

**INTEGRATION OF SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN  
INTO  
EDUCATIONAL PLAN 2023 – 2024  
November 2023**

A strategic plan has value when the ideas are reviewed annually and the governing board takes deliberate action to implement ideas from the plan.

At Suzuki the following follow up action has been taken by the Board of Directors and the School Administration to support finding from the strategic plan exercise. A summary of school action follows. Note that the full strategic plan report is available on the school website.

Thank you to over 320 submissions during the data collection process!

**POSSIBILITIES/AREAS TO CONSIDER**

1. Expand extra-curricular activities
2. Social opportunities for families to mix with students and staff (e.g. community BB Cue)
3. Increase in music performances in the community
4. Kinder-care and pre-school re-instituted
5. New music experiences for upper grades (e.g. grade 6, 7, 8, 9)
6. Volunteer opportunities for parents
7. Provide some choices for language instruction beyond French
8. Find more space – expand facility

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:**

**1. Expand Extra curricular:**

There are more extracurricular opportunities at Suzuki now than ever before. Attached is a list of the various activities that are led by staff and/or community people to provide students out of class instruction opportunities.

Athletics: soccer, cross country running, volleyball, basketball, badminton, ski trip

Other: musical theatre, science olympics, Quebec exchange, teacher vs student games

**2. Social Opportunities:**

The Board of Directors is working with the school council to co-host a family event in the new year – likely a pancake breakfast. This is in addition to various family events planned in the school including math family night, family literacy night, school dances, NaNoWriMo Family, write in events, parent internet safety workshop, assemblies, concerts, parent information evenings

**3. Increase music experiences in the community:**

School administration and staff have a robust schedule of performance opportunities exceeding previous years. These include: CBC Music Challenge, Musical Masterminds Retreat, Oil Kings game performance, Celebrate the Season Performance at the Legislature, Winter Concert at the Triffo Theatre, May concert at the Winspear, Assembly performances, Musical Theatre, Rock Concert, Edmonton Music and Speech Arts Festival.

#### 4. Reinstate Kindercare:

This is a board priority as it is a parent convenience and a strong revenue generator for the school. However, there is not any space to operate the program. All our facility is utilized for classrooms. This was a possibility when the school population was smaller. With the addition of grades 7,8,9 there is not available space for kinder care.

#### 5. New music experiences for grades 7,8,9

The school has put considerable effort into revamping and improving music experiences for the senior aged children. Students have had considerable input into expressing their needs and interests and this has resulted in the following improvements to music learning opportunities in the upper grades: Rock Concert, Performing for their own dance? Musical Masterminds, Artist in Residence, Playing their own music, changing up the bands, adding a variety of instruments to try, including adding voice, incorporating Grade 6 students into groups, opportunities to play for the younger K-5 students, and CBC Music Challenge.

#### 6. Volunteer opportunities for parents:

Covid caused a significant reduction in the utilization of parent volunteers in the school. Gradually, our opportunities for parent volunteers has increased with opportunities to assist with kindergarten programs, field trips, family dance support, extracurricular events, reading support, team sports support, School Council participation and events. Individual teachers handle requests for parent support in classrooms.

#### 7. Additional language learning opportunities

This suggestion is on hold for the time being. Should our junior high program expand addition of language options is a possibility but at this time our numbers are too low to include this option. In the younger grades French instruction consumes x hours of instructional time and music occupies an additional x hours of instruction. Any further addition of language options would cut into compulsory academic minutes of instruction for core subjects.

#### 8. Find more space...

This continues to be a challenge for the Board. The school is in ongoing negotiations with the province to provide additional teaching spaces (eg. relocatable classrooms) and we have requested expansion annually. We are in competition with hundreds of other schools who have

the same challenge. Provincial funding to support expansion does not come close to meeting school needs. The board will continue to explore possibilities. We would like to accept all children who want to come to Suzuki but we have a lottery system in place for the younger grades simply because we do not have room. Considerations have been made to have a second campus and possibly divide the elementary and junior high.

### **STRENGTHS**

These points were identified as characteristics of the school that should continue to be a priority. These were viewed as the indicators that make the school a school of choice for many stakeholders.

1. Safe environment
2. Personal attention for individual students - small class sizes
3. High positive staff and student interaction
4. Genuine interest in children
5. Engagement opportunities for students/faculty and parents
6. Friendly and welcome environment
7. Making connections between home, school, and community
8. Educational assistants had value across all subjects
9. Music program and many opportunities in music learning
10. Strong academic expectations
11. Innovative teaching approaches (e.g., grade 3 collaboration instruction)

As an extension of the strategic plan the school administration and board are putting attention and effort into maintaining and strengthening the aspects of the school that are viewed as strengths. This is being done by reinforcing with administration the strengths that exist and the priority for staff to keep these features front of mind in daily operations (items 1-7)

Educational assistants continue to be viewed as essential to our school success. Suzuki has more educational assistants now than in its past history. There is a strong expectation that teachers work with educational assistants to optimize support for students who have learning or behavior difficulties or who are falling behind in achievement. The school has a strong academic achievement history and educational assistants are key to maintaining this.

Strong academic expectations continue to be a mandate for all instructional staff. The movement of student learning from introduction to mastery is a proud feature of the instructional program. The provincial achievement results demonstrate how successful the school is in coaching students to mastery learning.

Regarding innovations in learning the school has a strong professional development program for all staff. Teachers are encouraged to embark in graduate study, enroll in professional learning on new approaches to teaching and learning and to embrace leadership opportunities. A

leadership pool was started in northern (Edmonton areas) Charter schools this year and seven of the 20 accepted educators are from Suzuki school.