



## Issue | Feb. 16, 2016

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

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Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

## CBE quick links |

[School councils/COSC](#)  
[CBE School Council Handbook](#)  
[Top news stories](#)  
[Board of Trustees](#)  
[CBE system messages \(RSS Feed\)](#)

## School Council resources |

[Alberta School Councils' Association](#)  
[Alberta Education](#)  
[Alberta Education – School Councils](#)  
[Alberta Education School Council Resource Manual](#)  
[CAPSC](#)

If you are having problems viewing this publication please [click here](#)

## Next COSC meeting – March 2, 2016

The next Council of School Councils meeting will be held on March 2, 2016 from **7 – 9 p.m.** in the multipurpose room of the Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street S.W. Free parking is available for attendees. (Please note the change of start time.)

The meeting will focus on a group discussion about your school council's challenges and successes. Due to time constraints, this discussion was omitted from the January meeting, but we feel it is valuable for school councils to have the opportunity to share their experiences.

The meeting will also include an update on important system issues including how we are preparing for the budget.

**To help us plan for the meetings we appreciate an [RSVP](#) to meeting invitations which will be sent out shortly.**

Please mark your calendar with the last meeting of the year which will be held on Thursday, April 28.

## Creating safe and caring environments for LGBTQ youth

The safety, well-being, and experiences of LGBTQ youth (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) are important. At the CBE, we are committed to creating safe and caring communities for everyone, including our LGBTQ youth.

Alberta Education recently released its “Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions.” All school boards have been asked to use these best practices to develop or update their policies, regulations and procedures related to creating these learning environments. Current CBE practices closely mirror the provincial guidelines, and we will continue to refine our own guidelines to ensure they align.

Read more and check out the FAQs on our [website](#).

## Public Engagement Update

Last fall, we invited employees, parents, students and the general public to share their perspectives on public engagement at the Calgary Board of Education. The response was outstanding. We heard from more than 6,500 people. The opinions that were shared are important and will guide us as we move forward.

An executive summary, now posted on our website, identifies several areas where the CBE can do better. These include everything from developing a well understood, fair and open engagement process to sharing the results of engagement activities. In March, we expect to have a new system-wide approach drafted. We will then share it with parents, students, employees and members of the public for feedback.

More information on Public Engagement can be found on our [website](#).

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## School Council Awards - Nominate by Feb. 28.

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is proud to present awards of recognition in support of school council efforts in Alberta. Awards for the 2015-2016 year include:

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

Nominations will be accepted until Feb. 28, 2016 and nomination forms can be found on the ASCA [website](#).

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## Budget 2016-17 update

The CBE invites all parents and community members to budget engagement sessions being held around the city between Feb. 29 and Mar. 9, 2016. Each Area will host members of the superintendents' team and our finance team in order to engage with the community on your priorities for the 2016-17 budget. Parents and community members are also encouraged to take part in online feedback opportunities and a social media chat.

All budget engagement sessions will be held from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

- Monday Feb. 29 – Area V office, Haysboro Centre, 1123 – 87 Ave. S.W.
- Tuesday, Mar. 1 – Area III office, Marlborough School, 4711 Maryvale Dr. N.E.
- Monday, Mar. 7 – John G. Diefenbaker High School, 6620 – 4 St. N.W.
- Tuesday, Mar. 8 – Area IV office, A.E. Cross School, 3445 – 37 St. S.W.
- Wednesday, Mar. 9 – Robert Thirsk High School, 8777 Nose Hill Dr. N.W.

For more information on these opportunities, please visit [www.cbe.ab.ca/budget](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/budget).

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## New school principals announced

As construction continues to move forward on Calgary's new public schools, 17 principals have been selected to lead the new schools. This is an exciting step toward opening these schools.

Principals will transition to their new role at the beginning of April. In the months leading up to the openings, principals will focus on building their school community by connecting with parents and students. They will also hire staff, determine the organization of the school and prepare the school budget for the 2016-17 school year.

Please see our website for more information on the [new principals](#).

Information on the [school projects](#) can also be found on the CBE website.

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## Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Minister of Education initiated the Excellence in Teaching Awards (ETA) in 1989 to:

- recognize outstanding Alberta teachers,
- honour creative, innovative and effective teaching,
- focus public attention on the teaching profession and
- involve Albertans in celebrating teaching excellent

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 4, 2016.

Please see the [CBE News Centre](#) for more information and links to nomination forms.

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## ASCA Webinars

ASCA is pleased to present Webinar Wednesdays with scheduled training, instructional sharing, partner connections and focus group sessions for the 2015-2016 school year.

The next webinars will be

- School Council Purpose on Mar. 2, 2016.
- Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose on Mar. 9, 2016

Please go to the [ASCA website](#) for more information.

An ASCA membership and pre-registration for a webinar is required. If you do not have an ASCA 2015-2016 membership just fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees.

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## Indigenous Shining Student Award

This annual recognition is award to a Grade 10 – 12 student of First Nations, Métis or Inuit heritage, who demonstrates leadership and inspires others, through embracing and respecting an aboriginal perspective or world view from an aboriginal perspective.

The award is sponsored by Alberta School Boards Association, Alberta School Councils' Association, Alberta Teachers' Association and the College of Alberta School Superintendents.

Nomination deadline is March 30, 2016. More details and the nomination form can be found at the ASCA [website](#).

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## 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:

- Message from David Stevenson about the tragic accident at WinSport
- Green energy at Senator Patrick Burns School
- CBE learning director named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals
- Weekends and More (WAM) Food Support Program for Children

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