



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | December 2020

One of the most significant ways parents and community members can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students is through school councils. By connecting students, schools and communities, school councils help nurture and inspire our students to achieve their full potential.

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Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

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[Alberta Education School Council Resource Manual](#)

A Year-End Message from Trustees

As 2020 draws to a close, the Board of Trustees extends its heartfelt thanks to all parents and guardians who volunteer their time and energy with school councils.

Despite the challenges of the past year, school councils have never wavered in supporting their schools. Members have been creative in coming up with new and innovative ways to connect with other parents, to encourage other parents to volunteer, and to continue the fundraising efforts that make a world of difference to our schools and to our students.

Over the past year, trustees have attended school council meetings throughout the city – many being virtual. We have deeply appreciated the opportunity to listen to your perspectives and to learn more about you and your school communities. Connecting with parents is truly one of the best parts of being a trustee.

During the winter break, please stay safe, healthy and well. We look forward to connecting with you again at the Council of School Councils meeting on Jan. 20, 2021.

Happy holidays from your Board of Trustees!

Marilyn Dennis, Wards 5 & 10
Althea Adams, Wards 3 & 4
Trina Hurdman, Wards 1 & 2
Richard Hehr, Wards 8 & 9
Julie Hrdlicka, Wards 11 & 13
Mike Bradshaw, Wards 12 & 14

COSC Materials are Posted

A video of the presentation to the **Oct. 22 COSC** meeting is posted on our website along with meeting materials from that night.

- [Meeting Materials](#)
- [Link to the COSC meeting Oct. 22 video presentation](#)

The Next COSC Meeting is Jan. 20, 2021

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

The meeting will be hosted on Microsoft Teams and you will receive a meeting invitation before schools close for the winter break. No software should need to be downloaded for you to access this event (it will work through your browser).

Jan. 20 meeting topics will include:

- COVID-19 update;
- Three-Year Education Plan;
- High school engagement;
- Municipal election 2021; and
- A presentation on student mental health and well-being

There will also be an opportunity for Q&A. The meeting will be recorded and posted on the COSC meeting page on the CBE website if you are unable to attend.

New dates for 2021 COSC meetings

Dates for the 2021 COSC meetings have been adjusted. New meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, March 25 and Wednesday, May 12. The meeting previously scheduled for April 22 has been cancelled. Please mark these new dates in your calendars!

ASCA Membership

If your school council does not have an [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) (ASCA) 2020-21 membership, please fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees. However, memberships need to be renewed, by the school council, each school year (July 1 – June 30).

The benefits of an ASCA membership can be found on the ASCA [website](#).

ASCA Awards of Recognition

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

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

Please see the [ASCA website](#) for a detail description of each award and *guidelines* to submit a nomination. Nominations close on Feb. 28, 2021.

School Council Supports Reduced by Alberta Government

[Media Release: Nov. 19, 2020](#)

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) received unexpected news well into their second quarter of the 2020-2021 operating year with a 75 per cent reduction in funding.

ASCA provides supports, training and resources to ensure school councils have the knowledge and skills to fulfil their legislated role and operate effectively. ASCA historically receives funds from Alberta Education targeted to support this work.

As the ASCA received only one quarter of funds required to maintain operations, this will significantly impact administration and service delivery. Restructuring efficiencies and innovative solutions are necessary to continue serving members, school councils and school communities.

CBE CARES Listening Sessions Coming Soon

In June 2020 the CBE introduced CBE CARES: Collaboration for **A**nti-Racism and **E**quity **S**upports (CARES) to advance equity, anti-racism and inclusion within the CBE. Every student should have the opportunity to succeed personally and academically regardless of background, identity or personal circumstances. The Advisory Council has been formed and has met to begin its work.

The CBE will soon host listening sessions for students, staff, families and school communities. These will allow participants to share their lived experiences with racism, equity and inclusion at the CBE. Details will be communicated to all CBE families soon.

PowerSchool Will be Inaccessible from Dec. 18 to Dec. 27

PowerSchool and MyCBE/PowerSchool will be inaccessible for staff, legal guardians and students during winter break as upgrades are installed. The planned outage is set for Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. to Dec. 27 at 11:59 p.m., although it may be shorter. Once accessible, the PowerSchool sign-in page will indicate this.

Moving from Hub Online Learning to In-Person Learning

Students registered in Hub online learning have one opportunity to return to in-person instruction at their school for the remainder of the school year. This is the only time students may move from Hub online learning to in-person instruction. Otherwise, students will remain in Hub online learning until the end of the school year. Students moving back to in-person instruction will begin at their school on Monday, Feb. 1, 2020.

Families must inform their school of their decision to return to in-person instruction by noon on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 by completing the notice of intent in their [MyCBE/PowerSchool account](#).

Learn more at <https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/hub/Pages/default.aspx>.

Nutrition Programs

January 4-8 | Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Since our students will be at-home learning for the first week back after winter break, breakfast and lunch supports will **not** be offered during this time.

If you require support for your child during the week of Jan 4-8, you can access various community supports.

- Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids is offering their gift card program to support students with lunch. You can sign-up on their website: <https://bb4ck.org/help/>
- The Calgary Food Bank website: <https://www.calgaryfoodbank.com/needfood/>
- 211 website: <https://ab.211.ca/>
 - [Food hampers](#)
 - [Free or low cost meals](#)
 - [School meal programs](#)
- Calgary Free Food services: see their website for many free food support that are available: [Inform Alberta.ca/Calgary-Free Food](https://inform.alberta.ca/Calgary-Free-Food)

Diploma (Dips) Exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

On Nov. 24, 2020 Alberta Education announced that diploma examinations are **optional for the rest of the school year**. Students and their families can choose whether to write an exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams.

Learn more about writing diploma exams on the [Alberta Education website](#).

In October, the CBE also announced that due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic, we would not be administering Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests in the 2020-21 school year.

Teachers will remain focused on delivering the Programs of Study for all courses, and will continue to assess student achievement based on the grade level outcomes as determined by the Province of Alberta.

High School Scenarios will be Shared in January

We have developed two scenarios to balance enrolment at CBE high schools. These scenarios will be shared for virtual and online feedback in January, 2021. The specific dates for virtual sessions and providing feedback will be shared in our high school engagement e-newsletter by Dec. 18, 2020. To subscribe and learn more about this initiative, visit our [high school engagement website](#) (subscribe at bottom right of page).

Free AHS Webinars Offered in January

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

CES is offering a new series of free webinars in January 2021 that touch on a variety of subjects including student test anxiety, as well as what parents and teachers should know about learning disorders in reading, written expression and mathematics.

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

2021-22 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year begins on **Monday, Jan. 11, 2021**. However, because of current COVID-19 health measures, registrations will need to be done electronically and not in person. Please go to our [registration webpage](#) for more detailed information about how to register.

Mental Health Supports During the Pandemic

We want all students to be successful in their learning, and we know that positive mental health enables students to fully participate in their learning. The CBE has posted numerous [mental health resources](#) – including AHS resources in a variety of languages – to support students and families during the pandemic.

School Council Contact Information

If you have not already done so, please confirm or update the information for your 2020-21 school council executive members at schoolcouncils@cbe.ab.ca.

Keeping this information current ensures that messages intended for school councils will be sent to the correct people.

System Calendar Dates

A reminder about the following **system** dates:

Nov. 30 – Dec. 18

Grade 7-12 students are learning at home, except for those with special needs.

Dec. 18

Last day of classes for K–6 students.

Dec. 19 – Jan. 3

Winter break for all students

Jan. 4 - 8

Learning at home for all students.

Jan. 11

Hub and CBe-learn classes resume

In-class learning resumes for all other students

Jan. 29

System-wide Non-instructional day

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

Feb. 11 & 12

Teachers' and Staff Association Convention

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

Monday, Feb. 17

Family Day Holiday

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

Friday, March 12

System-wide Non-instructional day for all students

Mar. 27 – April 1

Spring Break

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

April 2 – Good Friday

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

April 5 – Easter Monday

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

April 6

Hub and CBe-learn classes resume

In-class learning resumes for all other students

April 26

System-wide Non-instructional day

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

May 21

System-wide Non-instructional day

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

May 24 - Victoria Day Holiday

All schools closed. No Hub or CBe-learn classes

June 29

Last day of learning for **all** students

June 30

Non-instructional for **all** students

If you have trouble seeing this publication please [click here](#)

Please be sure to check your school's website and calendar for other dates that are school specific.