



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | Dec. 16, 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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Year-End Message from the Board of Trustees

A few short weeks ago, Calgarians elected a new Board of Trustees who are deeply passionate about public education and committed to ensuring every student is successful in their learning.

We are eager to make a difference for students, and we know that we can't do it alone; employees, families, partners and community members all play a critical role in supporting our students and public education in Alberta.

Moving forward, trustees will be focusing efforts in a few key areas, the most important of which will be ensuring that the voices of parents/guardians, students, staff, experts, trustees and community members are considered and reflected in the province's draft K-6 curriculum. This is an area that was highlighted time and time again when trustees met with families and community members in the run up to the municipal election in October.

We know there are many other issues that will challenge the CBE and public education in Alberta in the future, and we look forward to connecting with you in the New Year to hear your thoughts and perspectives.

Until then, we wish all of you a happy, safe and relaxing winter break!

[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.

Next COSC Meeting Jan. 20, 2022

The next Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting will take place online on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

The meeting will be hosted on Microsoft Teams and you will receive a meeting invitation early in January. No software should need to be downloaded for you to access this event (it will work through your browser).

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Meet your Trustee
- Breakout Room Sessions with Trustees
- System Updates including:
 - \$500 ASCE grant
 - K-6 curriculum update
 - Trustee meeting with the Minister of Education
- Q&A

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 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

Alberta Education has provided funding, in the amount of \$500, to support school councils in fulfilling their legislated responsibilities in the education system and enhancing parental involvement and engagement.

Information about the Alberta Education School Council Engagement Grant funds and how the funds will be disbursed to school councils will be coming in January.

Ventilation in Schools

Ensuring proper ventilation and airflow in our schools is one of the health measures we have in place to support student and staff wellness during the pandemic. The CBE website has been recently updated with more detailed information about [current ventilation measures](#) in place at CBE schools.

Draft K-6 Curriculum Engagement

In addition to the [online survey](#) (open until Feb. 2022), Alberta Education is holding online sessions so Albertans can hear information about the draft K-6 curriculum and ask questions.

Parents and the public are invited to attend a virtual information session hosted by Alberta Education staff. Sessions with low registration may be cancelled. Registrants will be notified in advance.

You can register now for the next session:

- [Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 7 to 8:15 pm \(English with closed captioning\)](#)

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.

If you have questions about registration, please email goa.currdevengage@gov.ab.ca.

The CBE supports the goal of strengthening the curriculum to prepare students for the future. While the CBE [made the decision](#) to not participate in the curriculum pilot project, we believe it is vitally important to provide Alberta Education with feedback on the draft curriculum and encourage parents, staff and the community to learn more and share their perspectives.

Provide Feedback on the 2022 Provincial Budget until Jan. 15

Albertans are being invited to help set the direction of the next provincial budget. Your input will help the government better understand your priorities for your family, business and community. [Take the survey](#), send in your [written submission](#), or participate in telephone town halls. Check out the [government website](#) for details.

Update for Families – Dec. 16, 2021

The CBE website has been updated with reminders for families. They include:

- Winter Break Reminders
- Health Measures – COVID-19 Rapid Tests
- Travel Reminders
- COVID-19 Notifications
- Student Vaccinations

CBE CARES Reports Now Available

On our website you can see the message that was sent to all CBE staff members from Chief Superintendent Christopher Usih on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021.

CBE CARES (Collaboration for Anti-Racism and Equity Supports) Advisory Council held meetings and listening sessions from November 2020 to March 2021. As a result a [Fall Progress Report](#) and “[What We Heard](#)” document have been produced.

A six-minute [video conversation](#) with Chief Superintendent Christopher Usih about CBE CARES is also available.

2022 ASCA Awards of Recognition

Alberta School Councils' Association is proud to present the following awards of recognition in support of school council efforts in Alberta

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

Please see the [ASCA website](#) for a detailed description of each award and *guidelines* to submit a nomination. Nominations close on Feb. 28, 2022.

Congratulations to Linden Achen, Capitol Hill School who was one of five recipients of the 2021 School Council Parent of Distinction Award. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate the ability to promote parental engagement and involvement in the public education system. Truly exceptional in their dedication and initiative, these individuals have dynamic leadership qualities and encourage opportunity to influence student learning success in their school community. Thank you Linden for all of your work!

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.

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.

2022-23 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year begins on **Monday, Jan. 17, 2022**. To start kindergarten in September 2022, children must turn five years old on or before Dec. 31, 2022.

Please go to our [registration webpage](#) for more detailed information about how to register. Any changes to the registration process will be updated on the webpage.

PowerSchool Offline from Dec. 20 to 26, 2021

PowerSchool and MyCBE / PowerSchool will be temporarily unavailable during part of the winter break due to technical upgrades. The planned outage is set to start on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021 at 8 a.m. and it will extend to Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021 at 8 p.m. — although the work may be completed sooner than scheduled. Once accessible, the PowerSchool sign-in page will indicate this.

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. CBE game nights are Dec. 21, Jan. 13 and Mar. 18.

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 following school council members:

- 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 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](#).

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.

Free AHS Webinars Offered

The Community Education Service (CES) provides parents/caregivers and other community members with opportunities to access **free**, public [education sessions](#) on child and youth emotional wellness and health topics throughout the year.

Some of the upcoming webinars include:

- Your Brain on Stress
- Areas of Influence: how parents influence their children, including their environment, social identity, consequences to behavior and developmental stages
- Talking to Children and Teens with Diverse Abilities about Healthy Relationships and Sexuality
- Trauma and Victimization: A Child's Lens
- Thriving and Autism: Tips, Tricks and Strategies for Success

Registration is required. For a full list of upcoming webinars: <http://community.hmhc.ca/sessions/?p=webex>

Important System Calendar Dates

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

Friday, March 11, 2022

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

Friday, March 18, 2022

Last day of classes prior to Spring Break

Monday, March 28, 2022

Classes resume for schools following the traditional calendar.

Monday, April 4, 2022

Classes resume for schools following the modified calendar.

Friday, April 15, 2022

Good Friday
All students do not attend school

Monday, April 18, 2022

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