



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | Feb. 14, 2018

One of the most significant ways parents and community members can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students is through school councils. By connecting students, schools and communities, school councils help nurture and inspire our students to achieve their full potential.

Contact |

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Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

Quick links |

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The Next COSC Meeting is Mar. 1, 2018

Please mark your calendar with the next Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting which will be held on Thursday, Mar. 1, 2018. The meeting will take place in multipurpose room of the Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW from 7 – 9 p.m.

Free parking is available for attendees in the building parkade accessible from 12 Avenue.

An invitation for this meeting was sent on Monday, Feb. 12. To help us plan for the meetings, we appreciate an [RSVP](#) to meeting invitations.

COSC Jan. 17 Meeting Materials Posted Online

The Jan. 17 COSC meeting was attended by approximately 100 school council representatives. The Board of Trustees appreciated the opportunity to meet so many active volunteers. Discussion topics at the meeting included an overview of the CBE budget, an update on the CBE's Math Strategy and time for table discussion about school development plans and relationship building with school staff.

The presentation [materials](#) as well as [discussion notes](#) are posted on our School Council webpage. Please share these with members of your school council and your school community.

Last COSC Meeting for 2017-18

The final COSC meeting for this school year will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 11, 2018. Please mark this date on your calendars.

If you have trouble seeing this publication please [click here](#).

ASCA Awards of Recognition

Alberta School Councils' (ASCA) is proud to present the three awards of recognition in support of the school council efforts in Alberta. The awards are:

- School Council Award of Merit
- Excellence in Learning Partnerships Award
- School Council Parent of Distinction Award
- District School Council Engagement Award

Nomination forms, including the criteria and guidelines for each award can be found on the [ASCA website](#).

Nominations must be received in the ASCA office by Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018.

ASCA is offering two new categories of recognition this year. The [District School Council Engagement Award](#) is the latest addition to their [Awards Program](#), and they are looking for nominations that highlight the collaborative efforts of districts and school councils.

In addition, ASCA would like to recognize practices and promote experiences with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and share the benefits of school council engagement. Principals and school council chairs are encouraged to submit their experiences and stories, prior to Apr. 1, 2018. Stories will be posted on their website for sharing, and acknowledged at their upcoming provincial Conference Apr. 20 – 22, 2018.

Nominations for any Awards or submissions of stories and experiences with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities can be provided by email to parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca or by fax to 780-455-0167.

ASCA Conference & AGM

The ASCA Conference and AGM will be held at the Delta Edmonton South, Apr. 20-22, 2018. Hotel reservations at the Delta need to be booked before Mar. 29. Online registration is available until Apr. 16 at noon. For more information and registration please see the [ASCA School Councils Conference website](#).

ASCA Membership

If your school council does not have an Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2017-18 membership, please fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees and need to be renewed, by the school council, each school year.

2018-19 School Calendars Have Been Finalized

School calendars have been finalized and posted on the [CBE website](#) for the 2018-19 school year. The first day for schools following the [traditional calendar](#) is **Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018**, while schools following the [modified calendar](#) begin **Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2018**.

Longer-Term Strategy for French Immersion programs in Northwest and North Central Calgary

The high level of interest in French Immersion programs in northwest and north central Calgary has resulted in some schools being at or over-capacity, which may limit continued growth at these locations. The CBE is committed to providing strong learning opportunities to all our French Immersion students and working with families to explore possibilities for the future. The schools identified to participate in this engagement process include: Banff Trail, Branton, Georges P. Vanier, Hidden Valley, King George, Valley Creek and Varsity Acres.

In March we are hosting two in-person sessions where parents can share their perspectives on this topic. We plan to provide additional opportunities (online and in-person) over the next several months before making any decisions.

See our community engagement page to [learn more](#).

Provide Your Input on the CBE's Budget

Our budget decisions are shaped by our shared values: students come first, learning is our central purpose and public education serves the common good.

We encourage our community to provide input on educational spending. Our finance team reads each comment we receive, and all input will be considered when making decisions on our budget.

Please visit our [budget feedback form](#) to provide your thoughts.

Update your school council information

If you haven't already done so, please update your 2017-18 school council contacts with us. Even if you haven't had any changes to your executive this year, please confirm the contacts for this school year by sending an email with the requested information (listed below) to schoolcouncils@cbe.ab.ca.

On our distribution list we want to include at least two contacts for each CBE school council. One should be the Chair and the other is typically the Key Communicator or another council member chosen by the Chair.

Information required

- First and Last Name
- Title/position on council
- School name
- Email address
- Phone number (optional)

This information will be used to circulate this e-newsletter in addition to sharing information and invitations relevant to your school council and parent community.

Webinar Recordings by ASCA

As part of ASCA support, learning opportunities are provided through webinars and videos to assist with school council effectiveness.

Webinars are now available to view at any time on the [ASCA webinar website](#). Webinars available include:

- Masterful Minutes
- Meeting Management
- Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose
- Chair Basics
- School Council Purpose
- Tools for Effective School Councils

School council members can access these webinars using their ASCA membership.

Recent Stories Featured on the CBE Website

The CBE posts news and stories about the activities that happen across our system throughout the year. Here are some of the stories we are featuring now:

- Minister's Youth Council is Recruiting New Members
- SEEDschool
- CBE Students and Staff Explore Nature, All Year Long
- Ernest Manning High School Treats International Students to a Holiday Feast
- Students Celebrate Literacy at Douglas Harkness School
- First Annual Giving Faire
- A Million Cheerios
- Central Memorial High School Student Work with Blackfoot Motosports

Check out the latest stories on our home page under [CBE News](#).