

**Cedar Valley Waldorf School**

**All-Community Meeting**

**Strategic Planning Launch**

**October 21-22, 2011**

**CVWS All-Community Meeting  
Historical Scan Documentation  
October 21, 2011**

Overall Title: **The Incarnation of the Cedar Valley Waldorf School**

Sentence describing the journey: **“An incredible journey of joy, hard work and sweat!”**

Titles for each section and Main Turning Points:

1. **Child Development – 1999-2005:** From the parts to whole with the amalgamation under one roof at Rail School site.
2. **Time of Grace – 2005-2008:** Focus on raising money, buying and moving to Westaway Road Building.
3. **Growing Pains – 2008 - 2010:** Struggles with process, organizational structure, teacher leaving, loss of Eurythmy, no grade one class.
4. **Adolescence – 2010 and onwards:** Organizational review and restructuring, loss of students, financial challenges.

Key insights and implications for the future

- **With commitment, everything flows**
- **Established & accepted in community**
- **Mentoring other schools**
- **What do the children want?**
- **School is built, next step is to fill it with students – focus on enrollment**
- **There has been conflict before and we’ve moved through it.**

Trends noticed during Historical Scan

- **Ups and downs**
- **Overall growth**
- **Strengthening**
- **Old Testament stories**
- **Meeting challenges**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Outer/Inner.**
- **Coping skills**

Important metaphors, poetic titles or visual images from the Historical Scan

- **Expanding and Contracting**
- **Developing child**



Photo of Historical Scan of Cedar Valley Waldorf School



Group Reflection on Biography of the Cedar Valley Waldorf School:

A word cloud reflecting on the biography of the Cedar Valley Waldorf School. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern and include: Diversity, World, Community, Communication, Dedication, Faith, Love, Compassion, Persistence, Luck, Belief, Generosity, Trust, Endurance, soul, Warmth, Flexibility, and Spiritual.

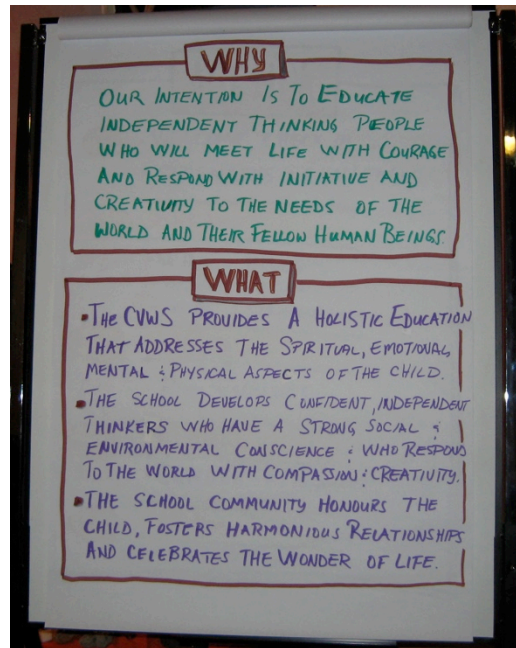


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<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>What Else?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/people</li> <li>• Committed faculty</li> <li>• People are present to the work</li> <li>• Take-charge parents</li> <li>• Administration – courage &amp; faith</li> <li>• Level of respect &amp; love for teachers by students</li> <li>• Continual striving</li> <li>• The reverence for the child</li> <li>• Cultural diversity</li> <li>• Steiner’s wisdom as a living philosophy. Anthroposophy/spiritual world</li> <li>• Time, energy, effort by a great many people</li> <li>• We offer people an opportunity to engage in a profoundly fulfilling experience</li> <li>• SPIRIT!</li> <li>• School is inspired by our natural environment</li> <li>• Strength of people who carry the School</li> <li>• Warmth &amp; camaraderie of faculty &amp; staff</li> <li>• Experienced teachers</li> <li>• Experience – lots and in a diversity of areas. Collective skill set</li> <li>• Courage by parents &amp; teachers</li> <li>• Labours of love (handwork, renos, beauty, landscaping, etc)</li> <li>• Living, giving environment of the School and landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial stability</li> <li>• Lack of clarity in all aspects of school. Clarity &amp; transparency of the structure/college of teachers)</li> <li>• Unconditional love (&amp; forgiveness) 100% of the time</li> <li>• Growing divergence between Waldorf &amp; mainstream tech-based culture</li> <li>• SPACE – storage, gym, performance, handwork, carving/woodwork, practicing plays, classrooms, garden, outdoor play, playfield, bigger classrooms, plumbing. (future – bathrooms). Size of building</li> <li>• Geographical location of school in Valleycliffe</li> <li>• Enrollment. How do we present ourselves to the community</li> <li>• Parent participation. Sufficiency. Parental involvement seems absent</li> <li>• No Eurythmy</li> <li>• Meeting the children with challenges 100% of the time</li> <li>• Cost of education/economics</li> <li>• Informing &amp; educating new parents about Waldorf education</li> <li>• Accepting existing organizational structure</li> <li>• Balance between work &amp; personal life</li> <li>• Time &amp; energy for mentorship</li> <li>• Healing of the past</li> <li>• Lack of understanding in faculty, parent body &amp; world of childhood &amp; humanity. We all have things to learn</li> <li>• Punctuality</li> <li>• Gossip &amp; negative talk about school, teachers &amp; parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits for teachers (MSP, RRSP,.....)</li> </ul>



## Why are we Here? What Do we Do? Who do we do it for/with?



### The purpose of the CVWS is:

*Please note that this list and the one below are only a sample of the conversation about the unique purpose of CVWS as not every contribution was recorded.*

- teaching children to meet their destiny with courage.
- living fully in the world together.
- living out of the moment.
- nurturing the process of becoming.
- striving for a nurturing way of life.
- celebrating freedom and awareness.
- to be true to yourself.
- leading with awe and wonder.
- to be the courage to be the change.

### Images:

- Fierce like the mountain (strength).
- Hearth/cave
- Stand like a mountain
- Striving to the top and seeing the whole view
- Midwifing
- Mountains, water, salmon
- Nature, recreation



**Stakeholders/Collaborators:**

**Direct:**

- Students
  - Individual spirit
- Parents of students
  - Father
  - Mother
- Extended families of students
- Faculty and staff
  - Individual spirit
- Spiritual world
- Vancouver Waldorf School
- Mother Earth
  - Elemental worlds
- AWSNA
- FISA
- C-Dar BD Society
- Ministry of Education
- BC College of Teachers
- Other educational institutions, eg. Montessori, Quest U
- West Coast Institute for Studies in Anthroposophy
- Ministry of Family and Child Development

**Indirect:**

- Squamish community
- Other Waldorf schools
  - BC
  - Waldorf movement
  - Future schools, including high school
- Squamish Nation
- Squamish CAN
- Outdoor organizations, eg. Parks, Search & Rescue, etc
- Local businesses

**Conundrums and Dilemmas**

**Values that people have struggled to hold in tension with one another**

Experience	Loyalty
Security	United support
Accountability	Freedom
Clarity	Transparency
Trust	Integrity
Striving	Stability
Compassion	Communication
Predictability	New impulses
Simplicity	
Harmony	Diversity & Change
Inclusion	
Participatory	Efficiency



### CVWS Core Values

Open Heart	Conscious Communication	Balanced Being	Inspired Action	Clear Vision
<i>Open &amp; Tolerant</i>	<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Humour</i>	<i>Working out of spirituality</i>	<i>Clarity</i>
<i>Supportive leadership</i>	<i>Honesty</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Spiritual world</i>	<i>Predictability</i>
<i>Teamwork Inclusive</i>	<i>Trust</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	<i>Leadership in service</i>	<i>Transparency</i>
<i>Spiritual openness</i>	<i>Authentic</i>	<i>Courage</i>	<i>Striving/developing</i>	<i>Accountability</i> <i>Transparent</i>
<i>Recognition</i> <i>Authentic/regularly</i>	<i>Communication</i> <i>sans ego</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Anthroposophy</i>	
<i>Intentional listening</i>	<i>Dedication</i>	<i>Freedom</i>		
<i>Equality</i>	<i>Clear</i> <i>communication</i>			
<i>Compassion Empathy</i>	<i>Responsibility</i> <i>Accountability</i>			
<i>Forgiveness/acceptance</i>				

### Emerging Ideas and Questions

- Birth of the school and analogy to developing child.
- Mentoring other schools
- What do the children want?
- Inclusion – how to make newcomers feel welcomed
- How to engage the parent body?
- How to share feeling of connection created in this meeting?
- How to participate when everyone is so busy?
- Are there other ways to participate than long meetings? How best to contribute? What is needed?
- How to integrate the work of this weekend into the upcoming AGM?
- Desire for Anthroposophical study hosted by and at the school
- Social network – hub.

At the end of the day each participant summed up his or her experience in the meeting with one word:

