

Dear staff,

Cheers were heard around the system 11 days ago when we learned that the government was restoring funding to public education. Since then, we have been busy working through the details as to how this funding will specifically benefit our students. Our finance team has been working tirelessly to produce a budget for approval by Superintendent's team and the Board of Trustees.

We anticipate that this budget will be presented to the Board on June 18. We will then seek the Board's approval on June 22 in order to meet our June 30 deadline. A full budget report with all ancillary details will be presented to the Board shortly after the Sept. 30 enrolment count in the fall.

Thanks to last week's funding announcement, this budget will allow the CBE to continue to be the strong educational system that Calgarians have come to expect. We will accommodate enrolment growth and maintain services and supports to schools at 2014-15 levels. We anticipate we will be able to maintain class sizes system-wide, subject to principal decision making. The announcement also indicates that per-student funding has increased compared to 2014-15.

Throughout this extended budget process we have maintained our focus on our values: students come first, learning is our central purpose and public education serves the common good. When we rolled out the Resource Allocation Method (RAM) in April we funded schools to maintain the same service levels as were provided in 2014-15, based on enrolment, and included funds for each school's projected enrolment growth. This allowed principals to make decisions necessary to resource and staff schools appropriately for September. Our decision to maintain RAM and adjust for growth was not only the best decision for our students and schools, but proved to be the best way forward for our new government.

Services and supports to students, teachers and schools will be maintained at 2014-15 levels. This means no significant reductions to service units, at this time.

The province has also announced that school boards may resume direct control of their operating reserves. Earlier this spring, our Board of Trustees had asked to use \$18M in operating reserves to fund enrolment growth. Now that enrolment growth has been fully funded in the budget, our reserves are available to fund other priorities.

As a system we will continue to push forward with a number of program reviews as set out in our previous budget documents. We are committed to being efficient and

prudent in how we allocate public funds. We look forward to working with Minister of Education David Eggen and the provincial government to continue to support student success.

I realize that this has been a long budget process. It has been very hard on our staff, and I thank you for staying the course and continuing to support each other and our students. Each one of you contributes to our success as a system, and I am grateful for your contributions, energy and support.

I will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

David Stevenson
Chief Superintendent of Schools
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