

## Following up: what we heard from you



2016-17 budget engagement



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## Summary

In late February the Calgary Board of Education invited employees, parents, students and members of the public to provide their perspectives on budget priorities for the 2016-17 school year and beyond. These perspectives will be considered as we make budget decisions going forward.

### In-person sessions

About 80 parents and 40 employees attended in-person budget sessions. Meetings took place in each of the CBE's five Areas as well as the Education Centre. Chief Financial Officer Brad Grundy [provided information on the CBE's financial position](#), answered questions, and led group discussions on budget priorities.

### Online

Over 100 comments have been received to date through our online feedback form at [cbe.ab.ca/budget](http://cbe.ab.ca/budget). The [budget feedback form](#) is available year-round and we welcome budget feedback from our community at any time. All comments are read by the Finance team. In response to comments received, we have already introduced an online feature called [Dollars and Sense with CFO Brad Grundy](#). On this page, our CFO addresses some of the questions and suggestions made through our online budget feedback form.

For the first time, the CBE invited public comment by hosting a Twitter live chat with the CFO. This forum attracted limited participation, but provided a new opportunity for our communities to provide feedback and ask questions.

We thank everyone who contributed their thoughts and ideas. Your feedback is very valuable to us.

## Moving forward with our engagement results

Several clear themes emerged from our engagement efforts. Among others, contributors identified the following as some of the priorities for our system (in alphabetical order):

- Ensuring technology decisions support students
- Keeping class sizes low
- Managing employee costs
- Options for fees
- Providing clarity on budget
- Reviewing provision of Alternative Programs
- Solving transportation budget issues
- Supporting students with diverse needs

Some comments were beyond the scope of the budget. Examples include:

- Suggestions related to the Charter School application process, a process defined by Alberta Education,
- Comments related to funding for and timing of new schools, which is the responsibility of Alberta Education,
- Comments relating to the determination of wages, benefits and working conditions, which are determined through collective bargaining with our unions and associations, rather than set by the budget.

### Next steps

We will continue to review and consider all feedback as we make budget decisions for this year and into the future. It is important to know how our community prioritizes for our [budget spending decisions](#). You will see the results of how this engagement information was considered reflected in the 2016-17 Budget Assumptions Report.

## Budget Engagement Themes – Summary

Theme	Number	Summary
Admin Costs	2	Feel they have increased
Alternative programs	16	Negative feelings towards them
Budget Info	30	Most want more information and clarity around the info presented to them. Had specific questions as to where they could find certain information. Wanting more info on their school's budget
Capital Planning	1	Timing
Class size	12	Lower them
Curriculum	11	From go back to basics, to seeing more CTCs
Donations	2	Wanting information on process
Education Centre	5	Questions on why, lease terms and how much
Employee Costs	17	From wanting employee numbers and costs to cutting administrative costs
Engagement	4	Improve transparency, keeping parents informed
Facilities	8	From state of old schools to selling underutilized schools
Fees	15	From equity, to keeping or raising them to what is covered in the fee, including amounts for uncollected fees.
First Nations	3	Funding model and more engagement
Funding	5	What do we need and how can we get more
Fundraising	3	Equity and clearer process
Innovation Costs	4	Spending too much – do we need it - use what we have
Leasing	4	Need to inform public that we do lease our facility spaces and how
Lotteries	3	Looking for guidelines/equity
Noon Supervision	3	Looking for numbers and services provided
Operational Costs	7	Looking for more detail of costs and suggestions for thought
Operational Review	5	Looking for business audits
P3 schools	1	General question
RAM	1	Looking for the RAM review

Area IV parent:

"You are all very capable people and I have tremendous respect for the people and their good work. I don't think we are going to come up with any ideas that you haven't already considered."

Shared services	7	Suggestions – can CBE do shared services
Special needs	10	Concern about funding and how it works
Stewardship	1	Concern about waste at their school
Strategy Plan	2	How is budget and HR linked to it
Technology	12	From costs to increasing more technology to reducing it
Transportation	14	From our process to alternative programs to concern that classroom dollars will be used to cover costs
<b>Total Comments/Questions</b>	<b>208</b>	

## Budget Engagement by Themes

Theme / Source	Area	Comment(s)
Administrative costs		
From discussion	Area I	Find efficiencies in your satellite areas.
From discussion	Area I	How much has central admin cost increased compared to school costs?
Alternative programs		
From discussion	Area I	Can Alternative programs become Charter Schools?
From discussion	Area I	Parent noted that alternative programs are a competitive advantage for us.
From discussion	Area I	Apart of transportation and/or including it – do Alternative Programs cost more?
From comment cards	Area II	Focus on community schools vs charter schools.
From discussion	Area II	Forgive me if this is critical, but it's not meant to be, I am from Manitoba. In a city where so many communities don't have schools, the CBE offers so many choices, why does the CBE feel it is necessary to provide all these options when so many students can get in or have a school close to home?
From discussion	Area II	Why does Alberta Ed deny some Charter school requests because of the CBE's alternative programs?
From comment cards	Area III	People who want their kids to go to special program schools should pay the full busing fee for all children or get rid of special program schools (science, TLC, etc.) and put kids in their own neighborhood schools. Cut back to what you say is your central purpose "Public Education". This cuts busing costs and makes community schools better with teachers/parents/students.
From comment cards	Area V	The CBE needs to start focusing on a standard, good quality "regular" program for all students in all areas instead of transporting children all over the city for special programming (science, arts, languages other than English/French). If parents are concerned CBE programming is not a good fit for their child they are free to transport them to Charter Schools or pay for private school.
From discussion	Area V	Would like to see renewed focus on the regular program.

From discussion	Area V	At what point do you prioritize one good standard education for every student. (comes from a mixed school that has a [REDACTED] program which seems to be getting all new books, equipment, classroom space while regular program charges for small things i.e. \$1.00 for a bug catcher for field trip.) Alternative program has large classrooms while regular program students are in portables without washrooms. Students have to bundle up in the winter to use the bathrooms. Creates an us vs them mentality. Strife between programs – most “regular” parents give up.
From discussion	Area V	Feelings of inequality on services with alternative programs at same school – especially when paying fees.
From discussion	Area V	Administration of all these alternative programs have left the core program thin.
From discussion	Area V	As a parent I didn't necessarily want to send my child to alternative program but did so because local school's regular program was full and my child would have to have been bused out. So put my child in alternative program at local school so my child could walk to school.
From discussion	Area V	Are any of the new schools going to be offering alternative programs?
From discussion	Area V	Where does the priority lie? Between regular core programs and alternative.
From discussion	Area V	At our school the regular program has way more students than the current alternative program creating increased tension at the school and community as we are at that space threshold. Do not want or need the alternative program. Need space for regular program.
Budget Information		
From discussion	Area I	Question around how the CBE uses amortization.
From discussion	Area I	What is the budget this year?
From discussion	Area I	Where is the extra funding that we received for the .5 teacher this year shown in the chart?
From discussion	Area II	Clarification on 10 cents being bricks and mortar only vs. what is in the 66 cents?
From discussion	Area II	What is the “reallocation of existing budgets”? A large range of student enrolment increase was provided – what number do you go with? How do you come up with that projection?
From discussion	Area II	Does the CBE submit any of the information to the government prior to their budget announcement? How does the government decide how much to provide?
From discussion	Area II	If you're not sure the province will fund enrolment, how do you know if the government will fund any new schools in Calgary?



From discussion	Area II	How do you manage your deficit every year? Does it go into a larger pool that you have to accumulate?
From discussion	Area II	How many budget meeting have you had across the city?
From discussion	Area II	Where did the reserves come from?
From discussion	Area III	Where can I find detailed budget numbers? How granular can we get for this year?
From discussion	Area III	Parent finds it very intimidating to fill in the on line budget comment form.
From discussion	Area III	What does the FTE ratio at schools mean?
From comment cards	Area IV	Please install the language program into the CBE website so people can read and answer in their own tongue and feel more comfortable with communicating.
From comment cards	Area IV	Where are expenses such as these included in the budget: \$18K CASS memberships? Grant to Education Matters?
From comment cards	Area IV	I think that this was explained very well but I didn't understand everything (e.g. the Galileo project), and it would be nice for students like me to know more about bills, fees, school things, etc. so we can give our opinion too. – a student
From discussion	Area IV	What is the purpose of tonight?
From discussion	Area IV	I can't answer the questions as I don't know the budget materials. Don't know who to contact to answer my questions. There is no vehicle to have these conversations. Therefore, as a parent and taxpayer I am becoming less trusting. Not clear what all the info on the website means.
From discussion	Area IV	I have a financial background, and am able to pour over documents and know that you can't turn on a dime. Request for input point towards looking to what the CBE needs to look like over next five years. I am looking for CBE's pain points with current budget and would like to know of current dilemmas.
From discussion	Area IV	How sustainable is next year. What can you cut for next year?
From discussion	Area IV	Looking at data provided, I can cut 27 million easily but I don't know what the impact would be.
From discussion	Area IV	When looking at what is reaching the schools it very difficult for us to evaluate.
From discussion	Area IV	Total for Board and System Admin adds up to 35 million. If you look at the previous slide it adds up to 52 million. What is the difference?

From discussion	Area V	Where does English language support fall in the buckets?
From discussion	Area V	Do the Noon Supervision and ISM fees go into the RAM?
From discussion	Area V	Are you accountable for reporting on fees for service?
From discussion	Area V	Does location and school administration play a role in distribution of funding?
From discussion	Area V	I feel powerless, since the principal has the power to spend the money the way they see fit, but parents don't agree. Where do you take your concerns?
From discussion	Area V	Confusion around RAM and noon supervision at the school. I calculated the number of students staying for lunch times the fee, there was over \$10,000. But this was not what was shown in the RAM.
From discussion	Area V	Per student funding – graph shows from 2012 on – curious has to how our funding looks over the years. Are we keeping up with what our students need now as from 10 – 15 years ago?
Capital Planning		
From discussion	Area II	How often does the CBE revisit its new school priority list?
Class size		
From comment cards	Area I	Reduce class size.
From discussion	Area I	Class sizes and classes should not be affected. High schools should not be affected (again!!)
From comment cards	Area II	Class size – first and foremost we need to keep our class sizes as small as possible. Every child requires one on one time and with multiple children in every class with special needs the teacher is being stretched even thinner.
From comment cards	Area II	There must be class sizes in high school core subjects that are less than 35 students per class.
From discussion	Area II	I asked some 13 year olds – Class size was the number one issue for them. Although they liked their new CTC kitchen.
From discussion	Area II	I wanted to speak to North Haven School - we have all the things that make parents crazy – 40 kindergarten kids using the library as classroom – teaching in staffroom, classes taken from before/after school care, lead paint on doors. Also have the most amazing staff who came in to move things around and view situation as a challenge. I want to encourage parents to go to parent council meetings and understand issues and work with school – talk to MLAs.
From comment cards	Area III	Stop cutting funding to high schools. They have no more room to cut. Classrooms are huge.

From discussion	Area IV	Parent of a Kindergarten student: What is an optimal student/teacher ratio? Where does the CBE stand?
From discussion	Area IV	Are we getting funded for the class size initiatives?
From discussion	Area IV	Hearing that you want cuts, yet you are maintaining growth. How are you going to address class size averages?
From discussion	Area IV	Protect the classroom.
From comment cards	Area V	Class size ↓ School Improvements ↑ Inclusive supports ↑ Per student funding? ↑ or ↓
Curriculum		
From comment cards	Area I	Bring back handwriting.
From comment cards	Area II	Job creation Trade school development
From discussion	Area II	I find the inspiring education document has really changed education profoundly and my kids don't seem to be performing at a level that seems to be acceptable. How are we managing this?
From comment cards	Area III	I think what you guys are doing to make high schools more flexible is fantastic. I wish it would have been that way a few years ago when I was in school.
From comment cards	Area III	Top priority → Literacy → Reading. Continue personalized learning – I think this is key for our students. It would be good to see more funding directed to high needs schools. They need more support → more challenges for those students than in affluent areas.
From discussion	Area III	Utilization: How many opportunities for high schools students to study in the afternoon? Or have several shifts?
From discussion	Area III	Would like to see more CT centres as this is a fantastic opportunities for students who are not planning to go university. Can become self-sufficient for employment. Also CT provides earning power while they put themselves through higher education. Parent sees huge amount of potential in CT centres.
From discussion	Area III	What about offering business courses in schools – ways to support the CTCs in Calgary giving students a better foundation for self-employment.
From discussion	Area IV	Is there a cost saving in running similar programs together – i.e. Spanish program aligned with the French program in the same area. Keeping language programs together.

From discussion	Area V	Priorities – class room teacher and focus on the core.
From discussion	Area V	Need to go back to the basics. Kids are first and their environment and the people that work with them.
Donations		
From discussion	Area I	To reduce constant fund raising, is there the possibility to set up a non-profit foundation so that I can donate a lump sum. Willing to make donations to needier schools. Have foundation give suggestions for donation amounts and receive tax receipts.
From discussion	Area I	Wasn't aware that there was an opportunity to donate directly to the CBE and schools. Where do I find this information?
Education Centre		
From discussion	Area I	Which service unit does the Ed Centre costs come from?
From discussion	Area I	Why does the CBE need to be downtown?
From discussion	Area IV	How much does the building downtown cost?
From discussion	Area IV	Where did you find the 16 million lease cost for this year?
From discussion	Area IV	What about the building downtown? Can you move?
Employee costs		
From comment cards	Area I	Wage Freeze across the board.
From discussion	Area I	How many people is the 78% of costs?
From discussion	Area I	Targeted budget for the teachers' pension – is that cost included as part of your total budget?
From discussion	Area I	Is the increase for teachers' salaries built into next year's budget?
From discussion	Area I	Are wage increases build into system growth and new schools?
From discussion	Area I	How do CBE salaries compare to other boards?
From comment cards	Area II	When is the ATA collective agreement due to expire? - pressure on teacher wages and impact to budget Class sizes and teacher quality are paramount.
From discussion	Area II	I am curious about the 10 cents that goes to supports such as aides, etc? Has this historically been the same? As you know these populations are increasing so has the funding been increasing in proportion?
From comment cards	Area III	Need to reign in your collective bargaining.
From comment cards	Area III	Cut costs at support services units (sorry) but there are too many admin things going on.

From comment cards	Area IV	Staffing – no one wants to cut teachers, but looking at admin and executive salaries -
From discussion	Area IV	Of the 10 cents for School Supports – how much of the 10 cents is for the retirement fund and what are the actual dollars?
From discussion	Area IV	Greatest cost is wages and benefits – what have you built into budget? Have you built in collective agreement costs?
From discussion	Area IV	Largest cost is staffing. Understands that ATA and other unions are handled differently, but what about the group of people not covered by a collective agreement? Traditionally in times of austerity, these salaries do not go up. When looking at the average – quite high. \$250,000 in the Chief's office shows 12% increase in salaries.
From discussion	Area IV	Value the work done by administration but when you look at the expense sheet – lots is spent on salaries.
From discussion	Area IV	I am not a CBE employee / nor related to one. But CBE should not be looking at cutting teachers. In fact their work load has increased due to increased class sizes and initiatives. Are their salaries in line?
From discussion	Area IV	Looking at the wages outside of the schools – you have a lot of well-paid salaries downtown. How do these compare to peer organizations? Will you participate in the sunshine list? How come organization charts are not available? Would like to see school budgets put online.
Engagement		
From comment cards	Area IV	Where do we want to go? How are you/we going to get there? How will you/we know that we are there?
From comment cards	Area IV	Minister Eggen recently mentioned that school boards have responsibility for “transparency and careful, careful expenditure”. How will CBE meet these challenges? If large chunks of costs cannot be reduced then oversight/control is key. Especially for travel costs, etc.
From discussion	Area IV	Is part of tonight a renewed consultation with the public?
From discussion	Area IV	Need to improve transparency.
Facilities		
From discussion	Area I	Why do new parents have to go to the Kingsland Centre? The downtown location would be more convenient.
From comment cards	Area II	Parent from North Haven Elementary School doors need paint; - why not part of the one-time \$17 million government (revenue).

From comment cards	Area II	Is Arts (music on the upgrade/maintain schedule?) i.e. piano needing to be replaced.
From comment cards	Area II	Differed maintenance – inner city aging Schools bursting at seams. (Rosedale/Capital Hill all in area)
From comment cards	Area II	Portables “may be as old as the school” – or me
From comment cards	Area II	Sell old school facilities in areas with low student population and use the money to build new schools.
From discussion	Area II	We have a lot of inner city schools bursting at the seams in both age and population – at capacity – we focus a lot on the bright new shiny schools but don’t focus on the old ones. Is there a way to push the government to fund the deferred maintenance for existing schools? This could also be a job creation program.
From discussion	Area V	Aesthetics of classrooms – terrible in some schools – would like to see money earmarked for maintenance and improvements – the environment is the second teacher. Our school had heating and lighting issues, not to mention small windows in non-classroom areas that are being used as classrooms.
Fees		
From comment cards	Area I	Online textbooks. They don’t get wrecked. Add a fee for paper.
From comment cards	Area I	Raise ISM Fees to: Kindergarten to \$20 Full Day Kindergarten, Grades 1-4 to \$45 Grades 5-9 to \$ 140 Grade 10-12 to \$160 This is still lower than Quebec and Saskatchewan.
From discussion	Area I	9 million on instructional supplies - should this be provided by the CBE at all? Is the ISM fee not enough to cover? Have you thought about going digital for textbooks, worksheets, etc? Parents should be charge for the paper if they want paper copies.
From comment cards	Area II	Please keep fees: it is a comfort to know that I am able to provide supplies for students from families who cannot afford pens, books, etc.
From comment cards	Area II	Leave parent fees but make it easier for low income families to access relief.
From comment cards	Area II	Is there a way for the CBE to go back at families that choose not to pay their school fees year after year?  I have heard that there are schools that are asking students/parents to purchase their own copies of books required for classes just like college/university. How does the CBE plan to have enough resources (books) for students?

From comment cards	Area II	I am willing to purchase school supplies for my child but not subsidize the class.
From comment cards	Area II	Re: unpaid/waived fees: there needs to be a way to collect fees from all parents. Children are their parents' responsibility. Add to their taxes (provincial) or collections that must be paid.
From discussion	Area II	I've heard you say you're worst nightmare would be that the government would say you cannot collect fees. What happens if they say this and then don't fund for them?
From discussion	Area II	Heard that there are 3 boards that are planning to eliminate fees next year, is this on the CBE's radar? Can you decide that fees shouldn't be charged to parents?
From discussion	Area II	There are schools that don't charge ISM fee and expect parents to supply their own child's supplies often to the tune of more than their share.
From discussion	Area II	Hindsight on decision – for me school fees are an issue of equity – for parents with multiple children September can be more expensive than Christmas. Why wasn't the \$47 million in reserves used to eliminate the \$50 million in fees instead of investment?
From discussion	Area II	Why am I paying fees and book deposits when no books are available?
From discussion	Area IV	I can afford an increase in school fees, and willing to pay more. I don't want to hollow out the inner city schools. I don't want to see some schools at a disadvantage due to lack of funds because school covers fees.
From discussion	Area V	Fees and waivers: During the current economy (recession) how do you handle increased bad debt.
First Nations		
From comment cards	Area I	My priority – To continue funding First Nations, Inuit Metis programing and resources. Action on TRC 94 recommendations.
From comment cards	Area I	I would love to see an open house/public engagement for First Nations, Inuit Metis parents
From discussion	Area I	Is there a different funding for first nations/metis than for public education?
Provincial Funding		
From comment cards	Area II	The one time funding that bought a .5 FTE for SDP supports was money well spent. I hope something like this can continue.
From comment cards	Area II	Tell parents what they need to lobby MLAs for (i.e. leave parent fees/ \$ for new schools)
From discussion	Area II	Do you have in your notebook a wish list for the minister of education or are you just too practical?

From discussion	Area II	We recently found out that playgrounds don't come with new schools. Is this true? And it is dollars and cents for them or some other reason?
From discussion	Area V	\$5 million made a difference at our school. Help with math and literacy. A lot of different needs in the community. What is the point of giving this extra money if it will be taken away next year?
Fundraising		
From comment cards	Area II	Limit how much parent council groups can fundraise to reduce inequities.
From discussion	Area II	How much do you consider the fund-raising monies that schools raise?
From discussion	Area II	How do you keep schools equitable when capacity for fundraising differs?
Innovation costs		
From discussion	Area IV	How much does Galileo and other contracted out services costs. And other technology? What is the cost of learning leaders / teachers being out of the classroom for these programs? Cost of subs for teachers being out of classroom for these programs.
From discussion	Area IV	With Learning Services and Innovation with a \$40 million budget, why then are you using Galileo, outside services, consultants, etc on top to provide a service? It seems like we are spending a lot on learning learners and yet the PATS are not very good – average mark below provincial average. Also why spend on Inspiring Education as it has all but disappeared from the government's website.
From discussion	Area V	CBE needs to look at how it presents itself to parents as during this economy. Everyone is getting back to basics and trying to hold on. Tough times in this province. Go back to basics. Do not need all the innovations.
From discussion	Area V	Last few years CBE has been focusing on being learning leaders in the country and world. Too many innovations and going after awards.
Leasing		
From discussion	Area II	Have you ever thought about leasing underused schools to other groups in the community?
From comment cards	Area IV	How much revenue do we get from rentals in schools for gym with recreation?
From discussion	Area IV	CBE has several buildings throughout the city. Has there been an aggressive approach to leasing out the buildings during non-teaching time? Doing something with the land, monetizing the land.



From discussion	Area IV	Do you track if schools are used after school use? Is there an opportunity to raise funds here while making sure costs are covered?
Lotteries		
From comment cards	Area I	Review of lottery dollars (gaming and casino funds). Maybe restrictions need to be reviewed as to assist parent councils in fundraising efforts to schools. Look at Green Partnerships (solar energy). Why are we not implementing solar panels to reduce energy costs?
From discussion	Area I	Have you considering approaching the lottery board to change their guidelines so that funds can be used for schools?
From discussion	Area I	Concern about lotteries and the equity across the system. Some areas have active parent groups, others do not. Need to be fair to all the children in the city.
Noon supervision		
From discussion	Area II	What % of students use noon-supervision?
From discussion	Area II	Are you entertaining the idea of expanding noon-supervision to grades 7 and 8?
From discussion	Area V	There is misalignment of what we think we are paying for. Like the ratio of noon supervision. We hear of different scenarios at schools. I have two children in two different schools. Very different services provided. Not comparable across the board. Would like clarity around services that I am paying for as there are differences across the system. In comparison to other consumer services I pay for which are consistent in their delivery.
Operational costs		
From comment cards	Area I	Lower printing costs by having middle and senior high schools print at home. Have everything online for parents to print i.e. tax receipts.
From discussion	Area I	What are you doing to minimizing your operational costs?
From discussion	Area I	Would like more detail as to the supplies and services expenses of \$237 million – where can I find that information online?
From discussion	Area I	What are your costs for utilities? How do you manage large contracts? Do you look at efficiencies?
From discussion	Area I	Have the efficiencies of CBE online Fee Payment created any savings?

From comment cards	Area III	Custodial things cost too much as everything has to be done by a specialized person. Someone to fix a sink, someone else to fix something else, the facility operations staff isn't allowed to do anything.
From discussion	Area IV	In the Audited Financial Statements, there is no category for service unit system budgets as shown on the slide. Where are these costs in the AFS?
Operational review		
From comment cards	Area IV	*consider an audit please on overlapping private contractors. 3 roofing companies?
From discussion	Area IV	Has there been a business audit of the CBE? An impact assessment identifying areas that can be cut. Believe that there are areas that are hemorrhaging money. Agree not to cut teachers but are there opportunities for improvement. (i.e. accounts payable)
From discussion	Area I	Does the CBE hire external expertise to look at its efficiencies?
From discussion	Area IV	Looking at the core purpose (teaching kids) have you considered a business case in contracting out support services? i.e. custodial care, landscaping, etc.)
From discussion	Area IV	Asking a group of parents a month before a budget deadline to find \$27 million in savings is not feasible. Can't solve all at once. Need to look at a business model for future savings and changes.
P3 schools		
From discussion	Area I	Do the P3 schools ever become full CBE schools?
RAM		
From discussion	Area IV	Apparently the CBE did a RAM review a few years ago. Why wasn't that report made public? Why was a previous trustee denied access to it?
Shared services		
From discussion	Area I	I see that cost savings can be made in administration. Have you looked at shared services with other organizations and the Catholic School Board? Cut back on teacher professional development travel by using teleconferencing.
From discussion	Area I	Are you working with other school boards, organizations on joint procurement?
From discussion	Area I	Schools supports – how many are those are CBE employees as compared to outside services (AHS employees)? Can you share services?

From discussion	Area II	Has the board ever looked at targeting other government programs to fund its needs? Infrastructure, green trip funding, tech and arts funding?
From comment cards	Area IV	Given that students are #1, please work with Calgary Catholic for shared services. Leave politics at the door? If it saves us \$1.00 it is worth it. If you need parents to support by pushing government, let us know.
From discussion	Area IV	Is there an opportunity to work with Calgary Catholic on shared resources/services? i.e. purchasing power.
From discussion	Area IV	What happened with the wrap around services with Alberta Health?
Special needs		
From comment cards	Area I	Increase resources for students who are visually impaired and blind. Braille – E.A.s, O&M, Vision Strategist. Hire another O&M. Needs of visually impaired students can't be stressed enough
From comment cards	Area I	I would love to see this just for parents of special needs students and blind/deaf students.
From comment cards	Area I	I think the question needs to be asked. E.E.L. – maybe implement concentrated clusters or classes as to not stretch resources, aides, and improve overall education delivery (i.e. Edgemont)
From discussion	Area I	Do you get extra funding for students on IPPs?
From comment cards	Area II	Supports – AIDS, OT, SLP etc. - increased children with special needs that NEED these services to give them a chance to succeed. Please do anything possible to increase these supports, give these kids the chance they deserve. Thank you.
From comment cards	Area III	I am still learning about everything but what about supports for kids who maybe have special needs like ADHD or youth at risk?
From discussion	Area IV	What about the children with special needs? Using an aide instead of a teacher?
From discussion	Area IV	Parents of special needs children have wait to for the end of year to see if there will be an aide for their child for the following year. Why does it take so long? This creates tension over the summer – wondering and waiting – and still no answer.
From discussion	Area V	Issue of support to children who are more sensitive, higher needs, anxiety, depression, may increase with the economy and subsequent family issues. Would like to see more support i.e. more school aides or smaller class size.  Is the CBE meeting all the fundamental needs of students?
From discussion	Area V	How does the money funnel into the school when special needs or any other complexity is discovered throughout the year?

Stewardship		
From comment cards	Area I	<p>Lower the ISM Fee. Not because I can't afford it but to put the responsibility back onto the parents to instill values to their children. At my child's school I see a lot of waste as I walk through the hallways. Pencils, erasers, sharpeners, paper, etc on the floor. I don't think that having the school supply everything is teaching the kids to be good stewards (citizenship) of what is provided to them. Pass some of the costs back onto the parents and have them buy the consumable items (pencils, erasers, paper, crayons). This would lower the fees and perhaps help students appreciate and learn to take care of their supplies.</p> <p>The ISM fee could be for non-consumable items like scissors, rulers that stay in the classroom.</p> <p>Using 25 cent notebooks with lines instead of providing the HUGE unlined journals would be more helpful for students in organizing their work.</p>
Strategy plan		
From discussion	Area I	Is the budget tied to the CBE's strategy plan?
From discussion	Area I	Is Human Resources linked to the strategy plan?
Technology		
From comment cards	Area I	Get technology in order to better support students in classrooms. Wi-Fi /smart boards, use of iPads, etc.
From discussion	Area I	How often do you do external reviews? In particular looking at technology. Why is the CBE upgrading Wi-Fi? Wi-Fi should be used only for learning purposes. See too many students using it all day for their leisure. Why don't we charge parents for kids using Wi-Fi during non-classroom time?
From discussion	Area I	How do you calculate the IT costs? How do you buy the supplies and services?
From comment cards	Area II	Technology is not as high of a priority as class size or having resources as textbooks and novels.
From discussion	Area II	I am involved in my school's parent council and we found out we need to maintain the technology we bought. Where is the CBE's investment, I don't see it? Technology is such a bottomless pit. I can understand people saying cut it.
From comment cards	Area III	Maintain technology funding.

From comment cards	Area IV	<p>Please get rid of Galileo as it undermines teacher professional choices, adds to workloads in a year and is too costly for no return. It is also a top down initiative.</p> <p>Get rid of IRIS – actually all computer systems need to be rolled together and made economic and actually effective.</p> <p>Cut things that add to workload – Eye, IRIS, Galileo. All those add ons.</p>
From comment cards	Area IV	<p>When you are hosting sessions and discussing cutting costs. More emphasis on how to increase revenue and classroom support.</p> <p>Less colour photocopies, less duplication of resources (i.e. 3 information systems, IRIS, Google, et all).</p>
From discussion	Area IV	When looking at my school's RAM – I see we are paying for IT tech support.
From discussion	Area V	Over the past five years there has been a huge priority focus on innovation. Now, given our current economy, would like to see more efficiency in the system. We have had it pretty well over the past few years; let's now show how we use what we have spent money on to its best.
From discussion	Area V	Money spent on all the innovation has cut us a little lean on core learning.
From discussion	Area V	Is the CBE using what it has built over the past few years (like D2L) to their fullest potential?
Transportation		
From discussion	Area I	Where does the busing costs fit in the expenses?
From discussion	Area I	Why isn't the total cost of busing paid by CBE?
From discussion	Area I	Can't expect buy in from parents to cover busing shortfall when they see that some buses are not full.
From discussion	Area I	You say that there are about 8 people in transportation. Are you utilizing the many software programs available for this work? Your model is not sustainable.
From comment cards	Area II	Change the right to fund busing for specialized programs. Charge more for students travelling larger distances for particular programming.
From discussion	Area II	What part of the total transportation budget does the 3% represent?
From discussion	Area II	New schools can reduce transportation costs, but what impact does it have on the operating costs?

From discussion	Area V	Will the transportation deficit eventually come out of the classroom dollars? I find it hard to watch one bus arriving each day with 2 students on it at my school for an alternative program.
From discussion	Area V	Enormous difference made at my school with the extra funds we got in the fall for extra staff. Concern that this money will go away to accommodate transportation issues.
From discussion	Area V	Line between what money is earmarked and what it is used for is blurry. Is the system going to cover the deficit in transportation? Transparency gets blurry when it comes to transportation.
From discussion	Area V	<p>Transportation is a big issue – on all sides.</p> <p>Was the increase in services necessary this fall? Lots of money spent on a few.</p> <p>Is shortening the walking distance something we should be spending millions on?</p> <p>This was a very expensive change – not sure people understand it. The complaining of a few cost the CBE a lot of money. How many kids are actually walking the distance to the bus stop? Small children are still being driven to either the bus stop or the school. Older children can handle the walk.</p>
From discussion	Area V	On the other hand, if too many children are driven to school – this causes safety issues in the school parking lots and street.
From discussion	Area V	I feel the pain of trying to organize transportation. Identified that parents do not complete and send in registration forms in on time for planning purposes.
From discussion	Area V	Still concerned that any extra funding will go to transportation of alternative programs after transportation engagement results.

## Staff budget feedback (written comments)

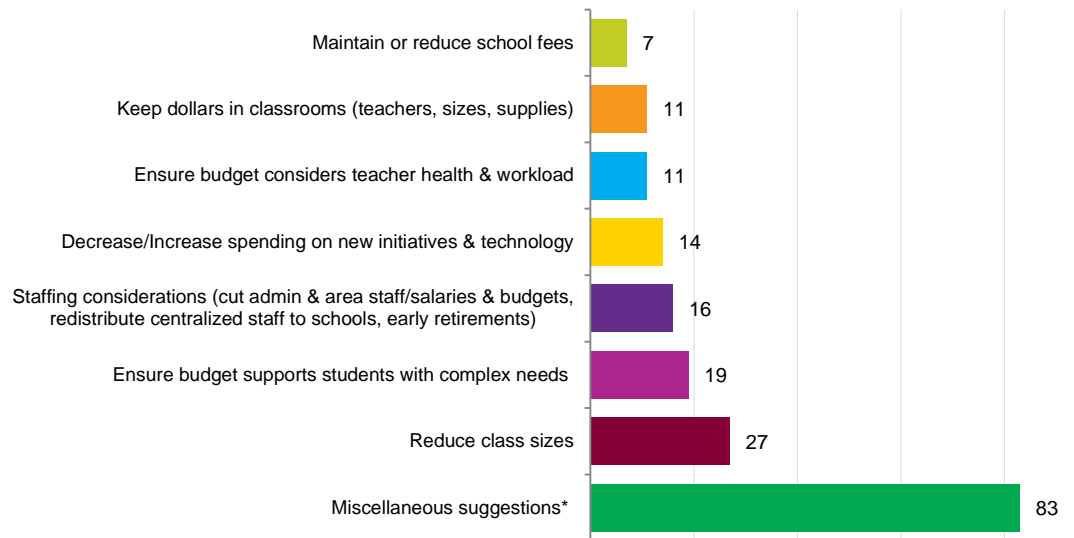
Staff budget feedback was obtained from an in-person engagement session on March 4, 2016.

1.	<p>Does job sharing cost more than having a single employee fill the role?          What impact does the additional cost of benefits/sick time/etc cost?          I think work / life balance is important and a priority, but what does this opportunity cost our system?</p>
2.	<p>Stop:          Over paying PSS – do a market analysis and you will find a significant discrepancy (10 month employees)          Management (exempt) staff supporting PSS staff Psych, SLP – paid significantly higher than ATA management/leadership positions. Why?          Start:          Ascertain the impact of Area/System structure – are we using our resources in the most efficient way? Effectiveness?              Examine every position – ‘value added’          Do we have ‘historical’ rules and structures that no longer meet the CBE Three-Year Ed plan/priorities?              Idea:                  Post frequently asked questions              Question:          What was the wisdom of using the entire ‘surplus’ for additional staff →schools → change management? Sustainability?</p>
3,	<p>Closing gap:          Publish some of our teacher created materials for profit (such as Edmonton Public has done).              Government should not fund private schools.              Put transportation for choice programs in the hands of the parents.          Private only funds transportation for special education and communities without schools.          Charge competitive rates for school rentals.          Is there a way to make a less costly balance between bids for facilities maintenance and quality control (trucks we don't have)?          Publish the dollar numbers per kid on what we spend and what it actually costs (parents think they are paying the costs).          CBE continues to fund some catering. Can we completely eliminate that or is it only a drop in the bucket?          Could we show how much costs that go into ed costs .e.g. how much per hour a kid costs?</p>

4.	<p>I'm guessing that being part of a large Metro means more students (&amp; \$\$) get diverted from CBE than other jurisdictions. Is this reflected in Inclusive Education funding to CBE?</p> <p>I'm very concerned about services to students with vision loss. Over the last 5 years we've had reductions in ATA FTE. We are a skeleton crew and working on fumes. What can I do to protect positions? In each of the last five years there have been cuts. Current data shows that blind people are greater than 80 percent underemployed if employed at all.</p>
5.	<p>Do not unfairly target well attended alternative programs through higher fees. It is not always simply a choice of a parent saying "I want more than my community school". My children's French Immersion school is the closest CBE school that they can attend. Why should I pay, for example, an increased transportation fee when they are taking the shortest possible bus ride? My gifted child qualifies for GATE but rather than send him for a long cross-city commute he has his needs met through the challenge of French Immersion. At the same time, I think it is reasonable to look at poorly subscribed programs. When the utilization rate is extremely low, is it fiscally responsible to maintain that program?</p>
6.	<p>The single best thing that will have a positive impact on student learning is the reduction of class sizes at all levels.</p> <p>I also want to advocate for greater support for special needs students.</p>
7.	<p>Regarding how the money is categorized (e.g. in-school spending vs centralized spending), is that legislated or do we have some leeway? From a pure perception perspective, it would be good if everyone who works directly with kids (e.g. psychologists) was counted in more of a school-ish category. The labeling of the buckets matter, perception-wise.</p>
8.	<p>Future budgets/long range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ reduce or stop increase in staff pay/income levels (if staffing is our largest cost, this makes sense)</li> <li>▪ single change → spend less \$ on staffing – greatest impact</li> <li>▪ Stop growth of unique schools e.g. languages. Build language into all schools (less travel in system)</li> <li>▪ Can't do much in short range – just run deficit</li> <li>▪ Go for change in long range to more sustainable model.</li> </ul>
9.	<p>Learning should not support transportation. To a significant degree parents chose where they live and often chose what program their child attends – therefore they should pay for that choice.</p>
10.	<p>Based on the CBE values that students come first, I don't think that students with visual impairments needs are being met. Out students who use braille are currently getting visits from a vision strategist (braille teacher) once a week. An EA brail assistant cannot replace time from a trained teacher. It would be interesting to compare how much teacher time is allocated to similar students in other large cities like Toronto or Vancouver.</p>



## Online budget feedback by category



## Online budget feedback

*Note: this was not edited for spelling or grammar. Personal details are redacted.*

1.	Please try to work out a way to make and to keep our free education free. I have four children and every September I go into debt to pay for school fees, transportation, and other 'extras'. As someone who is living on a knife edge in terms of my budget, it is a debilitating cost. I have to cancel or never promise to do other things for and with my children like piano lessons or other trips because of the costs associated with 'Cheque-tember'.
2.	High School class sizes
3.	<p>Top priorities??? If ANY business were run the way the CBE runs, it would go bankrupt. Get rid of administration personnel. 0 based budgeting. But that wont happen since it's tax dollars.</p> <p>Whats your biggest expense? Come on, you know. Salaries! If CBE employees are not IN the schools, teaching sweeping etc, they are BLOAT.</p> <p>Seriously... The people (like me) are putting their hard earned money where their mouth is, and voting with their feet. Ever hear of charter schools?? They LISTEN. Why does the CBE have schools that need to run on a lottery system? Hmm, Perhaps the CBE and their BLOATED bureaucracy, are incapable of teaching the "basics" the way parents want their children taught. But instead of changing, they figure out, even more ingenious ways to squander money. Like busing kids all over the city.</p> <p>Be Practical! If a school is below capacity, CLOSE IT! Move those resources to newer communities that need one. Stop busing kids to support your broken model.</p> <p>END school lotteries! If it's been over subscribed, put more resources and budget towards it! If it's at "capacity" get it MORE. Folks it's really that simple.</p> <p>CBE budget = 1.3Bil. / number of students 115,000 = \$11,304 per child / year.</p>

	<p>If that money was given to parents, who in turn gave it to the school of THEIR choice, how quickly would the "system" respond? It would change overnight.</p> <p>Another fun fact, 115,000 students / 13,000 CBE employees = 8.8, ok make it 9. Do we have class sizes of 9??? Nope. Heck, do we have a class size of 18? (Half the staff could be non student facing at that point). Nope. It's obvious where the BLOAT is.</p> <p>Will it change? Nope. The "system" is only interested in keeping the system going. Good luck with your propaganda campaign.</p>
3.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you for your thoughts and comments. For your information and perhaps in the interest of others I would like to add some additional information to your thoughts.</p> <p>A reality of public education is that schools are built in communities and the size and composition of communities change over time. When we have a lottery system in place at a school it means that we have significantly more students seeking to attend the school than the school has capacity. To manage that unfortunate reality we have implemented some rules related to who can get into the school as well as the lottery mechanism. Everyone in the CBE acknowledges that a lottery is not ideal but we do not control where and when new schools are built. That responsibility resides with the provincial government. Our responsibility is to use the facilities available to us to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>You mention busing. Busing is in large part due to the number of schools that we have that are full to the brim and bursting at the seams. Rather than looking to close schools, we are challenged with efficiently using the facilities that we have available to address the fact that many of our community schools are well above the provincially mandated utilization maximum of 80 per cent. Some are well above. That means we have to bus students to where the spaces are. This is not our preferred model but it is a reality given provincial funding decisions related to new schools and modernizations of existing schools. If new school construction does not keep pace with our enrolment growth, our busing challenges will only grow.</p> <p>You mention getting more resources. Once again, funding for public education is the responsibility of the provincial government. Like you, the CBE is committed to an adequately funded public education system and we advocate regularly with the province related to education funding. We would love to have your support in assisting us in our advocacy efforts and would very much encourage you to contact your local MLA to talk about the importance of public education in the future of the province.</p> <p>A point of clarification on your numbers. Our budget is \$1.3 billion as noted. I would clarify however that the number of Full Time Equivalent positions is about 9,650. Said another way, the 13,000 staff share only 9,650 staff positions. And we will have more than 117,000 students in 2016-17. That is about 12.12 students per FTE. I would also note that the vast majority of our staff are school based. In addition to teachers a schools needs library support, a caretaker, a principal, an administrative assistant, etc. We watch those numbers closely to ensure we maximize the positions available to support students in the classroom. Also, we need to do the payroll, pay the bills, order supplies, maintain the facilities, etc. I think we can all agree those are not tasks that we should burden our teachers with.</p> <p>While I take your point about staffing I would want to point out that the CBE has Board and System Administration costs of less than three per cent. This is among the lowest across the entire province, including charter schools and private schools.</p> <p>With regard to charter schools and private schools specifically, I would further note than unlike those institutions the CBE is legally obligated to take every student. We do not pick and choose. We do not turn students away who do not meet an eligibility criteria. Everyone who registers with the CBE gets a top notch education and our student achievement results back that up.</p> <p>I imagine that we will agree to disagree on a number of points. Nevertheless, I trust that this additional information is of interest and use.</p> <p>Thank you again for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.</p>
4.	<p>CBE paid \$600,000 to Galileo last year - this is a complete waste of money. Please teach our children math, science, reading, writing, social studies, art, music. Please stop using this company for their ridiculous math experiments - our children need an education to succeed in the world.</p> <p>Please continue to support children with hiring teachers who care, are interested in the child's well-being, but ensure your budget has enough teachers. Children cannot learn in classes with 36 children, children with IPP's, gifted children, open classrooms where there is no discipline or structure. Give up on the "inspiring education" trend as we all know it is not working.</p>

	<p>Our school cannot afford enough text books for the children to bring home to work on questions or to study from. Please fix this, and give up on the iPads, excessive online and computer work done in class. We all know (speak to any paediatrician), that it is detrimental to children's health.</p> <p>Start assessments on children earlier than you do now. Some children are reaching grade 4 and 5 and then find out they have a learning disability - parents want to know if their children need assistance or have problems early on so they can be addressed, rather than trying to push each child through giving them false marks and finding out things later when a lot of curriculum and learning has been missed.</p> <p>Allocate your scarce resources to hiring more teachers, having textbooks for each child in subjects where it is necessary, reduce the number of options in middle school/junior high school (i.e. fashion, etc.), improve the science and math curriculum and get our Alberta children back on path where they can succeed and excel on the world stage. This is not happening and the results show it.</p>
5.	<p>Stop specialty programs and get back to basics.</p> <p>Stop capital waste in building K-4 tiny schools and get back to K-8 and 9-12 schools with the shared administration cost savings that is realized by such an approach.</p> <p>Cut CBE head office budget in half and redirect to schools.</p> <p>Cut bureaucratic management so that managers can get a grip on what is actually happening to kids.</p> <p>Start tutoring systems.</p> <p>Consolidate any and all electronic portals into one - all schools, teachers etc. use D2L/Homelogic etc. differently and it is beyond frustrating for everyone. To assign homework on D2L that only the student can see (parents can't see it on their own), to not provide textbooks so that parents can support their kids in the manner in which they are familiar, is removing parents from the system in a big big way. Negative optioning homework is crazy! Hand it out in class, have the parent sign it - these are tried and true methods. Parents have time to help their kids with homework - they don't have time to hunt it down online when it may or may not be there then try to assist without any context or a textbook.</p> <p>Utilize your resource for revenue - renting classrooms at reasonable rates, gyms after hours, making it a community resource would be beneficial to the public.</p> <p>The single biggest change is reduce class sizes because right now kids are being held hostage by both sides trying to prove a point.</p> <p>That the resources ARE scarce and should be directed to students and those who work directly with students - not trustees and those who work directly with trustees.</p>
6.	<p>In crafting the 2016-2017 budget, if the CBE is looking to make cuts, the first of those cuts should be taken from the new initiatives budget.</p> <p>New initiatives make absolutely no sense if teacher staffing needs to be reduced.</p> <p>Teachers and front line staff need, at the very least, to maintain at their current levels.</p> <p>I understand that wages are a fixed cost. But where staff resources are allocated should be defined by the budget, and it should be open to feedback by citizens. As an example, the number of certificated staff who work at the headquarters could be reduced and the number of teachers in schools could be increased by sending those people back to the classroom. Another example is that by reducing learning leaders and sending these people back into the classroom, the ratio of classroom teachers to classroom students would be improved. Neither of these ideas would cost more (or less) money, but they would have a big impact on improving the working conditions of teachers and the learning conditions of students.</p> <p>My other suggestion, as a parent of a child who is coded as special needs, I believe that accountability is very important. For example, the school my son attends receives additional money based on his special need. However, the school didn't allocate any additional resources to my son or his class (and the teachers didn't even know he had an IPP, but that's not budget-related). Having each school publish their budget would be very helpful in ensuring that money is spent in accordance with the intended allocation.</p>
6.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you for your note. I thought a bit of additional information might be of use to you and others related to your comments.</p> <p>There are indeed some certificated (teachers) staff who are not directly in the classroom. I think it is important to note that those centrally hosted teachers are a resource to the whole system and are sent to</p>

	<p>specific schools when those schools are facing unique and different situations. For example, a school might have a new student with unique learning challenges which are beyond the knowledge of the school-based staff. By having expertise available centrally we can send that expertise where and when required to support our students and their learning. We believe this model is both cost effective and supports student outcomes.</p> <p>With regard to Learning Leaders, those are individuals, in schools who take on additional responsibilities in addition to their teaching responsibilities. We know that the quality of teaching that takes place in the classroom is one of the biggest contributors to student outcomes within the school system. Our learning leaders work with their teacher colleagues to improve and grow teaching practice. This too we feel is good for our students.</p> <p>With regard to students with unique learning challenges, our Resource Allocation Method is how we allocate our scarce resources to our schools. It was not the intention within the RAM that dollars would be specifically attached to one child. Said another way, we use the coding attached to students as an indicator of the complexity in the school community. A school community with a more complex student population tends to attract more dollars than a school with a less complex school community. Through this approach we attempt to ensure that the RAM allocation will meet the learning needs of the entire school community. If some students require additional supports the principal can provide those supports through their RAM allocation. Other students may require few supports. With scarce resources it is always a balancing act between needs and funding. We believe that each principal is best positioned to make those decisions related to how the resources provided to them are best deployed in support of students and their learning. To reiterate, no dollars in the RAM are specific to a particular student.</p> <p>You may also be interested in knowing that the funding we receive from the province is not attached to specific students. Rather, the provincial allocation is designed to meet the needs of all students within the system.</p> <p>Thank you again for taking the time to provide input and comment. I very much appreciate it.</p>
7.	<p>Most important to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure students with severe special needs are supported</li> <li>2. ensure transportation needs are met in priority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) providing transportation to designated schools as needed</li> <li>b) charging MORE for transportation for ALTERNATE programs, those parents are choosing the alternate program, they should pay more</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
8.	<p>Always cut the bureaucracy first. Schools need as many teachers as possible</p>
9.	<p>I would like to see classes restructured by learning ability. We are now seeing children sitting in the classes doing nothing because the teacher spends most of their time on the slower learning children. There can be larger classes of faster learning kids and smaller classes of slower learning ones. We do not need smaller classroom sizes. I would also like to see no computers (unless its a computer class) and no cell phones in any class. Children should learn how to do the basics without mechanical help. I would also like to see no 'graduation' ceremonies for each and every grade. What is the point? Everyone passes so there is no big accomplishment and its a waste of time and money. Is this what we pay teachers for? Less time off for the teachers, seems like every Friday before a stat Monday is off, lots of 'professional days' etc. They can have these during the summer vacations breaks where they are already being paid for not working. Perhaps we should pay teachers by the hour since they work far less per day and per month than the average person yet make full time wages. Kids are spending far less time in the classrooms and why every Friday afternoon off?</p> <p>Children are graduating without the proper abilities. This is a public system and should be available to everyone and not just a few. We are pandering to parents perceptions of some children 'feeling bad'. The system is to teach our children, to educate them and prepare them for the future. It has now become a glorified daycare that taxpayers are paying for. Public systems are just that, public. Why do people have to pay fee's? For what?</p> <p>I would also like to see an end to these school sponsored trips out of the city, province and even the country. It is not the schools job to provide vacations to the some of the children (if your parents can't afford it, you can't go). The teachers are still paid and extra teachers are needed to replace them while away to teach the children that cannot go. Field trips are fine, during the day. Not these that we see now. Once again, its a public system and not only for some children. School sponsored? How does that work?</p>

9.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> I appreciate your perspective and would like to provide some information regarding a few of your suggestions.</p> <p>You indicated a desire for ability grouping of students. While this may seem efficient, research continues to reinforce that eliminating grade repetition and avoiding early tracking contributes to success and high school completion (Equity and Quality in Education, OECD 2012). Some research would support your suggestions that we do not need smaller class sizes, however what cannot be underestimated is the impact of the teacher. Quality teaching is influenced from professional learning of staff regardless of when the time is provided. There are contractual obligations that determine the assignable time of a teacher as well as expectations for professional learning. You are correct that, at times, this might occur on a half day in the week but be assured, the number of hours students spend in school is actually determined by Alberta Education. Students in Grades 1 – 9 receive a minimum of 950 hours of instruction and high school students receive a minimum of 1000 hours of instruction annually.</p> <p>You might be unaware that in the province of Alberta there is a focus on High School Redesign. The goal is to actively engage students in learning at school and expand positive partnerships with industry. This ensures there are multiple ways for students to experience success in high school that will lead them to success in post-secondary or the world of work.</p> <p>You might also be surprised to know that off campus learning or overnight eldtrips are most often paid for by participating students. This could be direct payment by the parents/guardians of students or through fundraising. At times, fees pay for these experiences beyond the classroom as well. The Calgary Board of Education has a rigorous process for reviewing all educational travel. Teachers make a direct link to the outcomes in the program of studies and how students will be evaluated as the result of the trip. Often these trips occur over Spring Break or include weekends. Teachers give of their own time to plan the learning opportunities, support fundraising and supervise the trips.</p>
10.	I would recommend a wage freeze for union and non-union staff rather than laying off people like previous years. Admin Staff shouldn't be targeted for the budget cut.
11.	I just want to stress that support staff at the CBE are equally important as the teachers. Without support staff, teachers won't be able to allocate their time to be full time teaching.
12.	Please don't give the teachers anymore raises they already make way to much to work what is essentially a part time job. Hundreds of thousands of Albertans are losing their jobs atm and the ones that still have jobs don't get every summer off with pay.
13.	<p>As diversity in the inclusive classroom increases, teachers need more ELL and EA support to be able to provide meaningful learning opportunities for as many students as possible.</p> <p>Increased support from Professional Support Staff, so that more students with behavioural and learning challenges can benefit at as early an age as possible.</p> <p>Reduced class size.</p> <p>New teachers could benefit from courses in their degree program that prepare and educate them for working with students with high needs, regardless of which specialty they choose.</p>
14.	<p>If students come first, why are we still dealing with huge class sizes in high school? English classes continue to nudge 40 students per class, which is obviously untenable when it comes to getting useful work done with the kids or providing useful feedback on assignments. For example, a critical/analytical essay which takes half an hour to mark per student will consume 20 hours of marking time (not one minute of which is considered as extra-curricular commitment) which means timely feedback is impossible; some kids are waiting more than two weeks for their marked papers, by which time other activities have come up.</p> <p>Further to class sizes, at my school, putting 35 kids into a classroom on the third floor is a clear breach of the fire code--even if we set aside the fact that there is no fire escape from any of the third floor rooms--and yet the rooms continue to be packed.</p> <p>The CBE keeps crowing about having its priorities in place for the service of the students and the common good, but as long as our class sizes are unmanageably large and unsafe, I will not believe a syllable of it.</p>
15.	Class sizes at the high school level are out of control. Our school regularly has science 10 and math 10 classes approaching (or even over) 40 students. This is completely unacceptable. I presently have a Chemistry 30 class with 35 students, which makes labs (an essential part of the curriculum) unsafe--both due to the number of students crammed into the lab and due to reduced supervision.

16.	<p>There are too many students in each class. Without a doubt, money should go toward providing schools with more teachers to teach core subjects in order to ensure smaller class sizes. As students benefit from one-on-one instruction and feedback on their work, by having massive classes, the school board is stripping students of one-on-one instruction and thorough feedback. Specifically in high school English, it takes upwards of 30 minutes simply to mark critical responses. Given the fact that many high school English classes now are verging on 40 students, expecting teachers to provide sufficient practice, feedback, and instruction for each student is unreasonable.</p>
17.	<p>I would really like to see High School class sizes to be addressed. There has been a sharp increase over the last few years. In recent years emphasis has been placed on lower division class sizes, and I would like to see action on the high school class sizes as well.</p>
18.	<p>Funding for classroom resources.</p>
19.	<p>The CBE should consider lowering high school class sizes in the 2016-17 budget. This change will have the most significant impact on student learning. For example, this semester I have 39 students in my grade 10 Social Studies class. The sheer number of students prevents the following: effective group work (it is so noisy even when students are conversing about the course material they cannot hear each other talk), teacher-student relationships (I have much less time to speak to students one-on-one and to get to know them) and as a result, personalized learning (this is negatively impacted due to the fact that teachers are more focused on classroom management and do not have the opportunity to get to know their students individual needs).</p>
20.	<p>High school class sizing are completely outrageous these days. With classes averaging between 35-40 students, it makes it impossible to complete all my teacher duties within the scheduled work day, and I am always taking my work home. I feel that I am unable to do my best for my students as I am always bogged down with marking and I am often behind with giving them feedback as often as I would like. Using this money to employ more teachers would be extremely beneficial to both teacher workload and also to the students learning process.</p>
21.	<p>*top priorities for our budget planning as the CBE focuses on 2016-17 and future years?</p> <p>There is an ever-increasing level of complex needs in the student population. Each year we see more students entering school or returning to school with substantial and important emotional and psychological needs. In many cases resources allocated to dealing with these for the benefit of the student and his or her success as well as to assist educators in working effectively with them just are not adequate. This needs to become much more of a high priority. Students who come to us with complex personal needs and issues are valuable members of the population and should be afforded the care and attention they deserve. This issue also impacts the culture of a classroom and school as well as the success of the teacher. A lot of time and attention is being devoted to the spin off effects these issues bring which is a detriment to the education of other students and to everyone involved. Addressing this in a much more decisive way would be a win-win for everyone concerned and would serve to meet student needs well ahead of attempting to fulfill their academic growth needs. It is time to place this issue high.</p> <p>*What single change would have the greatest impact on student learning? Increased funding to schools... and basing the funds on need vs. student population or "area" where the school is situated. More even distribution of resources needs to be done. Some schools seem to have everything and more while others scramble to make do. Some smaller schools have substantially higher levels of needs among the students yet fewer resources with which to address them.</p> <p>*What are the most important things that the CBE should keep in mind in deciding how to allocate our scarce resources? Students in the education system are not a commodity. They are not the product of a business venture. Whatever investment it takes to ensure their success and that they all have the same, fair chances should be paramount and financial constraints second. Balancing budgets and cutting and trimming has been done to the detriment of education for too long. What is necessary to ensure a sound education system for all students and schools needs to be kept in mind, before consideration of a limited amount of dollars curtails that.</p> <p>If we are truly committed to meeting the educational needs of all students this must be obvious in the resources that are provided. Many schools because of their population (size) do not receive nearly enough resources or funding. Some schools because they have a relatively low population are hindered by this even though they may be environments with a higher level of special needs and complex needs. This needs to be</p>

	<p>kept in mind and a new way of ensuring funding meets needs... rather than basing it on student numbers, must be explored. If we are serious about what we say we are!</p> <p>Every school (specifically pertaining to elementary) needs to have a qualified resource teacher/leader. Every school also needs to have enough educational assistants to effectively assist in meeting the complex needs that teachers cannot meet entirely on their own.</p> <p>Budgeting for schools as a process being undertaken by individual principals needs to be revisited. Many principals are not proficient with budgeting large amounts of finances for the operation of an organization such as a school and as well too much may be left to their "discretion" and spending may not be allocated to the most necessary areas.</p>
22.	<p>Make the busing system more useable for younger children. The consolidated busing format in 2015-2016 caused major issues with our family arrangement. It interfered with our ability work, due to the fact that we needed to take public transit to get to school bus. Our family is ok with an increase to the busing user-fee so that the CBE can maintain an reasonable level of busing service.</p>
23.	<p>Teachers should get paid more which should stimulate an enhancement of the teacher pool/talent pool vs. a race to the bottom...</p> <p>with an enrichment of the teacher pool this should then become evident in the success of student learning apart from the resources available (although ensuring a certain standard level of resources available and learning environments should definitely be provided).</p>
24.	<p>High School classes for Social Studies, English, Math and Science should not have 40 students in them, especially grade 10 classes. Class sizes of 36 - 40 students may be kind on board/school budgets but create a stressful and hectic environment that interferes with student learning.</p> <p>There needs to be a real commitment from the CBE to measure and address high school class sizes by putting cap(s) in place to prevent huge student classes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ intimidate students</li> <li>▪ limit student access to teacher support during scheduled classes (simple supply and demand within limited time)</li> <li>▪ significantly increase the teacher assessment/report load (3 or 4 students makes for a 10% increase/decrease in evaluation and communication work)</li> </ul> <p>This is especially important for Grade 10 students who are themselves already making a big and sometimes challenging transition into a larger school environment.</p> <p>The current CBE practice of measuring and publicly reporting AVERAGE staff-to-student ratios falls far short of acknowledging real and systemic over-crowding of academic core classes. The averages mask many classes where an inappropriate # of students end up enrolled with a single teacher guiding/facilitating their learning.</p> <p>Inquiry Learning, Formative Assessment and Task Redesign do not effectively address the disservice done to students who are crammed into a 39 person Science 10 lab with only one teacher, nor do they meaningfully resolve the needs of 38 students taking ELA to get timely feedback on their writing from their one teacher. The discussion environment in a single classroom or learning commons of 40 or more Social Studies students working in groups literally induces anxiety for students (some IPP coded and others not) which detracts from vital interaction and learning simply due to the volume of vocal noise. 37 Math students each needing some help from their teacher have a 10% lower chance of getting the help they need when struggling than the 34 students (still a large class, but one which is less problematic) in another classroom or school district.</p> <p>Personalizing student experiences is a great goal, but stuffing students into crowded classrooms to meet a budget quota isn't going to accomplish it</p>
25.	<p>The CBE should stop spending money on positions in the organization that do not teach. Education should be the focus of the organization since that is the main purpose. So... Less directors, less system principals or system assistant principals, less specialists, and more teachers. At the very least the above mentioned should be encouraged to teach. The single most defining issue (that can be solved by the CBE) is class size. Class size is a reflection of the allocated budget, from the government, for sure. However another less recognizable factor to class size is the management of said government dollars. The CBE could manage the funds better. A teacher makes \$100000 ish, and a director \$200-250000 ish. That is two teachers</p>

	<p>salaries. More front line teachers are needed. Trim the cream at the top. Leaders need to lead by example.</p> <p>On another note: The biggest issue in education is actually the trend of entitling students. Students need to fail, just as much as they need to succeed. Better balance is needed. Still, I am aware that this issue really is not in the control of the CBE and is a bigger decision handed down to the organization by the government. Still, people in the organization could step up and help guide misguided policies.</p>
26.	<p>Special education funding from Alberta Education should be allocated to the student for whom it is designated, rather than going into the school's general budget. Although my child with autism is PUF funded in his kindergarten year, he receives very few services. It confuses me as to how in preschool, with the same amount of funding, he was able to receive Speech or Occupational therapy daily, but now he has received only a handful of Speech services that are not individualized for his needs. It seems that unless your child acts out, he is deemed to not require supports/services and those who internalize their struggles seem to be overlooked.</p> <p>I would also suggest spending less money on technology and more on direct teacher-student interaction and hands-on tactile learning experiences for the younger students. Although it is important to keep up with technology, I think that having an educational assistant in a class is more beneficial in kindergarten than having new flat panel TVs, iPads, Apple TV, etc. With resources being so scarce and too much "screen time" for young children, it seems odd that money is being spent on more screens.</p>
26.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you so much for your budget comments. For your information I would like to provide a little bit of additional information. You commented that the "Special Education funding from Alberta Education should be allocated to the student for whom it is designated." You may be interested to know that Alberta Education does not provide funding specific to a particular student. Rather, the provincial funding framework allocates dollars to a school jurisdiction such as the CBE for what they call inclusive education. The manual can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The process is a little different for Early Childhood Services Program Unit Funding but the result is basically the same. The ECS-PUF funding has to serve the needs of all qualifying students and dollars do not attach to one specific child.</p> <p>If you turn to <a href="#">page 28</a> of the manual you will see how the inclusive education funding is allocated. There is no identification of a specific student. Thus, it is up to each school jurisdiction to allocate those resources to meet the educational needs of all students. The ECS-PUF formulae begins on <a href="#">page 21</a>.</p> <p>Within the CBE, funds are allocated via our Resource Allocation Method (RAM) to schools. School principals are then responsible, with input from the staff, students and the public, for the allocation of those dollars to meet the needs of all the students in their care. Note, the RAM funds schools based on enrolment and student population complexity. As with the provincial funding framework, the RAM does not provide funding for a particular student. In addition to school-based funding and resources, the CBE funds resources at both the Area office and central levels that are available to support the unique learning requirements of students with special needs. Having resources at the Area and central level allow for a better matching of resources to needs.</p> <p>Finally, I would note that the dollars spent across the CBE in support of students with special needs far exceeds the amount of funding that comes from the inclusive education funding. This information is included in the CBE's 2014-15 financial results submission to Alberta Education and is available on <a href="#">our website</a>. This information is also available directly from the <a href="#">Alberta Education website</a>.</p> <p>Once again thank you for providing your thoughts and I hope that the additional information is of some use.</p>
27.	<p>Evanston is the fastest growing community in the city currently.</p> <p>We have hundreds, if not thousands of students taking multiple busses to multiple schools across the city. Bumping up the middle school to a top priority would be beneficial for the CBE, Evanston and surrounding communities.</p> <p>Evanstons population in 2015 was 12,883, growing by a whopping 2,853 residents. It jumped from 37 to #18 on the cities list of biggest communities.</p> <p>We are so happy to have our k-4 school, but I believe the middle school should be bumped up to a top priority of new builds.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Last I was told, Evanstons Middle school was #22 on the priority list. I truly hope we can jump up 19 spots as we did with our community growth.</p>



28.	<p>Continue the Fine Arts programmes - especially Drama - which is the least expensive programme to run at any level.</p> <p>All you need is a space and a teacher who has a passion for theatre and what you get is a safe space that allows students to be themselves, create and explore who they are and who they aren't and express their perception of the world. Students in the Drama room become leaders and team members, risk-takers, out-of-the-box-thinkers, problem-solvers, ethical citizens, entrepreneurs and engaged thinkers.</p> <p>Drama is the single most important and ancient of the arts. Before we had language we acted out what had happened to us, we shared and communicated with our voices and bodies. By our very nature we are born to tell our stories, to provoke thought and to model changes. I was horrified to hear that Drama - of all programmes - is being cut in many schools.</p> <p>Stop inundating educators, parents and students with continued, ongoing changes. Keep the status quo.</p> <p>Look to the teachers on how best to use resources. They know what can and cannot wait. Do not update computers and smart boards unnecessarily. You don't need the latest equipment in a public school.</p>
29.	<p>Continue with Strategists, speech language assistants; contract psychologists (rather than hired as CBE employee); Ed assistants</p> <p>These services are becoming more essential than ever due to the complexity of students and families, that is why, I believe, some of the mentioned positions, should be not be part-time.</p> <p>Review any redundancy of positions in the system;</p> <p>Review each department/area roles and positions; is the CBE using technology to its' fullest.</p> <p>Are there services that can be out-source?</p>
30.	<p>Continue with Strategists, speech language assistants; contract psychologists (rather than hired as CBE employee); Ed assistants</p> <p>These services are becoming more essential than ever due to the complexity of students and families, that is why, I believe, some of the mentioned positions, should be not be part-time.</p> <p>Review any redundancy of positions in the system;</p> <p>Review each department/area roles and positions; is the CBE using technology to its' fullest.</p>
31.	<p>I would like to advocate for the improvement of older schools. While the new schools are much needed, we need to make improvements to our existing schools. Alberta Ed. needs to look at the needs of our community as a whole and not just new communities.</p> <p>Reducing class sizes, and SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS with more access to educational assistants should be our top priority. 1 hour a week of support from an educational assistant in a class of 20 students, 4 who have IPP's, and 5 ELL learners is not sufficient.</p> <p>Increased access to specialized supports and services for complex learners with educational and emotional needs. More access to educational assessments to inform parents and teachers about the needs of the student so we can best support them</p>
32.	<p>Our child is enrolled at [REDACTED] School and our primary concern is class size.</p> <p>The 2/3 split grade has 28 students and one teacher. That does not fall within the CBE goals.</p>
33.	<p>As a board committed to having each student experience success, 'in keeping with his other gifts and abilities' I believe funding needs to be focused on the areas of strengths identification, integration and building of resiliency. If we can support and change the internal dialogue of a young person, building self esteem, self image and self dignity, we will significantly see an increase in positive decision making skills, in a readiness to learn and in their ability to give back in meaningful ways. Over 70 years of research proves that feeling-thought-behaviour is the long term sustainable process of change.</p> <p>In supporting this we need to continue to place funding in the areas of social supports, staffing, hands on/experiential learning and necessary additional curricular resources. Partnerships with like-minded strengths-focused organizations would also be of value.</p> <p>Financial support in the areas of providing breakfasts, snacks and other meals to supply to those students in need with nourishment will also support their learning. Schools should not need to try to seek funding from other sources or staffing these ventures.</p>

34.	<p>Reducing class sizes should be a top priority for the CBE (and not just the "average" class size but the "actual" size of classes in each school).</p> <p>Many teaching and learning challenges stem from large class sizes - with a focus in this direction, teacher burnout could be avoided and student success could be increased.</p> <p>If the CBE is going to continue to have specialists within the board, these specialists should be better utilized/deployed within schools in order to support learning. For example, the science specialist could organize an event with all science teachers in each area on a specific engagement topic. Alternatively, this specialist could gather curriculum or digital resources to be disseminated to teaching staff within schools.</p> <p>24% of the budget was spent on "Service unit supports" in 2015-2016. These services should be evaluated for their effectiveness in supporting learning within schools. Services not adequately supporting learning should be cut in order to allow more budget dollars to be spent on in-school staff.</p>
35.	<p>As a parent with three kids who have gone through the Calgary CBE (they are currently in Grade 11, 11, &amp; 8), the single biggest concern I have had with the quality of my kids education has been</p> <p>New approaches in teaching of elementary math. Which in my mind have severely handicapped kids ability to grasp basic and essential skills setting them up for failure as they move to high-school and university. This has forced parents to co-teach their children from grades 4 - 7. Most parents I have spoken to share this view. The mantra from educators is more philosophical than budget driven but it leads to point 2</p> <p>There is an obvious desire (I assume budgetary) to cut back on / if not to remove the provision of text books from our schools. If asked to prioritize spending I would place the provision of quality get books above a great many things. Aside from a roof, heating, fire alarms and desks I don;t know what would be more valuable to me. Note: If you ask me as a parent, am I willing to personally her 100% of the costs of text books if given the choice... my answer is Yes, show me the product sku on amazon</p>
36.	<p>The Northern Hills communities need a public high school.</p>
36.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you for your feedback. We have received many comments stating this, and we recognize the need for high schools in Calgary's north. However, we don't decide when new schools are built. The provincial government determines where, when and how new schools are built. Each year, school boards submit a Three-Year School Capital Plan to Alberta Education. The plan identifies priorities for new school construction and major modernizations. When submitting our plan, we take several factors into account such as census statistics, projected community growth, travel time and more. We also include modernization requests to upgrade existing learning spaces.</p> <p>Accordingly, the CBE will open Nelson Mandela High School in northeast Calgary in fall 2016. In addition, a new high school for north Calgary is also identified as the CBE's highest high school priority (ranked 8th out of 19 new school construction priorities) in our <a href="#">Three-Year School Capital Plan 2017-2020</a>. Further information regarding how the CBE prioritizes new school construction requests to the Province can be found in <a href="#">section 3.0 of the plan</a>: New School Construction Capital Plan Criteria.</p> <p>We encourage parents and interested stakeholders to let their local MLAs know of their concerns related to adequately resourcing the CBE with new and modernized schools.</p>
37.	<p>Coventry Hills NEEDS a High School already!</p>
38.	<p>I would like to strongly suggest getting a public high School up and running in the northern hills area. There are huge numbers of children that are currently in the elementary school and now moving into the new middle school and that's just in coventry hills, but there is no where for them to go after that other than bussing them to another school which in my opinion is way too far away. There needs to be a high school here where there are tons of kids that would benefit from it.</p>
39.	<p>Please please please build a public high school in the northern hills!! Otherwise my boys will have to take a very long bus ride all the way to Crescent Heights :(</p> <p>We live in Coventry Hills. Our family has lived here for all of my kids school years and we love the sense of community from both Coventry Hills Elementry and Nose Creek School</p>
40.	<p>Our communities (Coventry Hills and Panorama) need a high school!!</p>

41.	We need the north central high school built! It is much to long of a bus ride for these students to go to their designated high school. This needs to be build immediately!
42.	high school for Northern Hills area. Coventry Hills needs a high school so our kids don't have to be bussed so far. Moved here under the impression middle and high school woul be built. Have the middle school, need the high school.
43.	We need a High school in Nothern Hills ( Coventry Hills ) , there are no high schools in the area.
44.	Is there any money in the 2016 budget to build the Northern Hills High School. How come there is no public high school in the Coventry Hills area. The nearest high school for my kids to attend is Crescent Height high school which is 40 minutes bus ride away. How long will we have to wait for the high school to be build?
45.	Please make the Northern Hills High School a priority.
46.	I think a Northern Hills High School shouls be top priority! I have 6 children and having them be bussed accross the city to Crescent Heights is Too far!! There are too many kids up here, there NEEDS to be a high school in our area!
47.	Northern hills is LONG overdue for a public high school. This needs to be prioritized. Our community is larger than Airdrie -- without a high school! Unacceptable.
48.	I would love to see a High School in or near our community of Coventry Hills.
49.	A priority or my family would be the Northern Hills High School. The designated schools for this area is so far away!
50.	<p>1.No class should be above 28 no matter what the grade. At the High School level, my total number of students per semester can go over 115 sometimes. The major problem with that is that I can't attend to my students needs. Second, I still have to put in125 hours to the co-curricular program to maintain my spare. The issue... the time that it takes to mark those extra copies is most of the time equivalent to my co-cirricular hours, therefore ,I am teaching a full load + extra-curricular hours!!!</p> <p>2. CBE has to put more money at the school level into students fighting depression and anxiety.</p> <p>In my 24 years of teaching, I do think that the larger class sizes have contributed to the students stress, anxiety and depression issue. Given more individual time EVERY day would have in most cases helped. Thanks for allowing me to give my input!</p>
51.	I feel that supporting students where they need it is important. Class sizes should be a priority as kids need a certain amount of personalized help. Students with learning challenges should also have funding go to directly supporting their learning and needs.
52.	I want to really encourage the technology infrastructure in the schools. Improving the Wi-Fi to allow the proper functionality of the numerous connected devices is critical for effective interactions. Updating the technology hardware (older whiteboards with projectors to the new integrated flat panels) and updating to the latest SW and services is important. But this technology needs to be effectively used by the Teachers to truly see a benefit for the students. SMART Technologies is a Calgary company and one that the CBE should tap into more to maximize the value for our kids. The classrooms and learning experiences need to closer emulate the real world with the various tablets and laptops that students go home to every day.
53.	One of the top priorities for budget planning should be allocating appropriate resources and support to students in specialized programs, like SKILL and ACCESS. The demographics in these classroom are becoming increasingly complex and the descriptors/placement criteria for the programs do not match the students who are being placed into these programs i.e. programs that are designed for students with moderate cognitive delays are full of students with severe cognitive, emotional, physical and behavioral challenges. The original program descriptors and staffing formulas do not account for the increasing challenges that students face and we are overwhelmingly understaffed. In order to ensure student safety and that basic human rights are being met (i.e. toileting and diaper changing, spoon-feeding, lifts and transfers of students with accessibility issues) it often means that teachers are having to step in and perform the aforementioned tasks that we are not hired to do, and that the ATA has very clearly outlined are not tasks that teachers are employed to do. We are not covered by WCB to do tasks like lifts/transfers, and this puts us and our students at risk. However, if we teachers do not provide these supports, it means that the

	<p>basic needs of students are not being met and infringes on the basic rights that they are guaranteed in the School Act. The CBE needs to ensure that each coded student with a code 43 and code 44 diagnosis is receiving the maximum amount of funding that Alberta Education provides for these students and is putting it directly into classroom staff and supports. Otherwise, we are not doing our due diligence to support students' basic health and safety needs. We also need to establish ratios in area classes like SKILL and ACCESS (TASC and CSSI classrooms have a 1:2 staff to student ratio) and this is absolutely essential if we are going to meet the needs to students and to provide appropriate teaching/learning/working conditions for classroom staff. Our students in specialized placements are being grossly underserved and undersupported. We can be providing gold-standard programs for students with significant special needs if we will proactively staff classrooms with the education assistants and support workers needed to ensure students' basic needs are met.</p>
54.	<p>On your Dollars and Sense page I'm reading a common theme among all your responses - where funds have been allocated they are already appropriately rationalized. I agree, all funds should be substantiated but I thought the point of budget feedback was to explore the potential for changing it since its a big moving system that is difficult to change? While your response of 'provide additional information' are useful, since educating stakeholders (public) on how the budget is spent is the biggest key in this whole thing, maybe there is a common theme here? Budget suggestions should be explored (the reason this form has been released). I'm glad to see that you do have rationalization for the costs and previous direction of budget allocations, I do however hope to see some positive changes backed up by demand (this form and other sources) and supporting relevant research whether that be OECD or a more localized source.</p> <p>Although I do not have any kids in school, I am a spouse of a teacher. I do hope to see teachers compensation increase not only to compensate them for all the work they do, but to also attract strong talent (as OECD supports) and I hope to see some of the other budget suggestions evaluated and implemented where appropriate.</p>
55.	<p>As an Administrative Assistant, financially, I see many scenarios.</p> <p>I understand that parents are subsidized, having been a single mother myself.</p> <p>What I have an issue with, is the fact that parents are subsidized for noon supervision when one of the parents stays at home. Their excuse is that they have small children at home or it is too cold for them to walk. Some of them live a block away. Why do we allow this?</p> <p>Other issue I have is many of our subsidized students leave the country for months at a time. Why are we keeping them in the system and continue to receive funding for them. If they are able to afford to take their whole family abroad, they can afford to pay their fees.</p> <p>It is interesting to say that in the last couple of years, I have had a huge increase in Government Audit on many of our families. They seem to be catching up to the fact that we are supporting families that are not here. Why aren't we doing the same? I think 2 months abroad is excessive but can be managed between breaks. If they leave for more than 2 months, shouldn't we deactivate them and status them as moved out of country?</p> <p>Why are the deposits on instruments and books waived. What is the incentive for them to return them....</p> <p>I can say so much more but those are my initial points of view.</p> <p>PS: Though it seems like I am targeting a group, I am in no way prejudice. I have many friends from many cultures and trust me, many of them have enlightened me to what goes on in their cultural communities. Very eye opening.</p>
56.	<p>This is my first time writing the feedback to express my voices because of my first kid attending the [REDACTED] in the alternative bilingual program.</p> <p>In my opinion, please continue the support of the alternative bilingual program. I don't know how the program was doing in the past but I am happy to let my second kid to participate the program again. In fact, I would like to see the increase in CBE's education budget for the program. It is 2016, our children must learn more than one language so to maximize their potential with such option in many ways. Indeed, I came from a background where I learned more than 3 languages. It facilitates my learning for other multicultural activities as well as understanding the perspective of others. In current digital age, language has become very important in building child's cultural identity, and it is one of the best tools for competing in global markets. As becoming a Canadian not long ago, I see excitement in my children's future and anticipation how they will be succeeded in the program. Hence, this should also be the top priorities for the budget</p>

	<p>planning in my opinion.</p> <p>I am yet to learn more about the budget distribution in CBE. I don't know which programs should be stopped funding, what I can add or should support other program is this: When I see my five-year-old, I also ask myself what will my child be after 5 years. The future is inevitably shaped by the technology and science. It is important for my children to learn about technology and science in different way. Take Google science fair for example, <a href="https://www.googlesciencefair.com/en/">https://www.googlesciencefair.com/en/</a> . I would like my kid to participate this kind of even in the future but how can CBE help? I might not be aware of such program currently running in CBE, a program should teach kids digital coding, help kids get involved in high-tech companies's activities (like Google for non-profit), show kids the possible of space traveling and drone learning, and finally to maximiz e their creativity and imaginary for problem solving of resources' dilemma.</p> <p>Talking about resources' dilemma, the question "What are the most important things that the CBE should keep in mind in deciding how to allocate our scarce resources?" If it is the case, please keep that in mind: any programs use of word "should" must be considered second priority and any programs with "need" or "must" should be considered primary funding decision. For example, basic education first, improvement second.</p> <p>"What single change would have the greatest impact on student learning?"</p> <p>Parents first and school second. It is the parents who care most for their children. Hence, change of parents' perspective toward better education is the greatest impact on student learning. If ask the role of school for student learning? Teachers' quality. garbage in, garbage out, it is that simple. While I was a student, I learned that teacher's quality is the greatest impact on student learning. The time spending of my children's interaction with me is as same as his teacher. Please make effort to find good quality teacher or give teachers opportunity to be better.</p> <p>I thank CBE for giving me as a parent to speak out my opinion about educational spending. Pardon me if I cannot convey my message concisely due to my ethnic background. Finally, Canada! I love you.</p>
57.	<p>My comments are in regards to opportunities for revenue generation and infrastructure use for the CBE. I have worked overseas as an ESL teacher in Asia, and I have seen how different countries approach education, CBE needs to pilot some new ideas. Here are my suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CBE offer in-house out-of-school care at all Elementary schools. This would generate income. They could lease the space to existing providers. My children's school (██████████ Elementary) does this and I think it is a win-win. CBE could alternately run the programs also. Using substitute teachers, practicum students (Education under-grads), or in-house teachers who would like to work extra hours to staff the program. It may also help students to be able to complete homework or put in remedial studying, which would increase the scholastic standards of Alberta. They should also offer day camps for Summer and winter vacation and PD days.</li> <li>2. In the instances of over-crowded classrooms or new communities without schools, CBE should purchase/long-term lease high quality modular buildings. I worked in an Oil and Gas company that housed thousands in this type of structure - it even had a movie theater and a large gymnasium. They are practical and cost effective. These schools could then be moved to new neighborhoods whenever required. And they could be kept onsite even when constructing permanent buildings. Many infrastructure companies (like ATCO) are suffering right now and would welcome the business at competitive rates.</li> <li>3. Another option for overcrowding would be to offer more than one time schedule for schools. For example: Shift 1 - 7:15AM - 1:45PM, Shift 2 - 10:00AM - 4:30PM, etc. This way the school can be utilized by more students. Only 4 hours (incl. lunchtime) would have extra students but the school could schedule easily, ex. when Shift 1 students are in the classroom the Shift 2 students could be in the gym or music room. It would require more staff, but it would eliminate the need t o build a new school (which would also have to be staffed). If students got lockers at the schools then the desks could be used by multiple students each day.</li> </ol>
58.	<p>The CBE should either re-incorporate a standardized cursive writing component across elementary schools AND/OR due to our growing digital age, incorporate a substantial typing curriculum - not as an 'extra-if-we-have-time' but a core part of learning. How can we promote literacy if our children are inept at efficiently communicating the written word?</p> <p>I was startled to learn that my 15-year-old can neither write (cursive) or type proficiently. While in elementary school, he was told by the teacher that they no longer needed to learn how to write because everything is done on computers. Fair enough. Then why don't they learn how to type??? It appears it was taught via random computer games that were not practiced or tested in the same manner that math or language arts is</p>

	<p>taught.</p> <p>I have spoken to a number of educators and parents who agree that something has to be done. There lacks consistency across the city where some elementary schools still value and teach cursive writing and have the students practice it daily. Others that have rid of it completely while high schools have deleted the typing option altogether.</p> <p>There must be standards set in place so that all children across the CBE graduate high school with the skills to effectively write or type an essay, an email, a report, a speech with ALL fingers on the keyboard, not just two.</p> <p>I believe this 'subject' can easily be incorporated without costing another dime. Computers are in all schools. So are typing computer programs. It's just a matter of policy to ensure all schools take the time to teach it and make sure the children are learning it properly. At the high school level, I believe typing could easily be incorporated into the CALM course which is already compulsory. That way there is no concern that a student will miss out.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
59.	<p>I would like to see funding for private schools to go down to the level they were before the last Conservative government increase a few years ago.</p> <p>No further increase (or even a reduction) in the charter and "choice" schools, which cost so much in bussing, fracture neighbourhoods, and result in relatively more students with special needs in regular neighbourhood schools (as many of the specialty schools don't work for students with disabilities or differences)</p> <p>I would like to see a focus on neighbourhood schools, with a generalist approach for K-6 at least.</p>
60.	<p>Both of my daughters currently attend the GATE program at [REDACTED] School; one is in grade four, and the other is in grade 6, transitioning to the GATE program at [REDACTED] next school year. If learning is the CBE's central purpose, then, for my family, I would advocate that funding for GATE remain a top priority; previous to attending the GATE program, my daughters did not have the opportunity to engage in learning at their level and did not want to attend school. They were at-risk. The continued support of GATE is vital for my daughters' cognitive and social-emotional growth.</p> <p>I believe that safe schools and caring teachers who are not overburdened have the greatest impact on student learning.</p> <p>When allocating resources, I think the CBE should first focus on necessities, such as building environmental safety; for instance, I am concerned about the air quality at Queen Elizabeth High School. Poor air quality can affect concentration and also lead to chronic illness.</p> <p>Concerning bussing fees, I am willing to pay in order for my daughters to have the shortest ride possible with a stop that is reasonably close to home. Currently, my daughters commute just over 2 hours daily to attend GATE. This commute affects my family's quality of life and my daughters' opportunities to complete homework, participate in extra-curricular activities, and have down time to be kids. Attending GATE is a necessity for my daughters who did not receive support at their community schools despite having IPPs.</p>
61.	<p>If cutbacks have to be made next year, I'm hoping the CBE's commitment to funding religious schools will be a point of discussion. Parents can be (and usually are anyway), a child's source of religious education and public schools can then be places where all students (especially LGBTQ students), are welcomed, appreciated and supported regardless of their beliefs. It seems to me that more students can then be accommodated in existing schools.</p>
62.	<p>After spending time in the elementary classrooms of my grade 1 and grade 4 student I am overwhelmed by the diverse needs and large class sizes that our teachers are working with.</p> <p>In both classrooms teachers are managing incredibly diverse learning and social needs of 27-29 learners. The teachers spend much of their day managing behaviour and not really meeting the needs of the students.</p> <p>1) Class sizes more manageable - the growing classes is an issue throughout the system and from what I understand of jr/sr high this issue is as big there as it is in elementary</p> <p>2) Increase school supports for exceptional learners. Our school does not "believe" in pull-out support and it leaves a HUGE burden on the classroom teacher to work with kids who have behaviour issues and learning</p>

	<p>challenges. One of our sons has been coded a gifted learner and this has translated into NO (yes, absolutely NO extra support for our son or his teacher). Where is the accountability for schools getting extra funding to support exceptional learners. We have been told that this money often goes to funding the resource teacher to TEST students. We paid out of pocket to have our son tested so that the school can test other students with his funding?</p> <p>3) Fancy programs are not the answer - class size and adequate support for exceptional learners is the key!!</p>
63.	<p>I believe there are several issues within the education system that require addressing that are currently under-funded. Most critically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* School and transportation fees are outrageously high for 'basic school' - not including options, field trips, or optional items, these can and do average \$600 / yr / child for children transported by school bus. While the CBE has a policy that states no child will be left out due to lack of ability to pay, I suggest that by having the fee in the first place, most parents will feel obligated to provide rather than take 'charity', and this limits the educational choices they make for their children and sets up a 2-tier educational system within the public education structure. This is extremely suboptimal.</li> <li>* Better engagement with parents on transportation options before setting up transportation contracts are needed. It is entirely possible alternate transportation options are more accessible to a significant number of parents, and / or that Calgary Transit could provide a feasible alternative with subsidy, to many parents with better route access, than the existing yellow bus contracts. One specific example of ridiculousness is that high school students are barred from utilizing yellow buses, even when a yellow bus stops a block from their house, and goes to an adjoining jr. high school, half empty. The system is inflexible and does not make best use of funds allocated.</li> </ul> <p>Curriculum overhauls are needed, that may have a significant impact on costing of teaching resources. Many schools appear to try to teach the sum of human knowledge from the dawn of recorded history to today, in a time when human knowledge grows exponentially, rather than teaching lifelong learning skills. This is both unsupportable in the long term, and does not prepare students for life success. Teachers are forced to send home hours of homework on a daily basis to cram in this requirement, to the detriment of their ability to teach, student health, and family life. Alberta government surveys from public / employers of whether they feel students enter the workforce prepared have fallen consistently for the last 4 years, and are below 50% as of last survey. Teaching workforce opinions are also low on this item. I believe there is an investment in infrastructure in this old-fashioned methodology and approach that is misplaced.</p> <p>School learning materials are in many cases outdated. For example, in junior high, students work with a 12 year old textbook in some classes, which parents are asked to guarantee the condition of upon return. It appears the CBE is attempting to update their learning materials at parent expense, rather than investing in ongoing upgrade as needed.</p> <p>Support for special needs / special learning is significantly underfunded, and needs review for accessibility and integration into Alberta Health initiatives.</p>
64.	<p>Top priorities should be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ensuring class size reflects provincial recommendations</li> <li>▪ Special education funding should go directly to supporting students and if necessary students should be grouped/clustered in classes/schools where support can have a bigger impact</li> <li>▪ The budget should direct the most funds to the people working directly with students (teachers and Ed assistants)</li> </ul> <p>I would love to see every school operate a before and after care program (similar to the lunch program already in place). It would generate revenue for the CBE, and ease stress for parents needing this care</p>
65.	<p>Hi, as a primary teacher with the board, I would like to see more supports in place for our younger students. We do not have the variety of specialty classes available to older students and we are working with students who have yet to be diagnosed. This puts a lot of stress on teachers to try to figure out how to help these students. Having more EA support, OT, PT, Speech and Language, behavioral support and psychologists that are available for consults and to come into classrooms to actually work with these students is really needed.</p> <p>Also, I would like to see prep time standardized across the divisions. I feel it is unfair for elementary</p>

	teachers to receive 90 minutes/week while many high school teachers receive 60 minutes a day. We have just as much to prep for, just as many meetings to prepare for, just as many documents to complete, just as many extra curricular expectations. Choose a number and apply it to EVERYONE.
66.	Please spend less on technology, do not put radical schools in the regular program unless they get designated as Charter Schools
67.	<p>Spending should be directed towards math and science based programs. The single biggest change that would improve student learning is a return to core math and science concepts. There are too many poor instructional elements part of the curriculum (e.g., algebra tiles) and not enough focus on raw math and science skills. The math and science textbooks have too many pictures and not enough practice questions. Students should also receive marks (percentages) after grade 6. Even after Grade 3 would be fine. Anything the budget can do to redesign the curriculum and select better textbooks will better equip our children to compete in STEM fields in the global market.</p> <p>You don't need to spend more to achieve this. Arguably, you could spend less to achieve this goal by reducing/simplifying extraneous learning methods and focusing on raw mathematics and science skills. Thank you for your time!</p>
68.	<p>In my opinion getting education in nearby residence is the basic human rights which CBE is not fulfilling. Thats why the Kindergarten students have to walk almost 2 kilometer for getting school bus stop in the extreme cold weather and then they have to spend another 30 minutes on the bus which is not justifiable and fair to them. Moreover parents have to be penalized in paying transportation fee.</p> <p>There is a elementary and junior high school within 5 minutes of my residence. We have been living this address for 3 years. I have applied in this school from the beginning .My elementary and junior high school kids are not able to get admission over there and they are compelled in riding CBE bus. Which is not my interest and our kids do not like to ride school bus.They hate it.The funny things is that CBE is made compelled to them for riding the school bus and on the top of that they penalized to the parents for paying transportation fees which is very frustrating and illogical matters.</p> <p>You CBE is not fulfilling the basic needs and on the top of that you have been penalized for paying transportation fees.My concerns is that if you are not able to give admission within nearby residence why are you penalized to parents in paying transportation fee which is not their interest for sending kids in riding bus.We are living in the most difficult situation of the life. If we have \$600 which we made compelled to pay for CBE transportation fee,we would able to buy nutritious foods and able to provide extra activities to our kids which they deserve it.What would be the result if we are not able to provide nutritious foods and not able to provide extra activities to our kids in the future?. What types of citizens are we raising. What would be the future expectations from the kids who are not able to fulfill their basic needs.</p>
68.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you very much for your submission. No one at the CBE wants to charge fees for public education. Fees have been, however, an unfortunate reality in public education in Alberta.</p> <p>With regard to transportation specifically, I would direct you and anyone else with questions, concerns and ideas related to transportation to participate in our upcoming <a href="#">transportation engagement</a>. Once again, thank you for your input.</p>
69.	<p>We have four children in the Calgary public school system, three of whom will be in junior &amp; senior high next year - All attending the designated schools for our area.</p> <p>It was extremely unfair, and arguably unethical, of the CBE to take away the transportation funds that were allocated by the province for families in our area and using the funds elsewhere. In doing so, the CBE placed an extreme financial burden on many families for transportation.</p> <p>Some families at our junior high received yellow bus transport and others did not. Those who did not were forced to pay a significantly higher cost. This is hardly an equitable or fair solution. Would it not seem logical that all students in Calgary pay the same fees to get to school safely?</p> <p>Thanks you.</p>
70.	<p>It's hard for me to talk about a general CBE 2016-17 budget, but I can definitely make some suggestions when it comes to the school that my child is attending.</p> <p>First of all, the facilities are outdated! The rooms are dark, they have a horrible smell to them. The furniture is outdated, not kids friendly and it's not welcoming.</p>



	<p>I would definitely put more emphasis on the library (new books), computers (teach them skills that they are going to need in the future) and physical literacy (kids are not moving enough).</p> <p>I would not cut on art, drama and creativity all at! In fact I'd like to see my child participate more in school performances.</p> <p>Children should also have the option of a school lunch. And I don't mean pizza, mac and cheese and such. I mean healthy, balanced meals. I would be happy to pay for that service. I would be happy if my kid could have a warm meal at school that doesn't have to be reheated.</p> <p>I'm also all for trips! I'd pay for that extra as well. Truly the fees are so small that I don't mind paying extra to enhance my child's experience at school.</p> <p>One thing I don't understand is why kids have so many PD days?</p> <p>Maybe schools need to organize more fundraising campaigns? I guess they need more funding from the government. How much does the government spend on education? How much of the money goes directly to schools? I'm willing to pay more taxes to provide my child with better experience.</p> <p>I hope you'll find this feedback helpful :)</p>
71.	<p>Focus: maintain reasonable class sizes or reduce numbers so that elementary classrooms don't exceed 20-22 students; more funding for special needs students, more resources for special needs students such as EA supports, specialized training for EA supports and teachers</p> <p>Top Priority: more funding and better services for students with special needs, as my child enters Grade 4 she will be going into a PLP class. Although I have accepted this, this is not the educational goal I wanted for my child. I wanted her fully included in a regular classroom, but without adequate EA hours/support and proper training for the teachers, this is not a realistic option. Parents are forced to segregate their children to ensure their needs are met.</p> <p>Single change - if you claim CBE supports inclusion you need the dollars and the resources to do it. Teachers would be happy to have severe coded kids in their classes if they had adequate support. The budget should always be student and child focussed.</p>
72.	<p>Reduce class sizes (by hiring more teachers) especially where there is complexity like high ELL or high low income. If we do not attend to our learners, our workforce will suffer. In the short term it will look bad on our provincial results.</p> <p>There always seems to be money for "downtown or area offices" to hire more people because "we are so busy" I have no doubt that they are busy. The reality is that we are all busy implementing all of the great ideas that people have come up with but which there is not enough time in the day to implement. However, unlike these service units, schools cannot just "hire more people." The people with the contingency will naturally take care of their own situation because that is what they know.</p> <p>All areas are not the same yet we staff them the same. We have the same number of strategists in each area yet the proportion of work is not the same. Why is this? Is it because our marginalized families are easier to ignore than our more affluent or wealthier parents? This is not okay. Budgets should reflect these differences. We just requested support from our area office regarding a student with severe behavioural issues and have been told that the strategist's first available time is April 6! How is this helpful?</p> <p>Area office spending needs to be documented and explained, and shared with principals as a minimum.</p> <p>There needs to be funding that reflects the reality that in some schools everyone pays their fees, everyone can pay for multiple field trips, everyone can contribute to fund raisers, parents can pay for psycho ed or social emotional assessments (which in turn provides more funding to a school to purchase teachers or EAs to support the learner) versus that fact that in other schools partial payment or no payment of fees is the case, few can pay for field trips, fundraising is minimal and no parent can pay for an assessment. Think about the difference in these two cases and what budgets look like as a result. This is not equity. RAM needs to reflect this better as the equity funding does not come close to levelling things out.</p>
72.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you for taking the time to provide us with input on our 2016-17 budget. In part of your comments it was suggested that we bias our hiring towards downtown or area offices, and I thought a little additional information might be informative.</p> <p>Between 2013-14 and 2015-16 the CBE added about 398 full time equivalent (FTE) positions. Of that number, 386, or about 97 per cent, were school-based staff. Of this, 68 per cent of the increase was in</p>

	<p>school-based teaching staff and the remaining 29 per cent were non-teachers working in schools.</p> <p>The remaining 12 additional positions were certificated FTE teachers who were added in Chinook Learning to support those students and their learning.</p> <p>There were some very small ups and downs in our other service units but the net change in those groups between 2013-14 and 2015-16 was zero. Mostly the realignment of existing staff.</p> <p>That means that 97 per cent of the increased staffing was school-based teachers and support staff.</p> <p>We believe that this is consistent with our values of students come first, learning is our central purpose, and public education serves the common good.</p> <p>I thought people might be interested in this information. Thanks, as always, for taking the time to provide input.</p>
73.	<p>The area II meeting I attended tonight at Diefenbaker felt like we were TOLD rather than asked or consulted. There was too little time for input from parents.</p> <p>New schools need to be built modular so that they can be adjusted for student need.</p> <p>Re: technology costs: Policies need to be put in place to limit the amount of data that connected devices can download/upload in a set period of time. I have heard from kids how they are able to download complete movies over the internet at school onto their IDevice or other tablet computers for watching at a later time. Coming from a company that builds and operates remote workforce housing, I understand the cost of bandwidth in relation to other company expenditures and it is one of the highest costs of operations.</p>
74.	<p>I'm a parent of a elementary school student, however I think working on improving the flexibility of high schools is vital. That's super important and something we should continue working on. Properties for the next school year should be improving the schools to keep up with technology and making it easier for kids of all learning styles to learn. I am a mother of a child with severe adhd and he cannot be sitting I a classroom for hours on end to learn it sets him up for failure, we need to be making sure these teachers have assistance in the school to give these kids a little extra help where it's needed. A single change, I'm not sure there is one, but maybe improving technology I the schools. Our society is becoming exceedingly dependent on technology and we need to help these kids and their parents get the upper hand on it. However I think making schooling more flexible is also vital, or even having more supports for the teachers. Keep in mind that schools in lower income districts have different needs than higher income areas, kids at risk need extra help to make sure they have a equal chance at success.</p>
75.	<p>I would strongly suggest that in the upcoming negotiations that the CBE come back in line with the number of PD days granted to teachers. 10 is ridiculous and outrageous when compared to Edmonton Public's 3. If the level of innovation in all the years of teacher PD has left us with the widespread use of the worksheet, I think that PD is a waste of effort.</p> <p>Further that most "PD" occurs in conjunction with long weekends and breaks, how does the public not see these days as just extended holiday? Friday afternoon, early dismissal is another waste of PD... having been a teacher, and being a parent I see well enough that this is an excuse for most teachers to leave early Friday... so every weekend is an extended weekend. Unbelievable.</p> <p>As the employer, for heaven's sake get your monies worth. If you have to have 1/2 day PD do it on Wednesday NOT Friday. Cut the PD days from 10 to 3 and increase the number of contact days by an additional 7 per student... THAT puts the student first.</p> <p>I would add that the cost to families for lost work and child care to coddle teacher who's PD is at best questionable and at worst, a holiday - is too much in the best of times and with the current economy is unbearable.</p> <p>If CBE continues 10 PD days per teacher, you clearly do not have a resource shortage.</p>
75.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. The more input we have the better we are able to reflect the expectations of parents and students.</p> <p>You mentioned upcoming negotiations related to the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA). I'd like to provide you with some additional information. The ATA collective agreement is up in August 2016. The Provincial Government is developing a new collective bargaining process which will move much of the bargaining to a centralized, government controlled process. <a href="#">Bill 8, the Public Education Collective Bargaining Act</a> that provides some of the details of this new approach. We do not yet know what impact these changes will have</p>

	<p>on our ability to bargain items like teacher professional development at the local level. Stay tuned for more information</p>
<p>76.</p>	<p>In crafting the 2016-17 and future budgets, what should the CBE consider stopping, starting, and continuing in supporting each student's success?</p> <p>* Less Teacher development days, I see that whatever teachers are learning is not being implemented - benefit not conveyed to students - less spending, more educational days. Note: I heard one of the teachers saying, "Oh, Friday, we have a break fun day!"</p> <p>What would you suggest as the top priorities for our budget planning as the CBE focuses on 2016-17 and future years?</p> <p>* NO Teacher Salary Cuts. Yet, imposing a temporary Freeze - Merit All CBE employees increases for a year or Two ... I think this will match Alberta economic recovery from current situation.</p> <p>What single change would have the greatest impact on student learning?</p> <p>* Interaction with Other similar schools - A student from School A visiting School B makes them more eager to get back to their home (School A). Note this can be coordinated to alternate with PD days (One PD day for PD and the following PD day for kids development).</p> <p>What are the most important things that the CBE should keep in mind in deciding how to allocate our scarce resources?</p> <p>* Freezing annual Merit increase will enable CBE to hire 2%-3% more teachers to cope with natural expansion in schools.</p>
<p>77.</p>	<p>I am very happy with the Jr. High School French Immersion program that my children attend.</p> <p>However, I am a tutor and a former Special Ed. Teacher with Edmonton Public School Board. I really believe there needs to be more funding allocated to testing students suspected of having special learning needs at a younger age. The Dr. Oakley Program, though great, comes too late in the child's learning career. By then, many of them already suffer from low self-esteem. I feel that money should be put into early assessment in the schools so that parents do not have to pay for these assessments out of pocket due to the long wait times to have the testing done in schools. I believe that earlier testing and diagnosis of learning disabilities would save money for the board in the long term and pave the way for more confident learners, no matter what their style of learning.</p> <p>Though neither of my children have a learning disability that impacts their day to day schooling, on behalf of other children I work with and have worked with, I would like to see more money put into early assessment. Thank you so much.</p>
<p>78.</p>	<p>More funding towards alternative CBE programs. As a parent of a child who needs to be challenged more at school, it is frustrating to have to wait several years on a waiting list to have them accepted in an alternative program to meet their learning needs.</p> <p>Daily physical activity needs to continue to be part of the daily school activities.</p> <p>Reporting to parents on student progress has declined significantly. The first report card does not come home until the middle of the year. There are no comments on this, only numbers on a scale of 1 to 4. It's difficult to gauge the progress your child is making or what support your child needs without teacher feedback.</p> <p>Staffing is the top priority. Having qualified staff that are committed to teaching is top priority. Student teacher ratios must be high enough to provide a quality education for children to get the assistance and enrichment they need.</p> <p>Ensuring transportation to and from school is available and within reasonable walking distance is a necessity.</p> <p>Ensuring children are receiving quality education, enrichment and depth of learning. School is not a daycare.</p> <p>Teachers. Qualified and committed teachers will impact student learning the most.</p> <p>Why do we provide public tax dollars for private education? Individuals who can afford to place their children in private schools obviously do not need the additional funding. Public schools are suffering and especially in low-income areas in Calgary.</p>

	<p>Kindergarten should be consistent across the city. Some areas are provided full day kindergarten and others half day kindergarten.</p> <p>Getting kids to and from school, especially for families with multiple children in different schools is a struggle. Bus stops must be within reasonable walking distance for schedules of modern day families to work.</p> <p>I would gladly pay higher fees if it means better staffing, better quality of education and more convenient transportation. CBE needs to attract and maintain quality staff and that will make the most difference in our children's education.</p>
79.	<p>When thinking about the upcoming school year and the budget...</p> <p>Question 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Literacy Strategy - ensuring that there is consistency around the over arching thinking about belief statements; but not dictating specific programming(ex: Daily 5); ensuring that the literacy strategy also contains exemplars for writing and reading skills for each grade level (so teachers know the target, the program of students describes the target and the SLAs and PATs have examples but CBE needs this clarified for all teachers)</li> <li>- Stop - there are some teachers who have their continuous contract, but....; maybe having principals and APs having round table discussions and creating lists to look for and nonnegotiables (things that could cause not attaining a check for a specific descriptor) would help support the development of a strong CBE</li> <li>-EAs - ensuring that EAs are also evaluated based on a common set of criteria with examples</li> </ul> <p>Question 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- we need to consider Psycho Ed assessments - some schools seem to be able to have many students assessed each year, while others only have 2-3 a year; schools need to be funded based on need I'm not too sure how this happens currently; Also, some schools are not following policies for coding students, which allows them to get more funding, and schools that follow the rules receive less... Seems odd</li> </ul>
80.	<p>As a former resident of British Columbia (Chilliwack School District #33) and Ontario (Simcoe County District School Board) I am angered by the fact that we pay a school lunchroom supervision fee for our children in the Calgary Public School system. School lunchroom supervision fees are nonexistent in both British Columbia and Ontario and significantly less costly in the Calgary Catholic School Board. With two children in elementary school my cost for school lunchroom supervision fees is \$570/year. When my third child enters Gr. 1 I will be paying a combined total of \$855/year. I am thankful that my children are able to attend the school in our neighbourhood, that their class sizes are around 25 and for the good work their teachers and Principals do every day. But the exorbitant fees need to go.</p>
81.	<p>In crafting the 2016-17 and future budgets, what should the CBE consider stopping, starting, and continuing in supporting each student's success?</p> <p>I feel like the following would help the Student and parent vastly in the future.</p> <p>Currently, at least with my child and his school, we have to go to a website that the teacher updates with current on goings in the classroom or assignments or homework. A lot of the time the info is in no particular order and not dated and in many cases happens fairly infrequently... which is fine. Except the fact that due to the infrequency, the website is often forgotten about by the parent and possibly student and therefore looked at infrequently if not overlooked completely.</p> <p>My suggestion to improve this system is to have a program where a parent and/or student can subscribe to get an email every time there is a new item or update put in the "class" website. Included in the email would be the item or update that was added.</p> <p>That way students and parents are alerted as to what may need to be completed. Parents can stay better informed as to what is being worked on in current classes.</p> <p>Parents and/or students wouldn't have to go looking for the info.</p> <p>The info would find its way to them.</p> <p>I have seen "subscription" programs before on my son's hockey teams websites and have found them to be quite helpful</p>
82.	<p>STOP holding catered lunches at hotels when there is space for meetings within CBE properties. Education dollars should be going to education, not to school administration and staff meeting off property with</p>

	<p>expensive meals provided. We spend more on education per capita than anywhere else in Canada so its time someone starts looking at the expenses using taxpayer money.</p> <p>Close schools that are under-utilized to save maintenance and operating costs where kids can be accommodated nearby.</p> <p>Single change with greatest impact is to convince Alberta Government to deliver on Capital Plan. Standing room only for high school kids in core classes is unacceptable.</p> <p>As mentioned, quit living life high on the hog. We all don't work in Oil and Gas and our companies spend appropriately but it seems the CBE wants to spend on comfort and joy over quality education.</p>
82.	<p><a href="#">Dollars and Sense response</a>: Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your thoughts and comments. I did want to provide a bit of additional information related to one of your points. Specifically, it was suggested that we close schools that are under-utilized to save maintenance and operating costs. Our challenge is that we are currently over-capacity at the system level. Our enrolment continues to grow, and we need space for students.</p> <p>If you visit our <a href="#">budget engagement presentation</a> you will note that our current system utilization rate (the red line) is at about 89 per cent across the entire system. With the new schools that are currently under construction we should see the utilization rate drop to around 83 per cent in the 2017-18 timeframe. Keep in mind that still means we have some schools well over that utilization rate and others below. Given the enrolment growth that we are projecting based on Statistics Canada and City of Calgary data (the black line), we do not anticipate being in a position to close any schools anytime soon. In fact, our challenge is the other way. If we cannot get our three-year capital plan funded by the province our utilization rate will once again begin to climb well above the Alberta Education recommended target of 80 per cent. With increased utilization comes the need for more transportation, more program moves and changes, and more potential over-crowding</p> <p>You also address our corporate spending. We don't always get it right and we take appropriate steps when we see such errors in judgement. We agree that education dollars should be going to education, not to catered meals. From time to time, we require people who are very busy to come together to discuss business matters over lunch. We make every effort to be prudent and efficient with the dollars entrusted to us. Our leaders <a href="#">are directed that</a>:</p> <p>The purchase of meals should be carefully considered and done only when critical meetings extend over the lunch hour.</p> <p>Superintendents have been advised that only training and professional development critical to the maintenance of professional designations and practices, or critical to advancing the Three-Year Education Plan, shall be approved.</p> <p>We believe that these directions align with our values: students come first, learning is our central purpose, and public education serves the common good. We devote the <a href="#">vast majority of our budget</a> to staffing and operating our schools, and providing the range of supports necessary to meet the needs of all of our students, including those with complex learning needs.</p> <p><a href="#">Our capital plan</a> is indeed important and our Trustees advocate tirelessly for adequate funding to support all of our students in getting the high quality public education that they deserve and our parents expect.</p>
83.	<p>Here is my budget feedback, thank you for the opportunity to contribute!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Stop: cutting teaching jobs in favor of more positions at the board level. Start: Hiring more teachers and bring back the arts to Elementary schools! I have a daughter in kindergarten and it makes me sad to see no teachers in her school who are arts specialists Continue: Supporting students through continued development of Fine Arts programs</li> <li>2) Hiring teachers</li> <li>3) Give us back the non instructional days! More teaching and learning time.</li> <li>4) Getting the BEST teachers because ultimately that is what makes all the difference.</li> </ol>
84.	<p>High school class sizes are getting to be ridiculously large. Groups of 40 or more per class in core courses (English, Social, Sciences, Math) should not be the norm; many classes in smaller Alberta communities like Lethbridge are reportedly averaging about 27-28 students. Given this disparity, I would want to see all class sizes in CBE high schools reduced.</p>

85.	<p><b>Start:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional "clubs" - choir, building, art, science at lunch time or after school. Allowing kids to 'dive in' and spend time focusing more on a loved subject.</li> <li>2. Having the kids spend full weeks in school for consistency. instead of so many PD days, giving the teachers more prep hours before and after school hours or while kids are in music and gym. We all juggle our work/prep hours and I believe our teachers can do that as well.</li> </ol> <p><b>Keep -</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. support for children with disabilities as the kids learn that we should all have equal opportunity and not be afraid of the different.</li> <li>2. Electronics - allowing kids to represent their ideas in different ways</li> <li>3. Library - the kids love the time spent in the library. I would get the older kids (from grade 6) to start shelving the books back for exposure and understanding of how libraries work.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for allowing for parents' input.</p>
86.	<p>I think that Early Literacy should be a priority for the Calgary Board of Education. A quarter of the children coming to kindergarten are already at a disadvantage due to limited vocabulary development and without a great deal of support they will continue to struggle as learners. Children that are not on level readers by the end of Grade 3 will continue to struggle throughout their school life. And 1/4 of all students do not graduate from high school. If we could help these students become successful readers before the end of Grade 3, we would also help them to become contributing members of our communities. The literacy rates of prison populations is deplorable. These people did not receive the opportunities they were entitled to before they entered Grade 4. And not to mention the stress this would take from the teachers of higher grades. If the students they received had been taught to read in the primary grades, they would not have to teach early readers. The students who were unable to reach these milestones would have already been identified and would have IPPs already in place with successful interventions. But the focus and money needs to be spent proactively by ensuring the youngest students have the most opportunity to succeed instead of spending reactively when students have missed that window of opportunity to learn to read. Let's give all students the opportunity to become readers during those critical early years!</p>
87.	<p>top priorities - class size and transportation issues lowest priorities - alternative programs such as science and arts based programs</p>
88.	<p>In this time of budget cutbacks we need to prioritize on offering education basics to all students. Transportation is an essential for working families in a city such as Calgary where the old-fashioned neighbourhood school no longer exists. All students should have the right to ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION.</p>
89.	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the budget priorities. In times of economic constraint, we all need to focus on what services provide the most value to our customer. Here are my observations.</p> <p><b>Start:</b></p> <p>The single change that would have the most impact on student learning would be for the CBE to start focusing on the special needs of the students not the special interests of parents. That means children with learning needs should take precedence over specialized schools like the traditional learning program, all girls school, German immersion, etc. Specialization costs additional money and diverts funding and attention away from basic programs for the students. You are a public system. Do not try to compete with the private system. Let those who want the specialized programs seek it through the private system. Do the basic curriculum exceptionally well. Use the 80 / 20 principle. 80 % of funding should be for basic requirements, 20% should be for assisting those students with IEPs. Basic needs includes physed, music, art, and French. It does not include Spanish, German, or Mandarin immersion or traditional learning programs complete with uniforms where those with IEP's are discouraged or not accepted.</p> <p><b>Stop:</b></p> <p>Trying to be everything for everyone. It has meant you have not been able to be exceptional in any area. Technology should not be brought into schools just because you have funding. Why does an elementary school require WIFI? Why do classrooms have expensive smart boards that teachers use merely as a white board? If teachers want technology in the classroom, they should be required to take a certain amount of training on the technology and demonstrate how the technology will be used to enhance student learning. If the teacher is not willing to invest the time in the training or cannot demonstrate the value of the technology to learning outcomes the funding should be provided.</p>

	<p>Student led conferences. This is not helping anyone. I want to hear from the teachers. I talk to my children every day. They show me their school work all the time.</p> <p>Continue: Working towards delivering exceptional basic education and meeting the learning needs of all students in the public system.</p>
90.	<p>Please stop budgeting parent council money into school budgets. Please make it mandatory for ALL schools to pay ALL fees through the CBE's main online tool (including field trips, \$45 for swimming, \$20 for bowling, \$70 to play on school basketball team, etc.). Parents pay out hundreds of dollars to schools throughout the year, where payments are inefficiently tracked &amp; reported, and the schools do not issue receipts. "What are the most important things that the CBE should keep in mind in deciding how to allocate our scarce resources?" Do a better job advocating for more funding. Maybe the provincial funding model needs to be revisited. It's an opportune time while we have an NDP government in place, it'll never happen again.</p>
91.	<p>With the upcoming short fall in both the regular school budget and transportation; why don't we just go back to the 'basics'. It's great to offer all the wonderful options like language schools, gender or cultural specific schools etc. but all this diversity is expensive. Our kids need the basics. I grew up in a small town and we didn't have all these options but we focused solely the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. I graduated from grade 12 and went on to complete my university degree with just the basics, and I am doing just fine.</p> <p>If certain families want the diversity then they need to pay for that. In a publicly funded system - give us the basics in our neighborhood schools that our kids can walk to. The private sector can offer the diversity that individual families can choose to pay and transport their kids to.</p>
91.	<p><b>Dollars and Sense response:</b> Thank you for your input. We very much appreciate you taking the time to provide us with your thoughts.</p> <p>In your note you made several references to "basics" and I wanted to provide some additional context that might be of interest to you and others.</p> <p><a href="#">Alberta Education</a> is responsible for determining the provincial curriculum. The curriculum defines what is to be taught in all ministry funded schools and districts. Because of that, the determination of what makes up a basic education rests solely with the Ministry of Education. It is the role of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) to deliver the provincially mandated curriculum. The CBE is not empowered to modify or otherwise change the provincially mandated curriculum. For alternative programs (the language/gender/cultural programs you note) the curriculum remains the same. The alternative programs simply provide a different lens (language, gender, culture, etc.) through which the mandated curriculum is delivered.</p> <p>Alberta Education is also supportive and encouraging of alternative programs as they align with its objectives of equity, access and choice. Alternative programs speak to the choice objective. Given the wide diversity of students within the CBE, both the Ministry of Education and the CBE believe that alternative programs help support students maximizing their achievement.</p> <p>I would also share that save for transportation, the cost of alternative programs is quite modest. This is because the CBE would be required to provide an education to each of those students in our regular programming stream in the absence of an alternative program. Both regular and alternative programming streams are resourced and staffed to similar levels. As a result there is little to distinguish between regular and alternative programs from a cost perspective. Having said that, some alternative program text books can cost more than regular program text books and that differential makes up the majority of any cost differential between regular and alternative programs.</p> <p>The cost of alternative program transportation will undoubtedly be an issue discussed at the upcoming public engagement sessions on transportation. I will defer any comments on that topic until the results of that engagement are in. Find more information on our transportation engagement sessions and process <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
92.	<p>I think the CBE is doing such great work to support students. My children (in kindergarten and grade 2 at their designated CBE French immersion school) are having a wonderful public school experience and I appreciate every opportunity for parents to be involved.</p> <p>I have two ideas that might help to raise (albeit small) revenues, and also support student learning: 1. Work toward some consistency in out-of-school-care (OSC) programs run in CBE programs, i.e., by providing quality control standards, tools, and supports; consider charging OSC programs a fee to become</p>

	<p>recognized/accredited for their efforts in programming excellence. Many parents rely on these types of programs for childcare beyond school hours, and I am always surprised at how varied these programs are.</p> <p>2. Consider opening enrollment in CBE preschools to 'typical developing students' as opposed to only those who receive special needs funding. This is standard practice in preschools offered by Renfrew, Providence, etc. It would allow CBE to raise some funds as well as to provide a more inclusive environment, in which preschoolers with disabilities learn alongside their non-disabled peers. For example, in a classroom of 15 students, you might designate 4 spots for typical students. This is an attractive option for parents who are raising multiple pre-school age children close in age, where one has disabilities and the other does not. Thank you again for this opportunity to connect.</p>
93.	<p>Paving a parking lot for \$80,000 (contract work) vs. Grounds Dept. does not make sense. Is this true? Playing field at Sir John A MacDonald done twice in same year?</p>
94.	<p>49% of Canadians have low literacy, 28% of typically developing children in Alberta enter Kindergarten already behind, 72% of prisoners have literacy issues, Grade 3 reading scores are the best indicator of success in school and life, 1/4 of students are not graduating from high school... the statistics are startling and readily available to build a case for investing in LITERACY as a school system. Please commit to funding early literacy so every child can be reading successfully by third grade and invest in community supports, such as Calgary Reads, so this outcome is achievable - "It takes a village to raise a reader".</p>
95.	<p>The single change that would have the greatest impact on student learning would be to allocate more dollars to the transportation budget. I do not like to nickel-and-dime the CBE on how resources are used - however, when you consider the time and energy it will take a young child to walk 1.6 kilometres to a bus stop before the learning day even begins, I do not feel enough emphasis is being placed on supplying reliable transportation services. Apart from the safety concerns created by long walks and unrealistic schedules, all students in the classroom suffer when buses are late. All other learning enhancements, including field trips, teacher training and access to technology, pale in comparison to this very basic need. Please find a way to better support transportation .</p>
96.	<p>There was no response form for transportation but here is my feedback. The CBE needs to focus on education not transportation. It is fine to fund transportation to community schools that are outside of walking distance but the CBE should not be providing busing to alternative programs. If parents want their children in alternative programs, then they should get them there, whatever that looks like. If that is a bus, then they should pay for it.</p>
97.	<p>In crafting the upcoming budget, the cbe needs to focus on staff and student needs. In order for teachers on the front line to support the students we serve teachers needs to feel supported. This includes salaries and benefits. Students needs are another top priority and this needs to be done in a manner that is cost effective but not at the expense of the employees. For example, you can't put a large number of coded students in a classroom without support.</p>
98.	<p>Why is the amount of money going to salaries &amp; benefits (management &amp; school staff) never part of the overall funding discussion? "There is a pie of funding, and there is only so much. So when you make a decision to put more money into one thing, that means it affects another aspect". said Joy Bowen-Eyre.</p> <p>How about putting salaries, bureaucracy and benefits onto the table for splitting the pie.</p>
99.	<p>I would suggest that keeping class sizes as small as possible should be the top priority. As a parent who regularly has the opportunity to spend time in the classroom I see first hand the impact that larger class sizes are having on teachers' effectiveness. Teachers increasingly have to spend time with students who struggle in order to keep them from falling behind. This results in less quality time spent with students who are performing at grade level and those who are above grade level. This leads to boredom and frustration in other students.</p> <p>Another priority should be keeping alternate programs accessible for all families. Changes to transportation that were made (congregated bus stop debacle in fall 2015) and were suggested (removing yellow school buses for some middle schools as was attempted in May 2015) indicate that the CBE does not truly want to keep alternate programs accessible for all families. Transportation has a huge impact on families, and changes that were made or suggested (only removing select yellow bus routes for Senator Patrick Burns for example) makes alternate programs less accessible to all families.</p> <p>Increasingly the CBE seems to make decisions without considering the impact they have on the users -</p>



	students and their families.
100.	<p>1. Reducing class size would have the most impact on student learning.</p> <p>2. Reducing teacher workload would improve the quality of teaching as teachers would be much less stressed, and better able to focus on the main priority: working directly with students. contra hers should be given a lot of time to do the basic, essential parts of their job, not worrying about CBE system goals.</p>
101.	<p>I can certainly understand the difficult task of distributing the budget as wisely and responsibly as possible. It is not an easy task and many areas/parties may feel they could use more resources. Thank you for being willing to take on this difficult task! May God give you wisdom.</p> <p>I also appreciate the opportunity to give feedback regarding budgeting for 2016-2017. There are certainly many articles and factors to consider. I must admit I have not read every document. Having glanced over some briefly, as well as read all the comments posted thus far, I would like to add some input.</p> <p>In my idealistic mind, three areas that I see as important to put funds towards are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hire enough teachers to reduce class sizes.</li> <li>2) Put resources towards schools that need maintenance, especially concerning safety for students, families, and all staff.</li> <li>3) Allocate resources towards classroom supplies so that teachers don't have to purchase supplies and resources, as many have done out of the generosity of their hearts and desire to teach well.</li> </ol> <p>In regards to point 2, I say this because I read an article in the Calgary Herald a couple of months back about schools such as Ernest Manning and Western that had major heating and roof issues to the point that parts of the school had to close down and teachers were trying to learn how to fix heating devices themselves.</p> <p>On a last note, I admire the work that those in the school system do especially teachers, principals, and secretaries - who help carry the huge burden of principals. I don't think they could ever be paid enough money! For clarification of the wider audience, this last statement is simply one of gratitude not one implying all the budget go towards these three job group's salaries.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration!</p>
102.	<p>I cannot stress enough the importance of support staff in the classroom. Something I find infuriating is when I hear mentioned the importance of inclusion in our schools and then support staff are the first to get cut. Without properly trained support staff in the classroom you will never truly be able to succeed with the idea of inclusive classrooms.</p> <p>I have worked for the past 6 years as a special education assistant and have been lucky enough to have worked 25 - 30 hours per week. So many of the teachers and education assistants I know at other schools are struggling with shortened assistant time. It is absolutely useless to have an assistant working 15 hours per week. To be successful with inclusion relationships need to be formed with so many of these struggling students and for that to happen you need to have assistants in the classroom full time.</p> <p>Perhaps you should visit a classroom, volunteer your time, not for an hour but for a day or 2. Then you might realize the importance of classroom support and the need to fund it properly.</p> <p>Too many students are falling through the cracks, not because the teachers aren't doing their jobs, but because the support they need to run a classroom properly just isn't there.</p>
103.	<p>I think the primary focus of the CBE should be to maintain quality education and alternative programming options that are available to all CBE students. There should be a focus on improving student outcomes on those provincial exam areas where we are lacking.</p> <p>As for money - enough is enough. It's time that the CBE explore other means of either reducing costs or increasing revenue in a way that DOESN'T affect the student at home or in the classroom (or the way there for that matter).</p> <p>The easy thing is to increase fees or cut funding to schools. It's time the CBE take a really hard look at their internal expenditures - costs associated with the Board of Trustees, Chief's office, Technology Services, Human Resources, Legal &amp; Financial Services and Communications. If there are ways to amalgamate some of those positions or workloads - that should be done. Reducing office space, increase (and promote) facility rentals, look at contracting services (eg. IT) instead of having full time (with benefits &amp; pensions) staff. There are options. There are ways to reduce. Every household does this and it's time the CBE cleans their house.</p>

<p>104.</p>	<p>My suggestion is to start providing onsite before and after school care at elementary schools. This brings a new revenue source for CBE while serving our families and students better.</p> <p>Another potential source of revenue is to rent our gymnasium and classrooms for interested parties during before and after hours for non-elementary schools. This brings a new revenue source and more exercise opportunities for the community, truly creating financially and physically healthier communities.</p> <p>The most important part of starting something new is creating a new culture at CBE.</p> <p>My suggestion is instead of asking for more funding, is looking inside in your CBE leadership and the entire CBE team for more openness. From openness to new ideas the direction will be clear. I feel that even though I am hearing your words of "come and tell us", I am not sure if those ideas are landing to receptive receivers. Hence, we might be wasting your time in a discussion when the discussion is only for the optics purposes and for a real change.</p> <p>Just like in our homes we have to figure out ways to save money, I trust the CBE is able to do the same. I feel that CBE has the information already available. Now it is a question of being open to it.</p>
<p>105.</p>	<p>First, I would like to congratulate the CBE on this forum. It is a great way for stakeholders to participate and the responses are always informative.</p> <p>In respect to comments on class sizes and capacity levels, has the CBE evaluated the effectiveness of delivering programs online. As a life long learner, I have appreciated the opportunities to audit classes, study online at my own pace while receiving online feedback from instructors.</p>
<p>106.</p>	<p>For the Coventry Hills area, I would like to see a public high school made a priority so our children do not have to be bussed for 1+hours to/from the designated school that from what I understand is already at or over capacity.</p>