



## Key Communiqué

### News for School Councils

#### Issue | April 30, 2021

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

#### Contact |

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**Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.**

#### Quick links |

[School councils](#)

[COSC Meetings](#)

[CBE School Council Handbook](#)

[Top news stories](#)

[Board of Trustees](#)

[CBE system messages \(RSS Feed\)](#)

[School Council Resource Guide \(ASCA\)](#)

### Final Virtual COSC Meeting of 2020-21 – New Date!

The final COSC meeting of the 2020-21 school year has been moved from Wednesday, May 12 to **Wednesday, June 2**. We appreciate you adjusting your calendars accordingly.

The meeting agenda will include:

- System Updates:
  - COVID-19
  - Transportation
  - Draft K-6 Curriculum
- The 2021-22 Budget/Three-Year Education Plan
  - Board priorities
  - School development plan

Updated details and information will be posted on the [CBE website](#) as they are made available. Invitations will be sent out prior to the virtual meeting.

### Trustee Candidate Virtual Information Session

The Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education invites people who are considering running for the position of school board trustee in the October municipal election, to attend a virtual information session.

The sessions will cover:

- Election information
- Board governance
- Role of trustee and fiduciary duty
- Skills to be an effective trustee
- A “day in the life” of a trustee and the first 100 days of being a trustee
- Q&A with CBE trustees

Date | Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time | 7 – 8:30 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please send an email confirming your name and email address to [boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca). A link to the session will be sent to you in advance of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Transportation Fee Refund

This school year we have seen a significant decrease in yellow school bus ridership. This change is the result of a number of different factors such as families making different transportation choices due to the global pandemic, students moving to Hub online learning and the overall reduced student enrolment across the system.

This lower ridership has resulted in a decrease in the overall cost to operate yellow school buses. As a result, the CBE has an approximately \$9 million surplus in the transportation budget this year. **The decision was made to provide a full refund of transportation fees paid to all yellow school bus riders who were registered as of Feb. 28, 2021.**

Refunds will first be provided to those who made online payments, crediting the credit/debit card that was used for the original payment. These refunds will begin in May. Any refunds not able to be processed online or from another payment form will be sent as a cheque. These refunds will begin in late June.

Thank you for your patience through this process. There are no changes to noon supervision and other school fees. You are responsible for payment of outstanding balances for these fees.

We are currently reviewing fees and service levels for the 2021-22 school year and expect to make an announcement and launch transportation pre-registration in May.

## Thank You to School Bus Drivers!

Monday, May 3 has been designated as School Bus Driver Appreciation to provide school communities the opportunity to thank bus drivers and show them how much they are valued.

## Free Child and Youth Emotional Wellness and Health Resources

Community Education Service (CES) delivers FREE, online, evidence-based education for parents, caregivers, and community members on topics related to child and youth emotional wellness and health. You can view [recorded and upcoming webinars](#), subscribe to the [newsletter](#), or visit the [program website](#) for a complete list of services.

## Reminder | Waivers are Available

Families are reminded to regularly check their MyCBE/PowerSchool account as new fees are added throughout the school year. Fees are due when they appear in your account.

For families having difficulties paying the fees, there are several ways to qualify to be eligible for the fees to be waived based on income and unexpected family situations. The deadline for waiver applications is June 30, 2021. We encourage you to apply as soon as possible to allow time for your documents to be processed.

For more information visit the [Fees & Waivers webpage](#).

## 2021-22 Budget Information

The Calgary Board of Education is committed to advancing student success, safety, and sustainability in the ongoing development of its 2021-22 budget.

On March 31, school districts received their individual funding profiles from Alberta Education, following the government release of the [2021 budget](#) on Feb. 26. The government provided nearly the same funding for next school year as this school year. Stable and predictable funding helps the CBE deliver the best possible outcomes for students.

Using the detailed information from its funding profile, CBE Administration developed a Budget Assumption Report (BAR), which was presented to the Board of Trustees on April 6. The BAR lays out the assumptions Administration will use to build the 2021-22 budget.

Given a modest increase to Alberta Education funding, the CBE committed to delivering more money to schools through the Resource Allocation Method (RAM) in comparison to 2020-21. At the same time, the CBE continues to update its RAM formula in line with our focus on equity and ensuring all students succeed regardless of personal circumstance.

In early May, service units and schools will finalize their budgets. On May 18, the CBE's 2021-22 budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

In keeping with legal requirements, a balanced budget will be submitted to Alberta Education before May 31.

## Students Can Earn High School Credits for External Learning

Alberta Education has a new process to award high school credits for external learning opportunities that students take outside of school. This new process provides a more personalized, flexible approach for completing high school.

Students complete external courses offered by government-recognized organizations such as the Canadian Armed Forces or Lifesaving Society. They can earn up to five credits toward a high school credential by asking their school to have external courses approved by Alberta Education. Earned credits cannot substitute for courses required for an Alberta High School Diploma or Certificate of High School Achievement. When students take external learning, school authorities do not receive provincial funding for the credits.

While students initiate the request for credits, their school is responsible for following Alberta Education's processes for external course approval and awarding credits. Alberta Education will review the external learning opportunity and ensure the providing organization is fulfilling its responsibilities and meeting course requirements. For more details, visit [High School credits for external learning](#).

## Mental Health Week 2021

The Calgary Board of Education stands with organizations across the country in recognizing the importance of mental health during the Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mental Health Week from May 3 to 9, 2021.

#GETREAL about how you feel. Information and articles can be found at the [CMHA website](#), Remember: Name it, don't numb it.

## System Calendar Dates

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

### 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 day for **all** students

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