



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | Nov. 15, 2021

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 |

Calgary Board of Education
Communication and Engagement
Services
1221 – 8 Street SW
Calgary, AB T2R 0L4

e | schoolcouncilinformation@cbe.ab.ca
t | 403-817-7986

Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

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Introducing the New Board of Trustees

Every four years, citizens of Calgary elect trustees to govern the Calgary Board of Education. The Board of Trustees provides leadership for the CBE by defining the vision, [Results](#) and [Operational Expectations](#) for the organization on behalf of its community.

On Friday, Oct. 29, the new Board of Trustees was sworn in. We welcome one returning trustee and six new trustees. More information about each trustee, their contact information and a list of the schools that are in their wards can be found at the links below.

[Wards 1 & 2](#)

Dana Downey

[Wards 3 & 4](#)

Laura Hack, Chair

[Wards 5 & 10](#)

Marilyn Dennis

[Wards 6 & 7](#)

Patricia Bolger

[Wards 8 & 9](#)

Susan Vukadinovic, Vice-Chair

[Wards 11 & 13](#)

Nancy Close

[Wards 12 & 14](#)

Charlene May

Trustees always welcome the opportunity to attend school council meetings. Invitations can be forwarded to individual trustees or to boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca.

Dates for 2021-22 COSC Meetings

Dates for future Council of School Council (COSC) meetings for the 2021-22 school year have been set by the new Board of Trustees.

All meetings are currently expected to be held virtually. Invitations with meeting links and information will be sent out by email prior to each meeting. Please save these dates in your calendar:

- Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022
- Wednesday, Mar. 16, 2022
- Thursday, June 2, 2022

Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant

On Aug. 19 the Alberta Government announced that it would be providing \$1 million to school councils to support collaboration between parents and schools. ([Media release](#)) Each school council will receive a \$500 ASCE grant.

The CBE Finance department is applying for the grant and will ensure the funds are disbursed to schools and made available to school councils.

The decision for how to use the funds must be made by the school council, and funds must be used in the school year in which they are allocated.

Allowable examples of parent engagement activities and projects include:

- workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members;
- information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school;
- parent resources and workshops on topics such as, mental health and wellbeing, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.;
- programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families;
- parent resources in multiple languages;
- events to engage parents on local issues;
- parent engagement in promoting the value of the arts;
- trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.

Examples of non-allowable expenses include:

- entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food
- capital asset purchases
- activities that have already taken place
- organization memberships or conference fees
- fundraising events
- prizes or incentives to parents and/or students
- payment to school board staff including honoraria and gifts
- entertainment activities such as barbeques, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances, etc.

ASCA Workshops 2021-22

Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) offers a number of workshops that can be paid for through the ASCE grant. See the [ASCA website](#) for a list of available workshops.

Draft Curriculum Engagement Sessions

In addition to the [online survey](#) (open until Feb. 2022), Alberta Education is holding online sessions so Albertans can hear information about the curriculum and ask questions.

Parents and the public are invited to attend a virtual information session hosted by Alberta Education staff.

Register now:

- [Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. \(French\)](#)
- [Wednesday, Dec. 8 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. \(English with closed captioning\)](#)

There will be additional virtual information sessions in English every month and in French every second month. Please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/curriculum-have-your-say.aspx> for more information.

COVID-19 Immunization Requirement for Parents/Guardians

On Nov. 9, parents and guardians were informed of the CBE's new policy regarding COVID-19 vaccination. The email to CBE families provides details about the requirement prior to entering schools for matters such as parent-teacher conferences or participating in extra-curricular activities. Read the details on [the CBE's homepage](#).

CBE Flames Fundraiser

Students and their families can enjoy a Flames game and support CBE students. Tickets can be purchased online at www.flamesgroups.com/CBE for \$41 each. \$10 from every ticket purchased goes to support [EducationMatters](#), Calgary's public education trust.

Curls and Coils for Cosmetology Fundraiser - EducationMatters

EducationMatters has launched a campaign to raise funds to purchase textured hair mannequins for use in all nine CBE high schools with a cosmetology program. The addition of these mannequins enhances diversity in the cosmetology curriculum and will help to ensure students can broaden their understanding of a wide range of hair types, cultures, and potential client needs. [Read more](#) about this fundraiser.

Updated School Council Information

If you have not done so already, please email schoolcouncilinformation@cbe.ab.ca with names and email addresses for the 2021-22 school council members listed below:

- School Council Chair
- School Council Co-Chair or Vice-Chair
- School Council Key Communicator

These positions are included in our School Council distribution list and will receive the Key Communiqué directly. Please feel free to include a “general” school council email if you have one.

ASCA Invitation - School Council Engagement Opportunity

ASCA is hosting a virtual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 27 from 1-4 p.m. on topics of interest to school councils and their communities. Participants will be able to ask questions and engage in discussions on the following topics:

- Current education environment
- Draft K-6 curriculum
- Alberta School Council Engagement grant
- Assurance Framework
- ASCA's Proposed Advocacy Resolutions

If your school council has an ASCA membership, attendance is free for parents, principals, teacher and student representatives. The fee for non-ASCA members is \$25 per person and is not covered by CBE.

Please register in advance using the [ASCA Zoom registration link](#).

ASCA Membership

If your school council does not have an [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) 2021-22 membership, please fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees. However, memberships need to be renewed, by the school council, each school year (July 1 – June 30).

The benefits of an ASCA membership can be found on their [website](#). Additionally an ASCA membership will entitle you to participate in the virtual School Council Engagement Opportunity on Nov. 27.

ASCA Online Learning Resources

ASCA has digital resources, virtual interactions and opportunities for school councils to use.

ASCA hosts [Meeting Mondays](#) – online engagements, creating a forum for school council parents to learn, share information, and support each other.

[Webinar Wednesdays](#) present interactive online training sessions, focused on topic areas specific to the work of school councils.

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

Important System Calendar Dates

The following upcoming dates that apply to all schools. It is very important to check your school website for other dates specific to your school

Friday, Nov. 26, 2021

System wide non-instructional day
All students do not attend school

Friday, Dec. 17, 2021

Last day of classes prior to Winter Break

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022

Classes resume for schools following the traditional calendar.

Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022

Classes resume for schools following the modified calendar.

Monday, Jan. 31, 2022

System wide non-instructional day
All students do not attend school

Thursday, Feb. 17 – Friday, Feb. 18, 2022

Teachers' Convention
All students do not attend school

Monday, Feb. 21, 2022

Family Day holiday
All students do not attend school