

CQCS Sunalta Campus Parent Information Session

Meeting Notes (November 30, 2023, 6:00 pm)



1. Sunalta Campus Update

The demand for services is increasing, and so CQCS is growing. The expansion of our programs into the community with the Sunalta Campus is an exciting first step.

To prepare for the move, we formed a Change Management committee. This committee facilitates the transition to the new campus, engages staff in developing procedures, and identifies support needed. They selected 'Connect, Learn, Grow' as the mini-vision for the new campus, highlighting its importance as a place of learning and growth for students, teachers, and staff.

The Sunalta Campus has made significant progress over the past month. The second-floor renovation includes redesigning classrooms for Cedar, Oak, Poplar, and CQR learning rooms, along with building additional rooms, including meeting rooms, sensory calm rooms, director's and vice principal's offices, reception areas, life skills rooms, kitchens, washrooms, and elevators capable of accommodating two people at a time.

The initial plan was to move our high school classroom and CQR program to the new building on January 8th, but plumbing challenges and city inspections delayed this process. Our goal is to move in and begin classes closer to the end of January 2024. We will update everyone on the progress and timeliness, ensuring there is a minimum of two weeks' notice.

2. CQR Program Update

We are excited to announce that CQR has secured a long-term contract with PDD, marking a significant achievement for our organization. CQR's program will maintain its commitment to a comprehensive and practical curriculum. Lisa Norris, our Program Director, and her team are enthusiastic about the prospect of relocating to the new campus, where they will join forces with the high school program of Calgary Quest School.

3. CQS Education Update - High School

Allie Gauthier, our High School Vice Principal, conveyed her appreciation to the high school teachers and instructional assistants for their dedication and collaborative efforts toward this significant move. The CQS teams are actively ensuring a seamless transition, prioritizing the students' readiness for the upcoming change. They look forward to the upcoming relocation and are eager to collaborate and enhance the bond between CQS and CQR.

4. Fund Development Needs. Parents, how can you help?

The new campus has several critical needs, such as smart boards, iPads/tablets, classroom furniture, teaching supplies, sensory items, life skills supplies, and building fixtures and appliances.

We are hoping parents can connect us to businesses or other contacts that can assist. Perhaps you know someone with iPads that could donate to the students. Do you work for a company that has a matching gift program? If you can provide an introduction, we'll handle the rest! Because of your relationship with CQCS, there are some generous opportunities that can help open some doors. You can send your contacts, or request for information, to: susanc@calgaryquestschool.com

Sunalta Campus FAQs

When is the move, and what are the plans/timelines?

Our anticipated move-in date is set for the last week of January 2024.

Where is the new site? (address/ area)

Officially called the Sunalta Campus, it is located at 1817 10th Ave SW in the Sunalta Community.

What are the hours at the new school?

The hours will be the same as the Spruce Cliff location, from 8:45 am to 3:15 pm.

Did you buy the whole building?

Yes, we did, and the entire 20,000 square feet on the second floor is being renovated for CQCS.

The main floor is occupied by two tenants whose rent will go towards our mortgage costs.

Will my tuition increase because of this new school?

No, your tuition will not rise to pay for the Sunalta Campus.

Please note that inflation affects our staffing costs, facility management, and educational programs, much like it impacts various organizations. We are in the process of assessing our financial position and thoroughly exploring all available options before arriving at any decisions regarding potential tuition fee adjustments.

Will there be other new schools in the future?

Our next big project will be to find a new facility for our elementary students. The lease at the Spruce Cliff location will be up in 2025 and cannot be renewed.

Who is moving to the Sunalta Campus? How was this decision made?

Our High School students and CQR Young Adults program will all be under one roof now! As the CQR program is set to transition to the new campus, we are aligning our efforts with our high school students who are likely to continue into our adult program upon high school graduation.

Will there be a principal at the new location?

The Administrative team overseeing the Sunalta Campus includes:

Allie Gauthier, Vice Principal for CQS High School

Lisa Norris, CQR Program Director

Will my child be safe in Sunalta?

The safety of the Quest community is paramount, and we have done extensive risk management to ensure everyone will be safe in this inner city environment.

We are confident that we have created a safe and secure environment. Surveillance cameras have been strategically placed both inside and outside the campus premises to enhance security. The staff have taken comprehensive training in areas such as Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Intervention (ASIST), Medication Training, Food Safety, and Protocols and Policies Training. Additionally, Lisa and Allie have received specialized training from Alpha House, specifically focusing on interacting with individuals under the influence of substances.

Will the Sunalta Campus have safe doors like Spruce Drive? Will people need to be buzzed in?

Safety is paramount, and we will have secure doors. Visitors must buzz in before entering the building. The main door is always locked during school hours.

Will Quest students get 'first dibs' on CQR?

Yes, Quest students will have priority to register for the CQR program.

Is there parking for drop-offs? Will Calgary Transit Access be notified?

Yes, there will be a student drop-off/pick-up zone, and we are currently in conversations with Calgary Transit Access to organize transportation. More details will follow as Marian, the Director of Facilities, will communicate the plan.

Is the elevator always operational or on an individual basis with help?

The elevator is always available for people who have mobility challenges. Please note the elevator can only carry two people at a time: a staff member and one student/participant.

Do you know if/ when PDD will start direct billing?

No, we do not have an exact date for the direct billing at this time.

How will the school vans be divided and shared?

The school currently has three vans. Two of them will be parked at the Sunalta Campus for CQR and High School students. The third van will stay at the Spruce Drive location.

Will my child still have access to the same resources/ faculty/ therapies?

Yes, including music therapy.

Will CQS & CQR do activities together or remain separate? Are there shared spaces?

CQR and CQS will share space on the new campus, but their activities will be separate.

Will my child still be connected to their former school and teachers?

Yes, students at both the Spruce Cliff and Sunalta sites will continue to come together for whole-school activities and assemblies throughout the school year. The students will also continue to have their classroom educational team (Teacher and Instructional assistants) as they transition to the new site.

What if my child is having a hard time adjusting?

The staff has been working with the students throughout the school year to prepare for this transition. We encourage families to communicate with the teacher if there are any worries, as we can work together to make the transition positive for your child.

Will my child's teacher or classroom team change?

No more change! We are all moving together.

Will students still have access to a gym?

Our high school students will continue to use the Salvation Army gym until the end of the school year.

Will volunteering programs continue at the new site?

Yes! We hope there will be additional opportunities with the location and new relationships that develop..

Will there be before and after-school care available at the new location?

We are in the process of developing a plan to provide this service at the Sunalta Campus, considering staff hiring and minimal hours requirements.

Please note: **we need at least 8 firm commitments from parents in order to make this happen.** Don't worry! In the meantime, before and after-school care will be accessible from the Spruce Cliff school.

Who do I contact if I have other questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our leadership team:

CQS Vice Principal allieg@calgaryquestschool.com

CQR Program Director: LisaN@calgaryquestresources.com

Director of Facilities: Marianb@calgaryquestschool.com