



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | June 2, 2020

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.

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School Re-Entry Survey | Please provide Feedback

With less than a month left in the current school year, planning is well underway for what the 2020-21 school year will look like for our students, staff and families.

Earlier this month, Education Minister Adriana LaGrange announced that the provincial government is considering three different scenarios when classes start again in the fall:

- a return to normal operations;
- a partial return with some level of restrictions, or;
- a continuation of students learning from home.

To help the CBE consider how we would respond to these three possible scenarios, we have launched surveys for families, students and staff.

We encourage you to go online and provide your feedback by Thursday, June 11, 2020. There is a survey for parents/guardians, as well as one for students. A summary of results will be shared by Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

- [Parent Re-Entry Survey](#)
- [Student Re-Entry Survey](#)

The CBE has created an internal task force with representatives from schools and service units to lead the planning. All of our decisions will be guided by the advice of the province's chief medical officer of health and Alberta Education guidelines. The safety and well being of our students and staff will come first in any decisions we make.

We will provide more information in the coming weeks and over the summer to ensure all of our students are ready to return to learning as we begin the new school year on Tuesday, Sept. 1,

Independent, External Review of the Finances and Governance of the CBE

In November 2019, Education Minister Adriana LaGrange announced an independent, external review of the finances and governance of the CBE. The [report](#) was received May 20.

We are pleased that the review confirmed that there are no financial irregularities or improprieties. The report highlighted that our spending is fully aligned with that of other metro school jurisdictions and that we have strong financial processes and controls. The review also found that we have very efficient operations, especially in the area of operations and maintenance.

The [Ministerial Order](#) outlines areas for improvement related to governance processes and financial oversight. We are committed to working with Alberta Education on the plan to comply with the Ministerial Order.

At the May 26 public board meeting, Board Chair Marilyn Dennis provided a [statement](#) regarding the government's Financial Cost Management and Governance Review of the CBE. A number of the directives in the Ministerial Order have already been addressed as part of [CBE's 2020-21 budget](#).

The citizens of Calgary expect that we will be good stewards of public dollars and we will continue to spend those dollars to support student learning. We acknowledge there is always room to improve. Please see our [website](#) for more information on the review.

Budget Approved by Board of Trustees

The CBE [2020-21 budget](#) has been approved. The CBE has a \$1.4 billion budget to support more than 128,000 students in almost 250 schools, including three new schools set to open next school year.

Board Chair, Marilyn Dennis stated in a [news release](#) that the board is prioritizing dollars and resources directly to students and classrooms, while aligning to the government's new funding framework. More budget information can be found on our [Budget 2020-21 webpage](#).

All CBE Schools Will Follow the Traditional Calendar for the 2020-21 School Year

Due to the ongoing health risk of COVID-19, the Calgary Board of Education has made the decision to move all modified calendar schools and programs to the traditional calendar next year. This means our first scheduled day of classes for all schools will be Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.

The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance, and we look forward to welcoming back our students as soon as it is safe to do so. More information about re-entry plans for the next school year will be provided later this summer.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work through the details. Please see your school website for more information, including some frequently asked questions.

2019-20 Year-End Annual Report Required

We have received a number of questions about whether school councils still need to submit an annual report to trustees. Under the *Education Act*, school councils are still responsible for submitting an annual report to the Board of Trustees. This report helps the Board of Trustees measure and be accountable for parent and community involvement.

The annual report template can be found on the [School Councils webpage](#) in the right hand margin, under supporting documents.

The school council chair is responsible for submitting the report to the Board of Trustees **by the end of June** each school year. Although the *Education Act* states a Sept. 30 deadline, Trustees would appreciate receiving the report prior to the end of June. A copy of the report should also be provided to the school principal.

Please send your report to the Board of Trustees, via email to boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca or by Canada Post to the Office of the Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0L4.

CBE Parent Elected to ASCA Board

Congratulations to Sheila Hobday from the Sam Livingston School Council, who was elected as a director of ASCA for a two-year term at its AGM on April 26.

When Sheila was asked why she wanted to serve on the ASCA Board of Directors she answered,

"I want to help parents understand how to use their voice in their children's education experience. Parents are critical partners in the education landscape and having them engaged at a classroom, school, board and provincial level is important. I would like to help increase the capacity of school councils so that they can use the opportunities that exist to look beyond their schools and to their board and provincial level. When I started attending school council meetings six years ago, I had no idea of the opportunities to engage at a system or provincial level."

It is wonderful to have a director from Calgary, specifically a CBE school, on the ASCA Board.

Coventry Hills School Council Wins ASCA Award of Merit

Each year the Alberta School Councils' Association is proud to present awards of recognition in support of school council efforts in Alberta. The awards include:

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

We are happy to announce that Coventry Hills School Council was one of two school council recipients for the Award of Merit.

The School Council Award of Merit recognizes effective school council practices that have an identifiable impact on supporting student learning and school improvement at the school level, the district level or the provincial level.

Congratulations Coventry Hills School Council!

Save the Dates for 2020-21

Please mark your calendars with the following dates for Council of School Councils (COSC) meetings:

- Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020
- Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021
- Thursday, Apr. 22, 2021

More information regarding the meetings will come in September.

Fee Refund Update

We anticipate that electronic refunds for noon supervision and transportation fees should be completed by the end of June.

We are also working closely with schools for refunds of other school fees that were paid to schools. Your school will be contacting you with more information on how those refunds will be provided.

A [Questions & Answers document](#) for Noon Supervision and Transportation Refunds is available to help provide clarification about the refunds that are being issued.

If you have questions **after** you receive your refund, please email studentfees@cbe.ab.ca. Thank you for your patience through this process.

2020-21 Transportation Services & Fees Announced – Register by June 14

The CBE announced transportation service levels and fees on May 15.

A summary of the decisions made regarding the 2020-21 transportation budget and services, and how these decisions respond to feedback provided by students, parents, staff and community members on the online survey, can be found on [our website](#).

The full survey results, facts about the 2019-20 transportation budget and services and more information about the 2020 transportation engagement are available at cbe.ab.ca/dialogue.

More detailed information about CBE transportation services is available at cbe.ab.ca/transportation. To be included in the yellow school bus route planning for September, **families need to register using [My CBE / PowerSchool](#) by Sunday, June 14, 2020**.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and perspectives with us. We have done our best to respond to the feedback you provided.

Frequently Asked COVID-19 Questions

Families have many questions about fees, diploma exams, the nutrition program, final marks and more. You can find answers to frequently asked questions on [our website](#). Visit this page often as information is updated regularly. The most recent items are posted at the top of the list.

CBE Creates Time to Celebrate High School Graduates in 2020-21

The CBE has decided to create a flex, non-instructional half day to allow for an informal gathering of 2019-20 graduates during the 2020-21 school year.

This date and other details regarding the celebration will be determined once school has commenced in the fall, and after AHS has provided additional guidelines for protecting the health of students, staff and families at social gatherings. There will be one common date for all high schools.

More details will be shared with families as soon as it is available. In the fall, please look to the graduation section of your high school's website for further information.

Information about Registering for the 2020-21 School Year

CBE schools are still accepting registrations for the 2020-21 school year, including for kindergarten. During this time, our schools are open but to help ensure the safety of our families and staff, we are not accepting walk-in registrations. Please follow the instructions for [Kindergarten – Grade 9](#) and for [High School](#) on our website, or [contact the school](#) you are registering at for more information.

Learn more about which school to register your child at by using our [find a school](#) tool, or check our [kindergarten calculator](#) for more information about when your child can begin school.

Rentals Cancelled until Aug. 31, 2020

To continue to align public access to CBE facilities with that of the City of Calgary, the cancellations of all public rentals and CBE permits for outside groups within CBE schools has been extended from June 30, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2020, with potential for extension. These bookings will be fully refunded.

See the [Rentals webpage](#) for further information. We are committed to keeping our Rentals webpage updated with the latest information, as decisions are made that affect all rentals in CBE Schools. All future updates on Rental Status will be posted there for your information.

Report Cards will be Available Online

Given COVID-19 restrictions, June report cards will be made available online by June 26 through [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#). Once logged in, select the "Report Card" tab to view the report card. If a printed report card is required, please contact the school to arrange a time to safely collect it during school hours.

For more information about assessment and reporting:

- [Grades 10-12 | Assessment and Reporting Guidelines for Ongoing Learning](#)
- [K-9 | Assessment and Reporting Guidelines for Ongoing Learning](#)

Instructions

- [MyCBE: Accessing the Online Report Card](#)

ASCA Survey Results – School Re-Entry

Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) created a member survey based on the 2020-21 school re-entry discussion points outlined by Alberta Education.

A total of 66,320 parents in Alberta submitted responses to the survey questions during the 11-day time frame.
[\(PDF Survey Results\)](#) [ASCA Media Release](#)

The parent voice is vital in provincial education, and ASCA is proud to present this perspective to engage with the Education Ministry.

More information can be found at the [ASCA School Council eNews](#) site.

A Conversation with Dr. Jody Carrington

Online Webinar Tuesday June 9 from 8 – 9 p.m. "Your Babies, a Beverage and Corona – A Parent Conversation with Dr. Jody Carrington." [Register Here](#). ASCA is pleased to partner with the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) to offer this FREE opportunity for parents.