

CBE –Engagement Study

SCHOOL COUNCIL LED DISCUSSION

Key goal: Learn what school councils can tell us about effective engagement.

This discussion is designed to last 45-60 minutes. It would be ideal if someone could take notes and forward them to us.

5 minutes

Introduction

The CBE is committed to getting better at involving people in decisions that affect them. To do this more effectively, we are developing a new system-wide approach that respects the diversity of our community and supports the CBE in achieving its mission.

We will develop a framework that:

- Is well understood and accepted by our stakeholders.
- Gives stakeholders a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and how their contributions may influence decisions within the CBE
- Reflects best practices and is applied consistently and effectively across the system.
- Will be monitored and evaluated to meet stakeholder needs over time.

We will do this by thinking long-term and actively involving stakeholders in the process of creating the framework. The framework is the first step in making effective system-wide engagement a top priority at the CBE for many years to come.

Today is an opportunity to gather information and insights from school councils.

Please allow approximately an hour to discuss the following questions. If you only have time to discuss one or two questions, that is fine.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOTE TAKERS:

Your role in this event is critical – by accurately capturing the dialogue between participants, the analysis of the session can ensure we know what was really said and meant.

Some guidelines

- Please listen for relevant and interesting comments and then capture them as verbatim as possible.
- Write in the first person, as the participant speaks.
- You don't have to record the name of who spoke, simply start a new paragraph/ bullet point when a new person starts speaking.

Don't worry about typos or grammatical errors. We will proof the transcripts later.

Save frequently! But you probably know that already.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

10 minutes

1. Thinking about your own personal experiences, as a parent and as a school council representative, what have been the most effective ways that CBE has engaged with parents and the public (can be school based or system based)?
 - Discuss as a table. Identify 5 – 7 success factors.

10 minutes

2. What could be improved?
 - Discuss as a table. Identify 5 – 7 improvements.

10 minutes

3. In developing an improved approach to public engagement, there will be opportunities to explore new ways of doing things. What are some ways you think the CBE and its school councils could work more effectively together to engage and communicate with school communities? Are there tools, resources or information that would be helpful?
 - Discuss as a table and identify 3 – 5 opportunities and any associated tools and resources.

10 minutes

4. Of the following issues, which are the ones where school councils would be the most effective and appropriate way to gather parent input?
 - Transportation fees
 - Transportation services (routes, ride times, walking distances etc.)
 - School development planning
 - Report card changes
 - Alberta Education changes to the curriculum
 - New school construction
 - Organization for learning (RAM) at schools
 - School being considered for closure
 - CBE budget
 - School calendar (e.g., first & last days of school, timing of PD days)
 - Others?

10 minutes

5. What are the top three things that you think are most important for the CBE to consider in developing an improved approach to public engagement?
 - Discuss as a table and create a list

5 minutes

Wrap up

- Today's information will be submitted in confidence to Eddie at Stormy Lake Consulting: eddie@stormylakeconsulting.com
- There will be an online survey on the CBE website mid-November to Dec. 4 and in-person sessions on Nov. 18, 24 and Dec. 3. Please share your perspectives in one of those ways as well. Visit www.cbe.ab.ca/publicengagement for more information.
- There will also be opportunities to provide feedback on the draft framework in the new year, so watch for information on that.