



Board Chair

Laura Hack Wards 3 & 4

Vice-Chair

Susan Vukadinovic Wards 8 & 9

Trustees

Dana Downey Wards 1 & 2

Marilyn Dennis Wards 5 & 10

Patricia Bolger Wards 6 & 7

Nancy Close Wards 11 & 13

Charlene May Wards 12 & 14

February 4, 2022

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange:

Re: Draft Curriculum Implementation

We are writing to you today to share important considerations regarding the current plans for curriculum implementation in September 2022.

The ongoing pandemic and recent Omicron wave continues to have significant impacts on teaching and learning in the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). We are proud of the incredible work of all CBE employees in their commitment to maintaining in person learning despite high levels of student and staff absenteeism, unfilled substitute positions, and constant adjustments to daily plans.

We know the Ministry is fully aware of the province-wide operational and instructional implications of the pandemic and the uncertainty that remains. Schools have yet to be able to return to near-normal conditions both in classrooms and for the broader school community. Even if, optimistically, pandemic conditions eased, teachers must be able to focus for the remainder of this school year on making instructional adjustments to ensure student achievement and well-being.

Given this context, we implore the Minister to delay implementation of any element of new curriculum until September 2023. This delay will support the following key opportunities:

- Time for a robust pilot to strengthen the curriculum and inform implementation requirements;
- Time to create and execute a plan to acquire and develop quality resources reflective of outcomes, the diversity of student populations and other local contexts;
- Time to build capacity through in-depth staff professional learning;
- Time for the Ministry to develop a comprehensive provincial communications toolkit that addresses the needs of all educational stakeholders; and

- Time for each school authority to account for the new curriculum within the framework for accountability and assurance, as outlined in the Requirements for School Authority Planning and Results Reporting.

Given the current timeframes and with the 2022-23 school year budget planning upon us, we want to support effective, measured, and responsive actions to ensure a successful implementation. We believe the curriculum can be strengthened by moving implementation to September 2023 and see an opportunity to possibly expand the number of subjects identified for implementation with this increased coordination.

CBE Administration has reached out directly to the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for curriculum this week in order to provide further feedback. We always welcome the opportunity to work together to share our perspectives and offer support.

We would like to once again reiterate the position that the continued pandemic conditions and impact on staff, students, and community means that we need time next year to focus on enhanced stability. We also believe it is imperative to take the time to develop a comprehensive implementation plan including a plan for piloting, resource acquisition and professional learning to ensure success for all students.

Sincerely,



Laura Hack, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc: Andre Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education
Marilyn Dennis, President, Alberta School Board Association
Christopher Usih, Chief Superintendent

