

news release

CBE asks for public input in helping shape its budget for 2016-17 and beyond

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CALGARY – The CBE is looking to engage with parents, staff and community members as it develops its budget for 2016-17 and beyond.

Several meetings and online opportunities, including a Twitter chat, will be held in order to receive as much feedback from the public as possible. CBE superintendents will be at each meeting, offering a brief presentation then taking questions and suggestions from attendees.

“We want to reach out into our community and learn more about how they feel our resources should be allocated,” said Brad Grundy, chief financial officer. “These sessions, both in person and online, will give us a chance to listen to our stakeholders as well as answer their questions.”

Input received during the engagement process will be considered when shaping the 2016-17 and future budgets. While some feedback may be difficult to incorporate into the upcoming budget due to short timelines, it will inform and support future decision making.

The evening meetings will be held in each of the five CBE areas over the course of two weeks. Attendees are invited to attend at the most convenient location(s). No RSVP is necessary.

Budget Engagement Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Monday, Feb. 29	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Area V Office Haysboro Centre 1123 - 87 Ave. S.W.
Tuesday, March 1	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Area III Office Marlborough Centre 4711 Maryvale Dr N.E.
Monday, March 7	7 – 8:30 p.m.	John G. Diefenbaker High School 6620 - 4 Street N.W.
Tuesday, March 8	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Area IV Office A.E. Cross School 3445 - 37 Street S.W.
Wednesday, March 9	7 – 8:30 pm	Robert Thirsk High School 8777 Nose Hill Dr. N.W.

In addition, the CBE will offer a Twitter chat with Grundy. The chat is scheduled for March 10 from 12 – 1 p.m. Twitter users can follow the CBE at [@yyCBEdU](#) and participate in the chat via the [#CBEbudget](#).

Twitter Chat

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, March 10	12 – 1 p.m.	Join us on Twitter using @yyCBEdU & #CBEbudget.

Online feedback is also welcomed through the CBE website at cbe.ab.ca/budget.

The CBE will be engaging with other stakeholder groups as well, including employee associations, staff, and other advocacy organizations.

Although no provincial budget announcement date has been set, the CBE is already working on its 2016-17 system budget.

“When building next year’s budget, we take into account all fixed costs such as wages as well as the anticipated costs for opening and servicing our new schools,” Grundy said. “There is a very small percentage of flexible dollars in our system. We look forward to engaging with our stakeholders as to how they see those dollars best supporting student success.”

The CBE’s budget priorities are shaped by its shared values: students come first, learning is our central purpose and public education serves the common good.

For more information on the CBE budget process and engagement meetings, visit cbe.ab.ca/budget. Stakeholders are encouraged to visit the site often for up-to-date budget information. A summary of engagement feedback will be posted when available, with reporting on how it has influenced decision making.

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Note to media: Cameras and interviews will not be permitted inside the meetings.