



Speaking Notes | Budget Presentation to Board of Trustees May 15, 2018

The following notes were used by Chief Superintendent of Schools David Stevenson to introduce the 2018-19 budget report to the Board of Trustees on May 15, 2018.

Chair Hurdman and Trustees,

The CBE's proposed 2018-19 budget is the result of significant consultation and work over many weeks and months.

I would like to thank all of those individuals and groups who have provided us with their perspectives and feedback through the budget development process. The input has been invaluable to us in our work.

I also acknowledge the provincial government for continuing to support public education through challenging economic times. We appreciate the funding we have received for enrolment growth and the maintaining of funding rates.

I believe that this budget does the very best to meet each student's unique learning needs within the resources that have been provided. While we are not able to provide all that we would want to support students through this budget, I believe it represents a careful balance between need and available resources. Difficult choices have been made, but we will continue to meet the needs of our complex system.

Keeping dollars flowing to schools has been our top priority this year. You'll see \$1.1 billion dollars spent on instruction, supporting the achievement of success for each student. This includes 8,769 full time equivalent positions. The resources allocated directly to schools will be increased by approximately \$22.5 million in 2018-19.

Additionally, the Minister of Education has indicated that Classroom Improvement Funding will be continued for 2018-19. Taken together, that increased funding will go some way towards meeting our system's ever-growing needs.

While the situation in our schools is reasonably stable, I feel it merits mention that for the last two budget cycles we have leaned heavily upon our service units to help close the funding gap. This year's service unit cuts range from three to ten per cent.

Our service units allow our school based staff to focus on teaching and learning. And, without the diligent work performed by service units, the administrative burden that would fall to schools would be crippling.

This budget will see some staff, primarily in service units, exiting the organization. To those staff I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for their commitment to students and public education.

With reduced staffing, the CBE will continue to rely upon the dedication, professionalism and creativity of our remaining staff to do ever more work with fewer resources. These are some of the difficult choices required in order to continue to meet students' learning needs.

We look forward to the positives this budget provides, including \$3.5 million allocated to having a designated and supported math leader in each school. We will also see the implementation of our replacement student information system, providing greater access to and use of student profile data for students, families, teachers and leaders, while supporting best practices in assessment and grading and creating administrative efficiencies. We continue our focus on engaging with our community, and look forward to acting on the results of last year's employee engagement survey while preparing for a follow-up survey next spring.

I firmly believe that we have achieved a reasonable balance. I have great confidence that the CBE will continue to provide a top quality public education that will ensure CBE students are well equipped and ready to be productive, active, and engaged citizens.

There is so much good in the Calgary Board of Education: incredible schools; successful students; amazing staff; and incredible programs and services. I believe every Calgarian should take immense pride in their school system.

We are happy to take your questions.