made available to all participants and the community at large.

Context

The intent of the conversation was to in the first place, honour the perspective of the community to address a topic that is deemed by both the community and the Board to be of strong importance. The question that was explored was recommended by one of our school councils and was incorporated into the existing strategic plan of the Board as a topic worth exploring within the 2013 – 2014 school year. Findings from this conversation directly correlate to the new provincial mandate to enhance the engaged, ethical, and entrepreneurial aspect of citizenship within our schools.

The Voice of the Community

The feedback specific to the meeting process reflects extremely strong success. It is worth noting that 100% of participants valued the session format, with no responses lower than satisfied. 100% of participants valued the opportunity for input, and the meeting environment.

These results stress the importance of student strengths existing within a student portfolio and learning plan for students, as an overall strategy for differentiating instruction and addressing student needs within school. For the 7 strategies that the focus group recommended, all are



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dependent upon students, parents, and staff understanding the strengths with which each of our students have been blessed.

Nearly 1 in 3 of our participants saw value in students exercising risk-taking, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit in what they do with our schools. The self-advocacy component that is stressed within this response becomes enhanced for students once they become aware of how strengths can be activated in various learning scenarios.

It is very foreseeable that all of the strategies recommended can be incorporated with the next three year cycle of educational programming of students. By doing so, our District will be a provincial leader in terms of how to intentionally plan for student engagement within the classroom. As the research would predict, the outcome of such efforts will have a positive impact on overall student achievement, high school completion, post-secondary enrolment, and the attainment of a rewarding career life.

Next Steps

It is recommended that the Board would support an investment through the up-coming District budget that enables all of our students to establish a strengths profile in grade 5 (through The Gallup Strengths Explorer”) and again in grades 9 and 10 (through the Gallup Strengths Finder”). By creating this investment, the 7 strategies prioritized within our community conversation will have more meaningful impact upon the hope, engagement, well-being, and life-long achievement of our students.

It will be the work of District administration and the professional learning communities within our schools to incorporate the strategies arising from this conversation within the District 2014 – 2017 Three-Year Education Plan.

Thank you for your review of this information.

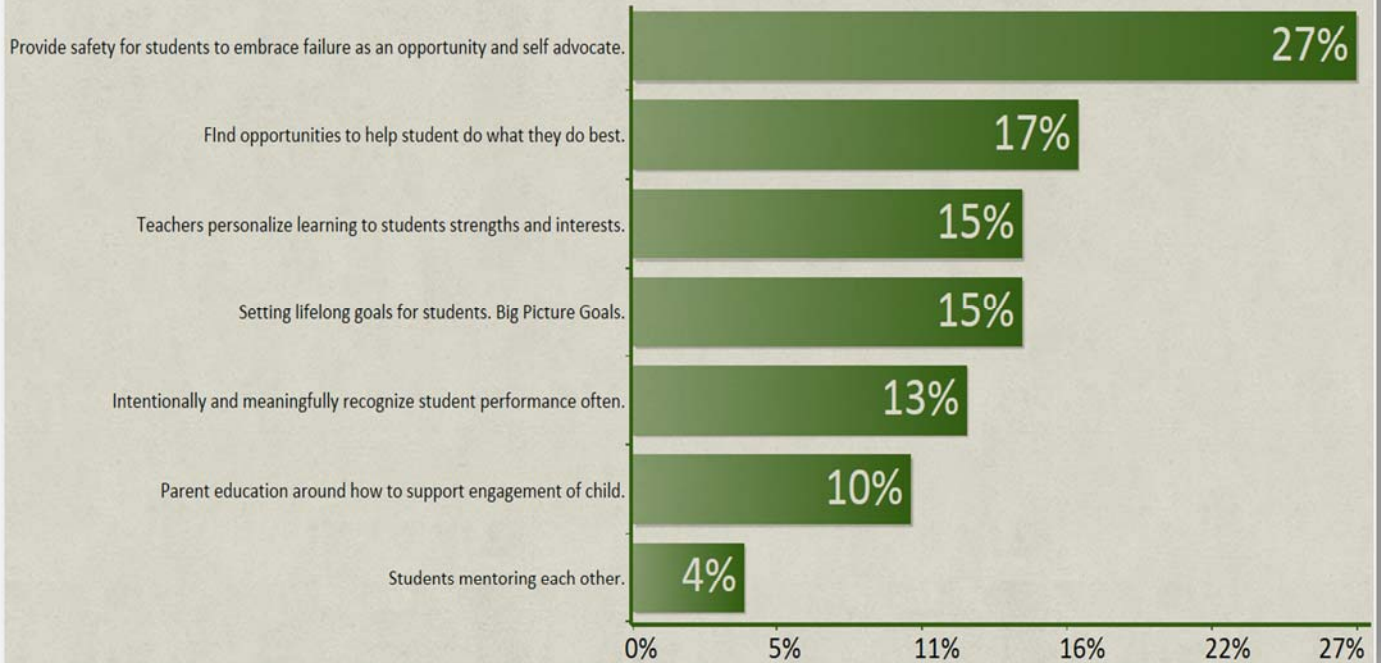
David Keohane
Superintendent of Schools

Community Conversation Results of April 9, 2014



How can we maximize the engagement of students in the learning process?

i Start this poll to accept responses



**Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools
Community Stakeholder Evaluation**

Date: April 9, 2014 @ St. Albert Catholic High School

		Excellent	Top Box
	4	5	
1. Session Format	17	21	
	42.5%	52.5%	95.0%
2. Background material/handouts	19	19	
	47.5%	47.5%	95.0%
3. Presentation	17	21	
	42.5%	52.5%	95.0%
4. Group discussion	12	26	
	30.0%	65.0%	95.0%
5. Opportunity to provide input	9	31	
	22.5%	77.5%	100.0%
6. Meeting environment (location, sound, refreshments)	14	26	
	35.0%	65.0%	100.0%
7. Personal value	13	19	
	33.3%	48.7%	82.1%
	Yes	No	No Answer
8. Did this session meet your expectations?	36	0	4
	90.0%	0.0%	10.0%

