



# Community of School Councils

Jan. 21, 2026



Calgary Board  
of Education



# Acknowledging the Land Where We Gather

A wide landscape photograph showing a city skyline in the background, likely Calgary, Alberta. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with a large, scattered pile of rocks. The middle ground shows a valley with green trees and a river.

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# Tonight's Agenda

7:00 p.m. Welcome, Introductions

7:10 p.m. Overview of CBE

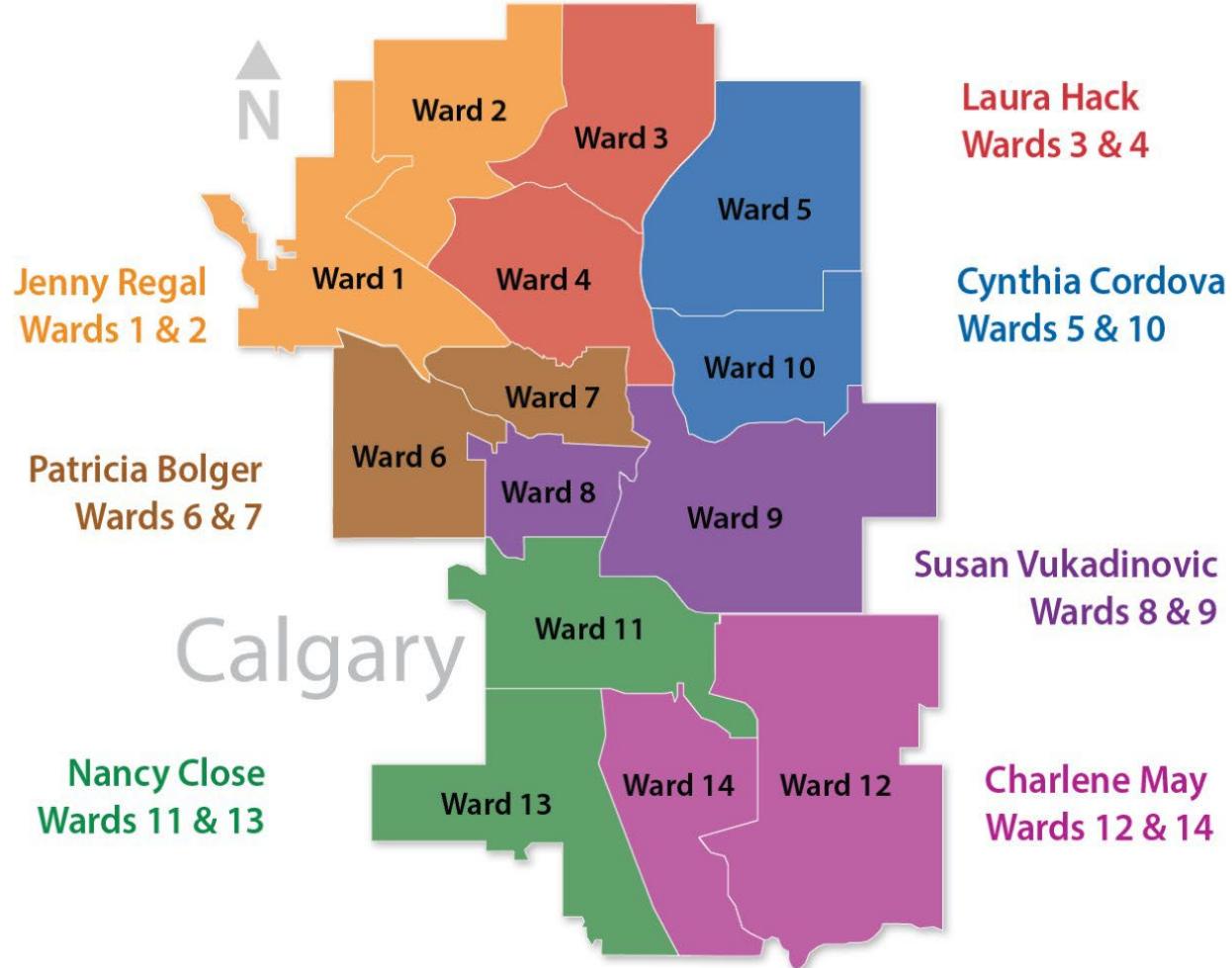
7:25 p.m. Overview of EducationMatters

7:35 p.m. Reminders for School Councils

7:45 p.m. Roundtable Conversation

# Board of Trustees

Learn more about the Trustees and the schools within each ward on the [CBE website](#).





# Superintendents' Team

- **Joanne Pitman**, Chief Superintendent of Schools
- **Dr. Jennifer Turner**, Superintendent of School Improvement, Areas 5, 6, 7
- **Dr. Mike Nelson**, Superintendent of School Improvement, Areas 1, 2, 3, 4
- **Brad Grundy**, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services, Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Treasurer
- **Dany Breton**, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
- **Sumana Dasgupta**, Superintendent, Human Resources
- **Andrea Beckwith-Ferraton**, General Counsel
- **Marla Martin-Esposito**, Chief Communications Officer



# Board of Trustees

Trustees are members of the Board

- No individual authority
- Formal decisions are made by majority vote

Fiduciary Duty

- Act in the best interest of the CBE

Oversight

- The Board does not get involved in day-to-day operations
- The Board provides oversight to ensure that its policy expectations are being met



# Governance

- Establish expectations for student results and operational performance through policy
- Results Policies and Operational Expectations can be found on the CBE website at:  
<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/about-us/policies-and-regulations/Pages/Governance-Policies.aspx>
- Annually monitor performance against the expectations set in policy





# Representation and Advocacy



- Consult and connect with various audiences.
- Advocate and share information/key documents

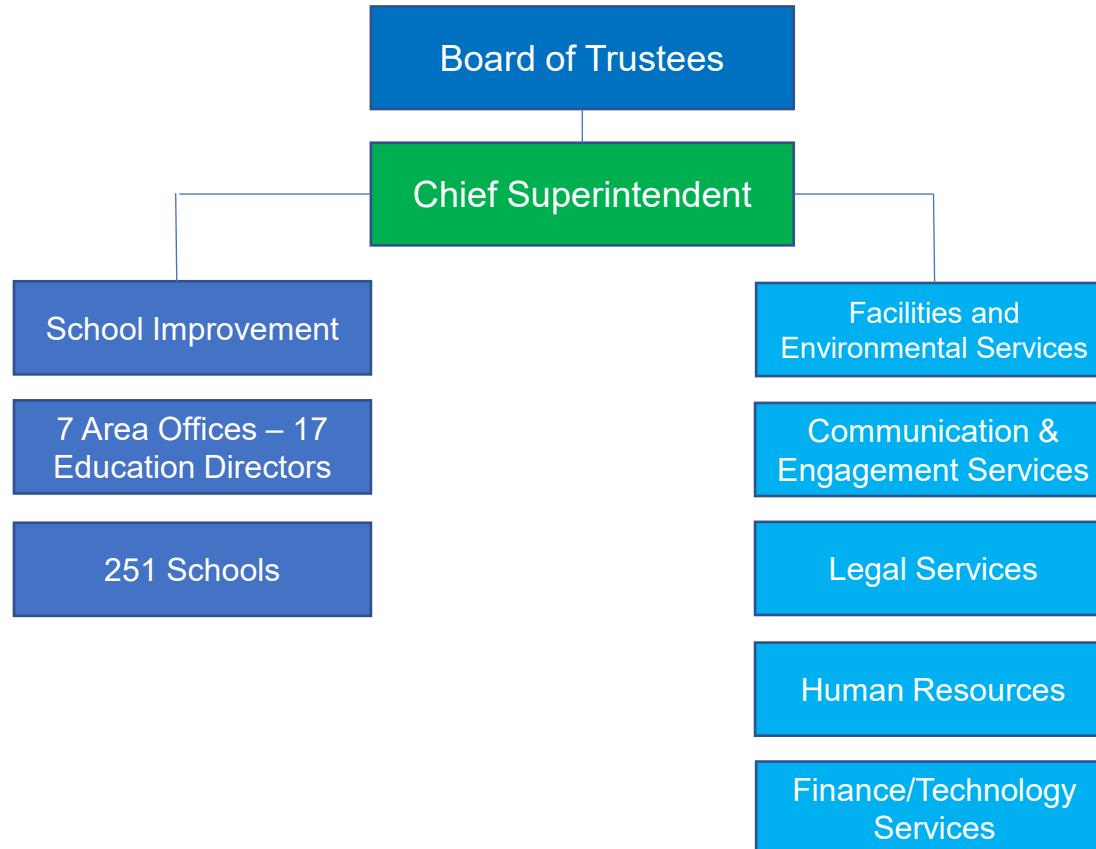
Recent advocacy priorities:



- Adequacy of funding for public education
- Safe and modern learning spaces
- Learn more on our website:  
[cbe.ab.ca/boardadvocacy](http://cbe.ab.ca/boardadvocacy)



# Role of Administration







# Role of School Councils

School councils do:

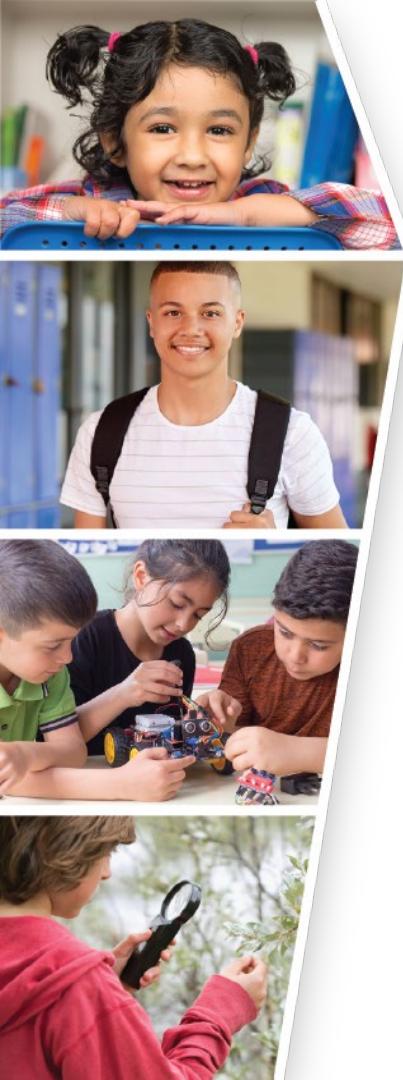
- advise the principal and Board of Trustees on school matters, and ensure the parent and community perspective is represented in school decision-making.
- consult on topics such as annual school budgets and school development plans.

School councils do not:

- participate in school governance, employment issues and school management
- fundraise (not the primary role)

**Important Links:**

- [CBE School Council Handbook](#) -
- [ASCA School Council Resource guide](#)



# education Matters

- What we do
- Why partnership matters
- How schools can engage

Learn more | [www.educationmatters.ca](http://www.educationmatters.ca)



# Who We Are

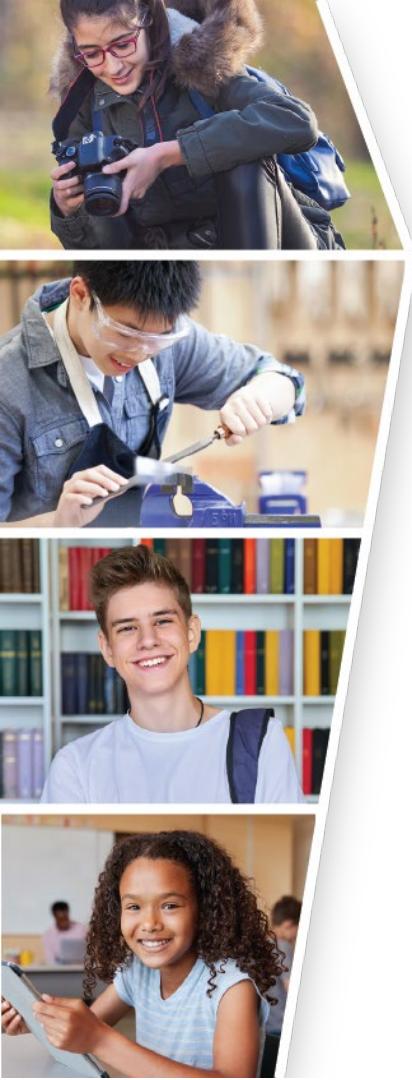
- We support student success
- Fundraising partner for CBE
- Registered charity; all dollars stay in CBE
- Distributed over \$2.6M to schools in 2025



## What We Do

We support CBE priorities and strategically invest where we can have the greatest impact for students

- Essentials for Learning
- Extraordinary Experiences
- Preparing for the Future



# Essentials for Learning

Fundamental necessities ensuring students are ready to learn:

- Food
- Hygiene items
- School supplies
- Warm clothing
- Transit passes



# Essentials for Learning: Student Wellbeing

- Wellbeing Symposium
- Student Wellness Action Teams
- Professional Learning
- Onsite Supports
- Wellness Spaces



# Extraordinary Experiences

Fueling learning, creativity, and real-world exploration:

- Off-site Activities
- On-site Activities and Guests
- Technology
- Learning Materials and Resources



# Preparing for the Future

Supporting programs that provide students with hands-on, experiential and authentic programming and equipment:

- Protective equipment
- Tools and Technology
- Transportation and Registration
- Consumable Materials
- Equipment Replacement



# Preparing for the Future: Student Awards

Preparing for the future also includes supporting students who are pursuing post-secondary education.

- Largest award portfolio for CBE students
- Over \$1 million distributed in 2025
- Investing in the Future Award



# School-based Funding

- We also facilitate direct investment in your schools
- We encourage undesignated donations

## Direct Donation | Campaign Pages | Matching



# Why We Need Your Partnership

- Rising student needs
- Support your own students
- We enable programs schools rely on



# Why Schools Should Support EducationMatters

- Raise awareness system-wide
- Contribute when possible
- Build a culture of community



# Alberta School Councils Association

- The Board of Trustees pays the ASCA membership fee for any school council who wishes to join/renew. Registration can be found on the ASCA website.  
[albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/membership/request-for-membership](http://albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/membership/request-for-membership)
- \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant is being funded by Alberta Education & Childcare again this year. Details on how the grant may be used can be found [here](#) on the ASCA website.



# Sharing Information with School Communities

- [School Council Handbook](#) is a valuable resource on many topics.
- Two ways:
  - Using CBE channels
  - Creating a school council distribution list for parents to subscribe to
- CBE email accounts and direct access to CBE communication tools are not provided to school councils.
- School websites have dedicated pages for school councils and parent societies. Content can be provided to the school to update.



# Inviting your Trustee

- We encourage you to invite your trustee to a school council meeting!
- This gives us an opportunity to learn more about you and your school community, and to answer questions you might have about the system.



# Supporting Questions & Concerns

## **Administration supports questions about:**

- Student learning
- School operations
- Other functions delegated to the Chief

## **Trustees:**

- Respond to questions about government education policies and regulations
- Look forward to your ideas or feedback
- Receive invites to school or community events
- Support inquiries by re-directing/providing information



# Roundtable Conversation

- What is important to your school community?
- What creates community at your school?
- What are the most important topics for your school council?

Jan. 2026 COSC Breakout Session





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