



Council of School Councils

Jan. 20, 2021



Meeting attendees, please mute your
microphone and turn your camera off
Thank you!



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Acknowledging the land where we gather



We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.



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Tonight's Agenda



- 7:00 p.m. Welcome, introductions
- 7:05 p.m. Opening remarks – Chief Superintendent Christopher Usih
- 7:10 p.m. System updates
- Engagement opportunities
 - COVID-19
 - Three-Year Education Plan
 - Municipal Election 2021
- 7:45 p.m. Student Mental Health and Well-being
- 8:15 p.m. Q&A
- 8:55 p.m. Meeting evaluations



Next meeting – Thursday, March 25



CBE CARES

Collaboration for Anti-Racism and Equity Supports

- Three online listening sessions to engage parents and guardians
- Sessions will take place between now and mid-February.
- Work is supported by Dr. Marie Delorme
- Parents, staff and students can provide written submissions to cbecares@cbe.ab.ca by Feb. 22
- Recommendations by March, 2021



**Share your
feedback.**

cbe.ab.ca/highschoolengagement

High School Engagement

Scenarios

Feb. 23 - March 17, 2021

- Detailed scenario information
- Online survey
- Online discussion forums
- Virtual sessions

Proposed Plan

June - October 2021

Decision

No later than December 2021

Implementation

September 2022



COVID-19 Update

Positive Case Numbers

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 5-18	Total
Students	48	107	338	198	61	752
Staff	2	12	44	59	10	127



Students and Staff Impacted by Quarantine

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 8-18	Total
Students	2,105	5,086	15,000	4,854	2,448	29,493
Staff	186	455	1,303	672	215	2,831
Total	2,291	5,541	16,303	5,526	2,663	32,324





Hub Online Learning Transition

- We created one transition point to allow students to return to in-person learning as of Monday, Feb. 1, 2021
- About 3,400 students will move back to in-person instruction at their schools
- Work is underway right now to determine appropriate staffing levels for both Hub and in-person classes
- Goal is to minimize disruption
- Can anticipate some teachers will return to in-person instruction and new classes could be created in both settings
- Any changes will be communicated to families by their school



Three-Year Education Plan

2020-21 Areas of Focus

Achievement & Well-being

- Advance understanding, awareness and next steps in supporting anti-racism, inclusion and equity through the initiation of CBE CARES Advisory Council and partner research.
- Build capacity for effective pedagogy and assessment in online environments.
- Build, support, and refine health and safety measures aligned with guidance and direction from Alberta Education, Alberta Health Services, and reflective of our community context.
- Develop and enhance the use of local performance measures within School Development Plans.

Strategic Allocation of Resources to Support Student Needs

- Refine the allocation of resources to schools through the equity framework allocation model.





Three-Year Education Plan

2020-23 Overall Focus

Achievement & Well-being

- How we support our students

Organizational Effectiveness

- How we do our work

Strategic Allocation of Resources to Support Student Needs

- How we use our resources

Developing our Employees

- How we support our people





2021 Municipal Election

- 2021 Election Dates:

- Jan. 4 - First day of the nomination period
- Sep. 20 – Last day to file nomination papers (deadline 12:00 Noon)
- Oct. 18 – Election Day

- Information on being a Public School Trustee:

<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees/Pages/Elections.aspx>

- Candidate Information and Election Progress for the 2021 Municipal Election:

<https://www.calgary.ca/election.html>

- Protocol for School and Staff Involvement in Election Campaigns:

<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/FormsManuals/Protocol-for-School-and-Staff-Involvement-in-Election-Campaigns.pdf#search=election%20protocols>





Supporting Student Learning, Mental Health, & Well-Being in a Pandemic

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Informing our Response

Impact of the Pandemic Across Canada



- Fear that family members, friends or they will become ill/infected
- Social and economic impacts of physical distancing, quarantine and isolation
 - Loneliness; grief and bereavement complicated by physical distancing measures
 - Stigmatization – particularly for individuals infected with – or believed to have been exposed to – the virus (including essential services workers)
 - Financial insecurity and challenges in accessing basic needs
 - Tensions in relationships and domestic violence
 - Access to health, community and social supports – e.g., many children access supports through schools
- Uncertainty around the duration of the pandemic
- Intensified media/social media coverage which may heighten anxiety



Youth Well-Being in Canada

- The toughest aspects cited by youth have been not being able to leave the house, go to school and spend time with friends.
- Technology may be playing a larger role in many people's lives, but it is not the only way youth are keeping busy. Nearly half (45%) of youth reported helping with chores around the house more than before, while slightly more than one-third of youth were doing arts or crafts (36%) or puzzles (35%) more so than before the pandemic.
- The shift to working and schooling from home and the disruption of regular routines and schedules have provided families with more opportunities to connect
- A recent study on the potential impact of the pandemic on youth education in Canada highlighted that the adverse effect might increase the socioeconomic skills gap by as much as 30%.

Edward Ng, PhD; Nadine Badets - Vanier Institute for the Family



U of C Mental Health Research Study

Student Life During a Pandemic: COVID-19 Student Well-being and Resiliency During School Re-Entry

- Surveyed 2,500 students aged 12-18 from Alberta's four metro school boards
- Approximately 1,300 CBE students participated
- 38% of student participants reported being extremely worried about COVID-19 health impacts
- 47.5% of student participants worried about family confinement and isolating
- Areas of concern reported by students
 - Academic impact
 - Disruption of routine
 - Uncertainty around potential future lockdowns



How High School Students are Feeling

"I worry that my grades are not a good reflection of my work, but rather a reflection of the challenge that is online school."

"I really value the stronger connections and time I have been able to spend with my family."

"Mental health is a battle with no friends, no activities and no life. I am mourning the loss of my Grade 12 year, the loss of friendships and I am feeling the effects of isolation."

– Gr. 12 students



How we are Responding

- Ensuring that students have a connection to staff
- In-school exams (not Diplomas) are non-jeopardy
- During January exam break, holding exams in the morning, and then setting aside the afternoon to support students studying as well as completion of tasks for report card marks.
- High school wellness challenges
- Therapy dogs, quiet spaces to regroup and even be provided with someone to talk to
- Access to CBE psychologists
- For online students, increased communication with students about what they can expect, and regular check-ins to ensure they have what they need.



How Jr/Middle School Students are Feeling

“Missing out on sports teams, staying in one space with little movement and opportunity to socialize with friends who are not in the same class.” – Gr. 8 student



Examples of junior high/ middle school responses

- School takes students outside rain or shine for physical education
- Maintaining options within the classroom setting – moving as a cohort
- More communication between home and school
- “Go to” Educator opportunities for junior and middle schools
- Resources online for staff to use with students that address mental health concerns
- Therapy dogs, meditation and yoga classes
- Access to CBE psychologists
- Supports for students who have transitioned to online, including virtual spirit week across all CBE middle schools



How we are Responding

“I miss having recess and playing with my friends.” – Gr. 3 student
“I am used to wearing a mask now, and it doesn’t bother me anymore.”
– Gr. 1 student

Examples of elementary school responses

- Less sharing of books, learning supplies to reduce transmission risk, and fear of transmission
- Student access to many outside experiences to support learning – physical activities outside on a daily basis, community walks, outside experiences with naturalization areas
- Resources for teachers that help them talk to students about COVID-19
- Access to CBE psychologists



How Families can Support their Child's Mental Health and Well-being

- Model positivity and hope
 - When we demonstrate resiliency and hope, it has a huge impact on our children's ability to cope
- Make time to listen to your child and acknowledge their concerns
- Answer your child's questions in an age-appropriate manner
- Talk about the new opportunities that have been presented by this situation e.g. family connections
- Reach out for supports (school and community resources) when they need it
- Be alert to changes in your child's normal behaviors



What Should Families Watch for?

- Withdrawal and isolation from others
- Not connecting and engaging with family
- Not willing to participate with learning
- Irritability
- Constant expression of concerns and worries
- Not wanting to connect with friends through technology
- Lack of joy in activities they previously enjoyed
- Noticeable mood changes



Family Supports

- Talk to your teacher/school about supports available through CBE
- [Access Mental Health](#) – AHS
- CBE Website – [health and wellness page](#)
 - Talking to kids about Coronavirus (all ages)
 - Helping children cope with stress
 - Resources for adults



Q&A with Trustees and Superintendents



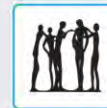
Meeting Evaluation

- You will receive an email by the end of this week with a link to these meeting materials and the survey link below.
- Please take a moment to fill out the survey to help us plan future meetings. – thank you!
- [Survey link](#)



Next meeting: **Thursday, March 25, 2021**

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Jan. 20 COSC Meeting – Fundraising Suggestions (from Chat Box)

ART CARDS for KIDS is a good online type fundraiser that staff can help create art

Fundscrip was a good fundraiser that worked for us. We offered payments via EMT and then we had a group of volunteers drop off their orders to their mailboxes at a scheduled time.

We are doing a online vendor show come this spring.

Non-drive bottle drives

We had great success \$2000+ profit with Purdy's. Brochures were quarantined at the school before being sent home, then delivery went to 1 home where it was sorted towards 3 community-based distribution homes

Panorama Hills School has used their community centre to distribute fundraiser items with drive thru pick up.

We handed out poinsettias from a council members garage straight to the trunks of the cars and had a sign up sheet to ensure the traffic was spaced out. Everyone wore gloves and masks. Went smoothly and earned a few thousand dollars.

We used a garage to distribute our fundraiser with a designated pick up time. It worked quite well!

We did deliveries for our Purdy's fundraiser - organized delivery time blocks using Eventbrite.

Face mask fundraiser at www.sewessential.ca

Skip the Depot is great for an ongoing bottle drive. They pickup directly from peoples homes.