

Managing Tremendous School Growth

Mike Campbell, 2015

What I Did

Unity Christian School has grown by 40% in 2 years. The school has gone from 270 students in 2013 to 390 students in 2015. The school was expanded in 2013 to become a single track elementary and middle school and dual track high school. Within 1 year of building, the school was running large waiting lists in many elementary classes. With this in mind, my project covered the following

- Review of our strategic plan.
- Determined and celebrated the factors that have led to our growth
- Reached out to stakeholders for feedback on how large we want to become and what this will look like
- Invited former board chairs and administrators from the past 20 years to a dinner to share about the initial vision for growth.
- Collected and compiled data from all stakeholders.
- Built a 3-year plan with the school board that shifted our growth model to a track and half at elementary/middle and dual track in high.
- Identified issues with growth and built an action plan to address issues

What Did I Learn

- The Unity Christian School community wants to grow Christian education
- The Unity Christian School community appreciates the family feel to the school
- The Unity Christian School community wants to grow in excellence and diversity of programming.
- The unknowns of how we will grow in elementary causes some anxiety for teachers
- Growth is celebrated at every level of the school and helps to create a positive ethos

What Difference Did I Make

The work I have done in the past year has enabled our school to create a new vision on how we will best serve in Christian education in the Eastern Fraser Valley. Through engaging a variety of stakeholders and creating a strong “why” we should grow, our school is moving in a new direction that is creating excitement with all members of our school community. Our school board is navigating from the crow's nest in a direction of growth and our community is on the boat ready to get there.