

AGENDA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

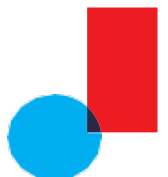
Wed. Nov. 10, 2021

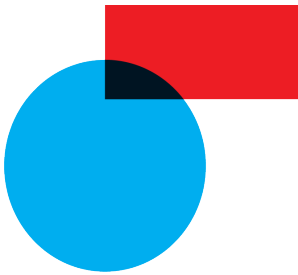


**Sturgeon
Public Schools**

Dare to reimagine learning

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA
 - 2.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda
 - 2.2 Approval of Agenda
3. APPOINTMENTS
4. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE NOTES
 - 4.1 Amendment/Correction of Notes
 - 4.2 Approval of Committee Notes – October 13, 2021
5. PRESENTATIONS
 - 5.1 Transportation Services– A. Hebert, Transportation Manager and Liliana LeVesconte, Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services
6. REPORTS FROM SENIOR EXECUTIVE
7. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEES AND STANDING COMMITTEES
 - 7.1 Chair’s Report
 - 7.1.1 Board Retreat
 - 7.2 Trustees Report
 - 7.3 Advocacy Committee
 - 7.4 Building and Maintenance Committee
 - 7.5 Education Committee
 - 7.6 Finance and People Services Committee
 - 7.7 Transportation Committee
8. REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES/TASK GROUPS
 - 8.1 Alberta School Boards’ Association Zone 2/3
 - 8.2 Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta
 - 8.3 Teacher Board Advisory Committee (Policy Advisory – ATA)
 - 8.4 Labour Management Committee (Policy Review – CUPE)
 - 8.5 Community Services Advisory Board





AGENDA

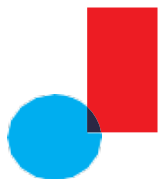
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wed. Nov. 10, 2021

9. NEW BUSINESS
 - 9.1 Council of School Councils Meeting
 - 9.2 Draft Annual Education Results Report
 - 9.3 School Presentations
 - 9.4 Policy 305 – School Councils
 - 9.5 Policy 810 – Off-Site Activities
 - 9.6 Monthly IT Report
10. QUESTION PERIOD
11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
12. INFORMATION ITEMS
13. PENDING LIST
14. IN CAMERA
15. ADJOURNMENT



Dare to reimagine learning





Sturgeon
Public Schools

Notes of the Meeting of
The Committee of the Whole
Held at Morinville on October 13, 2021

PRESENT

Mr. Terry Jewell, Chair
Mrs. Janine Pequin, Vice Chair
Mr. Joe Dwyer, Trustee
Mrs. Liz Kohle, Trustee
Mrs. Misty Featherley, Trustee*
Mrs. Tasha Oatway-McLay, Trustee
Mrs. Trish Murray-Elliott, Trustee
Ms. Mary Lynne R. Campbell, Superintendent/CEO
Mrs. Lisa Lacroix, Associate Superintendent, People Services*
Ms. Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Ms. Liliana LeVesconte, Secretary Treasurer
Mr. Jonathan Konrad, Director, Curriculum & Instruction*
(* *electronic attendance*)

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

- 2.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda
- 2.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mrs. Trish Murray-Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPOINTMENTS

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE NOTES

- 4.1 Amendment/Correction of Notes
- 4.2 Approval of Committee Notes

Moved by Mrs. Elizabeth Kohle that the notes of September 8, 2021, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATIONS

REPORTS FROM SENIOR EXECUTIVE

6.1 Christmas Update

The Associate Superintendent, People Services, presented a verbal and written report on behalf of the Senior Executive Team.

6.2 Staffing

The Associate Superintendent, People Services, presented a verbal and written report on behalf of the Senior Executive Team.

REPORTS FROM TRUSTEES AND STANDING COMMITTEES

7.1 Chair's Report

Trustee Jewell presented a verbal and written report.

Chair Jewell (Gibbons/Lamoureux)

Chair Jewell reported that he attended:

- ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- Board Chairs' Meeting re: New Curriculum Review
- Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Finance and People Services Committee Meeting
- Gibbons School Parent Council Meeting
- Transportation Committee Meeting with Bus Contractors
- Virtual Meeting with the Education Minister

7.2 Trustees' Reports

Trustee Dwyer (Alcomdale/Villeneuve Area)

Trustee Dwyer reported that he attended:

- Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Transportation Committee Meeting with Bus Contractors

Trustee Kohle (Bon Accord/Legal)

Trustee Kohle reported that she attended:

- Bon Accord Community School Parent Council Meeting
- Bon Accord Community School Principal Meeting
- Lilian Schick School Parent Council Meeting
- Lilian Schick School Principal Meeting
- Transportation Committee Meeting with Bus Contractors

Trustee Murray-Elliott (Sturgeon Valley/West St. Albert)

Trustee Murray-Elliott reported that she attended:

- Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Finance and People Services Committee Meeting
- PSBA Zoom Meeting re: Home Schooling
- Sturgeon Heights School Parent Council Meeting
- Transportation Committee Meeting with Bus Contractors

Trustee Oatway-McLay (Cardiff/Garrison)

Trustee Oatway-McLay reported that she attended:

- Finance and People Services Committee Meeting
- Guthrie School Parent Council Meeting
- Namao School – Reading Week Participation

Trustee Pequin (Redwater/Coronado Area)

Trustee Pequin reported that she attended:

- ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- Board Chairs' Meeting re: New Curriculum Review
- Ochre Park School Parent Council Meeting
- Redwater School Parent Council Meeting
- Transportation Committee Meeting with Bus Contractors

7.3 Advocacy Committee

No report was provided.

7.4 Building and Maintenance Committee

A verbal report was provided.

7.5 Education Committee

No report was provided.

7.6 Finance and People Services Committee

A verbal report was provided.

7.7 Transportation Committee

A verbal report was provided.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES/TASK GROUPS**8.1 Alberta School Boards' Association Zone 2/3**

A verbal report was provided.

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8.2 Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

A verbal report was provided.

8.3 Teacher Board Advisory Committee (ATA)

No meeting.

8.4 Labour Management Committee (CUPE)

No meeting.

8.5 Community Services Advisory Board

A verbal report was provided.

NEW BUSINESS**9.1 2022/2023 School Calendar**

Moved by Mr. Jewell that the Board of Trustees forward the recommended revised draft 2022/2023 School Calendar package to the October 27, 2021, Public Board meeting to be approved in principle; and

Further, direct Administration to circulate the draft 2022/2023 School Calendar for feedback as part of the Board Policy and Administrative Procedure.

9.2 Final Enrolment Count

Final Enrolment Count report was received as information.

9.3 AP260 – Conduct of Board Meetings

AP260 – Conduct of Board Meetings report was received as information.

9.4 AP310 – Off-Site Activities

AP310 – Off-Site Activities report was received as information.

9.5 Administrative Procedures

Administrative Procedures report was received as information.

9.6 Monthly IT Report

Monthly IT Report was received as information.

QUESTION PERIOD**10.1****UNFINISHED BUSINESS****11.1****INFORMATION ITEMS****12.1****PENDING LIST****13.1** No pending list**IN CAMERA**

4:59PM – Moved by Mrs. Oatway-McLay that the Board go in camera.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed for a break at 4:59PM.

The meeting resumed at 5:07PM

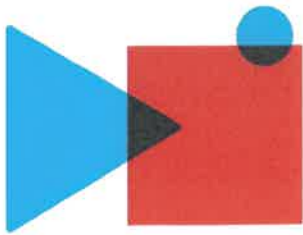
5:42PM – Moved by Mrs. Oatway-McLay that the Board revert to public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 5:42PM.

**Discussions on items are held at Committee of the Whole Meetings.
Decisions on items are made at Public Board Meetings.**



BOARD
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Board of Trustees
From: Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Originator(s): Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Subject: Council of School Councils' Meeting



Background:

For Trustee information, each year, the Board of Trustees has hosted the first meeting of the Sturgeon Public Schools' Council of School Councils. The meeting is usually held in late October/early November in order to give all Sturgeon Public schools the opportunity to have their first school council meeting to elect their chair and vice chairpersons.

The Council of School Councils (COSC) is an informal gathering of the chair and/or vice-chair of each school council for the purpose of sharing information, building connections between the school councils and facilitating communication between the Board of Trustees, school councils and the Division's administrator team.

In the 2020/2021 School Year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees hosted a virtual Council of School Councils' Meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020. In previous years, the meeting was held in-person, usually at central office.

Senior Administration is seeking direction as to whether the Board of Trustees wishes to host a Council of School Councils meeting at this time and the format of the meeting (i.e. online or in person).

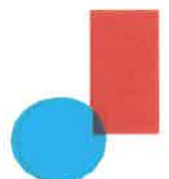
Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

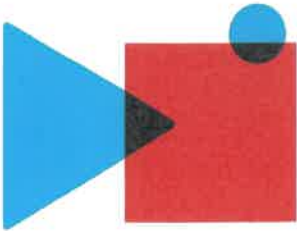
Recommendation:

Senior Administration is seeking direction from the Board of Trustees with respect to the Council of School Councils' meeting for this school year.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M.Ed
Associate Superintendent, Education Services





BOARD
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Board of Trustees
From: Jonathan Konrad, Director, Curriculum & Instruction
Originator(s): Jonathan Konrad, Director, Curriculum & Instruction
Subject: Sturgeon Public Schools Annual Education Results Report (AERR) – November 2021



Background:

Attached for Trustee review and discussion is the proposed DRAFT Annual Education Results Report (AERR) for November 2021.

In the past, the Education Plan and the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) were combined into one report. Alberta Education has directed that the two documents be separated; the Education Plan is reviewed and approved in May, the AERR is reviewed and approved in November. The Division's Education Plan articulates the Board's approved outcomes, measures, and strategies to meet Board priorities. Using key insights from the Annual Education Results Report, the Division's Education plan directs the work in schools and at a system level.

The Division's Annual Education Results Report (AERR) provides information on results for all required provincial measures and Sturgeon Public Schools' local measures. The 2019/2020 school year did not have Provincial Achievement Tests or June Diploma Exams. The 2020/2021 school year did not have Provincial Achievement Tests or Diploma Exams; therefore, the results are not reported. An overview of the jurisdiction's financial results, once approved, are included in the AERR.

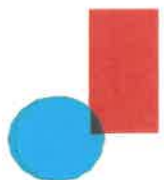
Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 10, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

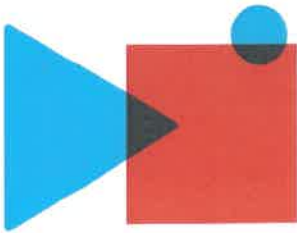
Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees review the DRAFT Sturgeon Public Schools Annual Education Results Report (AERR) - November 2021 and forward to the November 24, 2021, Public Board meeting for approval.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Konrad, Director
Curriculum & Instruction
Attachment





BOARD
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Board of Trustees
From: Jonathan Konrad, Director, Curriculum & Instruction
Originator(s): Krystal Bryant, Executive Assistant
Subject: School Presentations to the Board: January 2022



Background:

Student learning and achievement are foundational to the work of school jurisdictions. Achieving success for all students is dependent on a common agreement and understanding around shared responsibility and transparency. To this end, it would benefit the Board of Trustees and school leadership to be provided the opportunity to enter into conversations relative to student achievement, success, and programming.

Administration requests that the Board of Trustees allocate two days, January 10 & 11, 2022, to allow for scheduled presentations from each school. Principals will be provided 30 - 45 minutes to present their school's results, discuss programming responses and highlight areas of interest and significance specific to their school. The benefit of this format is twofold: Trustees will gain a greater understanding of each of the division's schools and be provided the opportunity to engage in dialogue with school leaders.

Please see the attached proposed draft schedule should the Board of Trustees wish to take this recommendation under advisement.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 10, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting.

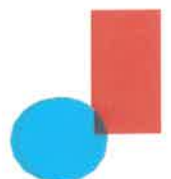
Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees forwards the draft schedule for School Presentations to the November 24, 2021, Public Board meeting for approval.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Konrad
Director, Curriculum & Instruction

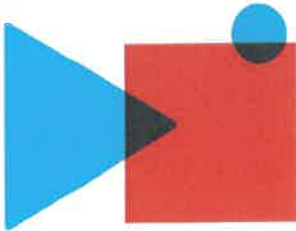
Attachment



School Presentations to the Board of Trustees

Monday, January 10, 2022	
9:30am – 10:00am	Bon Accord Community School
10:00am – 10:45am	Sturgeon Heights School
10:45am – 11:15am	Lilian Schick School
11:15am – 11:30am	<i>Wellness Break (15 minutes)</i>
11:30am – 12:00pm	Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Learning Centres
12:30pm – 1:00pm	École Morinville Public School
1:00pm – 1:30pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Oak Hill School
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Four Winds Public School
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Gibbons School

Tuesday, January 11, 2022	
9:30am – 10:00am	Ochre Park School
10:00am – 10:45am	Namao School
10:45am – 11:00am	<i>Wellness Break (15 minutes)</i>
11:00am – 11:30am	Landing Trail School
11:30am – 12:30pm	Camilla/Colony School
12:30pm – 1:00pm	<i>Lunch (30 minutes)</i>
1:00pm – 1:45pm	Guthrie School
1:45pm – 2:30pm	Sturgeon Composite High School
2:30pm – 3:15pm	Redwater School



B O A R D
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Board of Trustees
From: Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Originator(s): Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Subject: Policy 305 – School Councils



Background:

Attached for Trustee review and consideration is the revised draft of *Policy 305 – School Councils*. This policy has been condensed by removing the repetition of provincial regulations outlined in Section 55 of the Education Act and the School Councils Regulation 94/2019.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 10, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting.

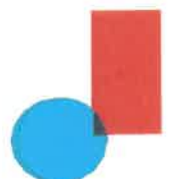
Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees review *Policy 305 – School Councils* and forward to the November 24, 2021, Public Board meeting for approval.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M.Ed
Associate Superintendent, Education Services

Attachments



School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: February 23, 2021

REVIEW: 2024-2025

1.0 POLICY

The Board of Trustees believes that school councils provide valuable advisory assistance to the school principal and to the Board. The Board of Trustees supports the required establishment of school councils in a manner consistent with Section 55 of the Education Act, the School Councils Regulation, and the Alberta School Councils Resource Guide.

2.0 GUIDELINE

- 2.1 For each school operated by a board, a school council must be established in accordance with the regulations.
- 2.2 The majority of the members of a school council must be parents of students enrolled in the school.
- 2.3 A school council may, at its discretion:
 - 2.3.1 advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school,
 - 2.3.2 perform any duty or function delegated to it by the Board in accordance with the delegation,
 - 2.3.3 consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister,
 - 2.3.4 consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent.
- 2.4 Subject to regulations, a school council may establish and implement policies in the school that the council considers necessary to carry out its functions.
- 2.5 A school council may make bylaws governing its meetings and the conduct of its affairs.
- 2.6 Subject to the regulations, a Board may establish and implement policies respecting school councils.
- 2.7 The Board of Trustees supports the reimbursement of registration fees for the equivalent of one registration fee per school for the Alberta School Councils' Association Conference, as an ongoing sponsorship.

References: [Education Act: Section 55](#)
[School Councils Regulation 94/2019](#)
[Alberta School Council Resource Guide](#)
[Policy 245 - Appeals](#)

School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: February 23, 2021

REVIEW: 2024-2025

2.8 Rules for Continuance of School Councils

- 2.8.1 A general organizational meeting shall be called annually by the Principal not later than forty (40) days after the start of the school year or as specified in the by-laws of the school council.

2.9 School Council Report

Pursuant to School Councils Regulation, the Chair of the school council must prepare and provide to the Board annually, by September 30 of each year. a written report:

- 2.9.1 summarizing the activities of the school council in the previous school year,
- 2.9.2 A financial statement relating to money handled by the school council in the school year, detailing the receipt, handling and use of any money by the school council in the previous school year,
- 2.9.3 A school council must retain at the school a copy of the minutes for each meeting of the school council and make them available to the Board or public on request,
- 2.9.4 A school council must retain the minutes for each meeting of the school council for at least 7 years,
- 2.9.5 The Board shall refer the school council's report to the Superintendent of Schools/CEO for consideration and recommendation to the Board.

2.10 Dispute Resolution

The Board shall establish a dispute resolution process to address disputes between the principal and the school council with respect to policies proposed or adopted for a school.

References: [Education Act: Section 55](#)
[School Councils Regulation 94/2019](#)
[Alberta School Council Resource Guide](#)
[Policy 245 - Appeals](#)

School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: ~~January-February 239, 2021~~ REVIEW: ~~20240-20254~~

1.0 POLICY

The Board of Trustees believes that school councils provide valuable advisory assistance to the school principal and to the Board. The Board of Trustees supports the required establishment of school councils in a manner consistent with Section 55 of the Education Act, the School Councils Regulation, and the Alberta School Councils Resource Guide.

2.0 GUIDELINES

2.1 ~~Creation/Continuance of School Councils~~

~~The school principal is responsible for ensuring that in For each school, parents/guardians and the school community shall be provided with the opportunity to operated by a board, a school council must be established in accordance with the regulations, a school council.~~ [WR1]

2.2 ~~The majority of the members of a school council must be parents of students enrolled in the school.~~ [WR2]

~~Purpose of School Councils~~

~~The school council meetings shall provide an opportunity for members to learn about their school and to be given ample opportunity to participate in discussion of issues at the school level; provide advice on development of the school's mission, vision and philosophy; policies; annual education plans; and budget; and receive for information annual results reports including provincial testing results.~~

2.3 Powers of School Councils

~~2.3.1 A School school councils council may, at its discretion,~~ [WR3]

~~2.3.1 act in an advisory and consultative capacity to the advise the school principal and to the Boardboard respecting any matter relating to the school,~~ [WR4]

~~2.3.2 perform any duty or function delegated to it by the Bboard in accordance with the delegation~~ [WR5]

~~2.3.3 consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister,~~ [WR6]

References: Education Act: Section 55
School Councils Regulation 94/2019
~~Societies Act, 2018~~
~~Companies Act, 2018~~
Alberta School Council Resource Guide
Policy 245 - Appeals

School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: ~~January-February 239, 2021~~ REVIEW: 20240-20254

~~2.3.4 consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent. [WR7]~~

~~2.3.5 do anything it is authorized under the regulations to do. [WR8]~~

~~2.4 Subject to regulations, a school council can make may establish and implement a policies in the school that the council considers necessary to carry out the school council's its functions. [WR9]~~

~~2.4 Membership of School Councils~~

~~Membership of the school council shall be as specified in Subsection 8 of the School Councils Regulation~~

~~2.4.1 The majority of the members of a school council shall be parents of students enrolled in the school.~~

~~2.4.2 A school council must include the following members:~~

~~2.4.2.1 The Principal of the school;~~

~~2.4.2.2 At least one person who is a teacher at the school, elected or appointed by the teachers at the school;~~

~~2.4.2.3 If the school includes a senior high school program, at least one person who is a student enrolled in the high school, elected or appointed by the students enrolled in the high school;~~

~~2.4.2.4 If an early childhood services program is offered at the school, parents/guardians of children enrolled in the program.~~

~~2.5 A school council may make bylaws governing its meetings and the conduct of its affairs. [WR10]~~

~~2.6 Subject to the regulations, a Bboard may establish and implement policies respecting school councils. [WR11]~~

~~Board Connection~~

~~The Board of Trustees may:~~

References: Education Act: Section 55
School Councils Regulation 94/2019
~~Societies Act, 2018~~
~~Companies Act, 2018~~
Alberta School Council Resource Guide
Policy 245 - Appeals



School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: ~~January-February 239, 2021~~ REVIEW: 20240-20251

~~2.5.1 Delegate items to the school council;~~

~~2.5.1.1~~

~~2.7 The Board of Trustees supports the reimbursement of registration fees for the equivalent of one registration fee per school for the Alberta School Councils' Association Conference, as an ongoing sponsorship. [WR12]~~

~~2.5.2 Request representatives to sit on Board committees; and~~

~~2.5.3 Request input on various issues that the Board is discussing at any given point in time.~~

3.0 PROCEDURES

~~3.1 Rules for Establishment of School Councils~~

~~3.1.1 If a school has no school council, or has a parent/guardian advisory council, the Principal must, in accordance with the Education Act and Section 2 of School Councils Regulation 94/2019, hold an establishment meeting within 40 school days after the start of the school year.~~

~~3.1.2 If the school has a parent/guardian advisory council, the Principal must, after consulting with that council, decide who is to act as the Chair and who is to act as the Secretary at the establishment meeting.~~

~~3.1.3 It shall be the responsibility of the school council to establish bylaws governing its meetings and the conduct of its affairs in accordance with this policy, School Councils Regulation and the Education Act. The meeting agenda will include a decision as to:~~

~~3.1.3.1 The size of the council and executive,~~

~~3.1.3.2 The term of office of each member of the council and executive, and~~

~~3.1.3.3 The election of the initial members of the school council and executive.~~

~~3.1.4 Pursuant to Section 6) of the School Councils Regulation, the school council may include all parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school who wish to be members.~~

~~3.1.5 Pursuant to Section 8(3) of the School Councils Regulation, a member who is not a parent/guardian may be elected Chair of the executive if no parent/guardian is willing to be nominated as Chair.~~

References: Education Act: Section 55
School Councils Regulation 94/2019
~~Societies Act, 2018~~
~~Companies Act, 2018~~
Alberta School Council Resource Guide
~~Policy 245 - Appeals~~

School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: ~~January-February 239, 2021~~ REVIEW: ~~20240-20251~~

- ~~3.1.6 Only persons who attend the establishment meeting and are parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school or of children enrolled in an Early Childhood Services program at the school are entitled to vote on matters raised in this meeting.~~
- ~~3.1.7 It is recommended that a school council consist of a minimum of seven (7) members if the school is an elementary or junior high or nine (9) members if the school is a senior high.~~
- ~~3.1.8 If there are fewer than five (5) parents/guardians in attendance at the establishment meeting or if the meeting is not successful in establishing a school council, the Principal may establish an advisory council for that year.~~
- ~~3.1.9 No members of a school council shall receive any remuneration for acting as a member of the council.~~
- ~~3.1.10 No school council shall incorporate under the Societies Act the Companies Act.~~

3.2.2.8 Rules for Continuance of School Councils

- ~~3.2.1~~ 2.8.1 A general organizational meeting shall be called annually by the Principal not later than forty (40) days after the start of the school year or as specified in the by-laws of the school council.

3.2.2.9 School Council Reports^[WR13]

Pursuant to School Councils Regulation, the Chair of the school council must prepare and ~~submit~~ provide to the Board annually, by September 30 of each year, a written report:

- ~~3.2.2.1~~ 2.9.1 summarizing the activities of the school council in the previous school year, and including:
- ~~3.2.2.1~~ 2.9.2 A financial statement relating to money handled by the school council in the school year, detailing the receipt, handling and use of any money by the school council in the previous school year, and
- ~~3.2.2.2~~ including a copy of the minutes for each meeting of the school council held in the school year.
- 2.9.3 A school council must retain at the school a copy of the minutes for each meeting of the school council and make them available to the Board or public on request.

References: Education Act: Section 55
School Councils Regulation 94/2019
~~Societies Act, 2018~~
~~Companies Act, 2018~~
Alberta School Council Resource Guide
~~Policy 245 - Appeals~~

School Councils

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: ~~January-February 239, 2021~~ REVIEW: 2024-2025

~~2.9.4~~ A school council must retain the minutes for each meeting of the school council for at least 7 years.

~~3.2.2.32.9.5~~ The Board shall refer the school council's report to the Superintendent of Schools/CEO for consideration and recommendation to the Board.

~~3.3~~ Suspension of School Councils

~~The Principal shall inform the Board if a quorum is not available for a meeting of a council and the meeting has been rescheduled on two or more occasions. In this event, the Board may suspend the operation of the council until the following year. In the event that the school council is suspended, the Principal may establish an advisory committee to carry out the duties of the council until a new council is established.~~

~~3.4 2.10~~ Appeal Procedure Dispute Resolution

~~The School Council, or Principal, or parents/guardians of a local school may appeal to the Board of Trustees any dispute with respect to policies proposed or adopted for a school. The appellant shall forward any request for an appeal hearing before the Board of Trustees, along with written rationale and background concerning the policy dispute, to the Superintendent of Schools/CEO, who will arrange for such a hearing within thirty days of receipt of the request. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final and response of the Board shall be provided within seven (7) working days. The Board shall establish a dispute resolution process to address disputes between the principal and the school council with respect to policies proposed or adopted for a school. [WR14]~~

References: Education Act: Section 55
School Councils Regulation 94/2019
~~Societies Act, 2018~~
~~Companies Act, 2018~~
Alberta School Council Resource Guide
~~Policy 245 - Appeals~~

(6) An agreement may be amended from time to time as the parties consider necessary or advisable.

2019 c22 s2

Insurance and investment

54(1) A board shall, in respect of its operations, keep in force adequate and appropriate policies of insurance for the purpose of, at a minimum, indemnifying the board and its employees and school councils in respect of claims for

- (a) damages for death or personal injury,
- (b) damage to property, and
- (c) damage to property owned by the board in respect of which the board has an insurable interest
 - (i) that the board has agreed to insure, or
 - (ii) for which the board otherwise has or may have assumed liability.

(2) A board may invest only in accordance with the regulations made under subsection (3)(b).

(3) The Minister may make regulations

- (a) governing the requirement of boards to
 - (i) acquire insurance, or
 - (ii) take part in schemes or arrangements to protect the board and its teachers and other employees with respect to loss or legal liability;
- (b) respecting the investment of money for the purpose of subsection (2).

School council

55(1) For each school operated by a board, a school council must be established in accordance with the regulations.

(2) The majority of the members of a school council must be parents of students enrolled in the school.

(3) A board of a separate school division may by resolution require that the parents of students enrolled in a school operated by the board who are members of the school council declare themselves to

be of the same faith as the electors of the separate school division, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic.

- (4) A school council may, at its discretion,
- (a) advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school,
 - (b) perform any duty or function delegated to it by the board in accordance with the delegation,
 - (c) consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister,
 - (d) consult with the principal so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent, and
 - (e) do anything it is authorized under the regulations to do.
- (5) Subject to the regulations, a school council may establish and implement policies in the school that the school council considers necessary to carry out its functions.
- (6) A school council may make bylaws governing its meetings and the conduct of its affairs.
- (7) Subject to the regulations, a board may establish and implement policies respecting school councils.
- (8) A board shall establish a dispute resolution process to address disputes between the principal and the school council with respect to policies proposed or adopted for a school.
- (9) The Minister, on the request of the board, may dissolve a school council without notice at any time if the Minister is of the opinion that the school council is not carrying out its responsibilities in accordance with this Act and the regulations.
- (10) Where a school council has been dissolved by the Minister pursuant to subsection (9), a school council must, in accordance with the regulations, be established after the start of the school year immediately following the year in which the school council was dissolved.
- (11) The Minister may make regulations

- (a) respecting the establishment of school councils, the election or appointment of the members of a school council, the term or other conditions of election or appointment and the dissolution of a school council;
- (b) respecting the roles of the principal and the school council of a school and their respective powers, duties and responsibilities;
- (c) respecting the re-establishment of school councils that have been dissolved by the Minister pursuant to subsection (9);
- (d) respecting any other matter the Minister considers necessary respecting school councils;
- (e) exempting a school or class of schools from the application of this section.

Student records

56(1) A board shall establish and maintain in accordance with the regulations a student record for

- (a) each student enrolled in a school operated by the board, and
- (b) each child or student enrolled in an early childhood services program provided by the board.

(2) A person, other than a board, providing an early childhood services program to a child shall establish and maintain in accordance with the regulations a student record for each child enrolled in the early childhood services program.

(3) The following persons may review the student record maintained in respect of a student or a child enrolled in an early childhood services program:

- (a) the student;
- (b) the student's parent, except where the student is an independent student;
- (c) the parent of a child enrolled in an early childhood services program.

(4) A person who is entitled to review a student record under subsection (3) may submit a request for a copy of the student record, along with any associated fee, to the board or a person other than the board providing an early childhood services program, and the board or the person other than the board providing the early



Province of Alberta

EDUCATION ACT

SCHOOL COUNCILS REGULATION

Alberta Regulation 94/2019

Filed on August 16, 2019, in force September 1, 2019

Extract

© Published by Alberta Queen's Printer

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Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
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ALBERTA REGULATION 94/2019
Education Act
SCHOOL COUNCILS REGULATION

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Definitions

1 In this Regulation,

- (a) “early childhood services program” means an early childhood services program provided by a board under section 21 of the Act;
- (b) “establishment meeting” means a meeting referred to in section 2;

- (c) “executive” means the executive of a school council;
- (d) “model of governance” means the process and structure used by a school council to make decisions regarding its business and affairs;
- (e) “school community” in respect of a school means
 - (i) students enrolled in the school and their parents,
 - (ii) children enrolled in an early childhood services program at the school and their parents,
 - (iii) the school staff, and
 - (iv) other persons who have an interest in the school;
- (f) “school day” means a day scheduled for the purpose of instruction, examinations or other student activities where student-teacher interaction and supervision are maintained.

Establishment meeting

2(1) If a school that is required to have a school council has no school council, the school must, within 40 days after the start of the school year, hold a meeting for the purpose of establishing a school council.

(2) If fewer than 5 parents are in attendance at an establishment meeting or if the meeting is not successful in establishing a school council, the principal may adjourn the meeting to a later date and establish an advisory committee to carry out one or more duties or functions of a school council in the interim until a school council is established.

(3) Any advisory committee established under subsection (2) is dissolved on the establishment of a school council.

Notice of establishment meeting

3(1) If a school is required to hold an establishment meeting, the principal must give notice of the meeting to the following persons:

- (a) a parent of each student enrolled in the school;
- (b) a parent of each child enrolled in an early childhood services program at the school;
- (c) the school staff;

- (d) other members of the school community who, in the principal's opinion, should be given notice.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) must
- (a) describe the purpose of the meeting,
 - (b) set out the time, date and location of the meeting, and
 - (c) be given at least 10 school days before the date of the meeting.
- (3) A notice under subsection (1) may be given by any means the principal considers appropriate, including electronic means.
- (4) If an establishment meeting is adjourned under section 2(2), notice of the adjournment date must be given in accordance with this section.

Chair and secretary at establishment meeting

4 The principal must decide who is to act as the chair and who is to act as the secretary at an establishment meeting.

Agenda at establishment meeting

- 5(1)** The persons attending an establishment meeting must
- (a) decide, subject to section 7, on the size of the school council,
 - (b) decide on the model of governance for the school council,
 - (c) decide, subject to subsection (2), on the term of office of each member of the school council,
 - (d) elect, subject to subsection (2), the initial members of the school council referred to in section 7(1)(d),
 - (e) decide, subject to section 8, on the size of the executive,
 - (f) decide on the term of office of each member of the executive, and
 - (g) elect the initial members of the executive.
- (2) For greater certainty, but without restricting the generality of subsection (1)(a), the persons attending an establishment meeting may decide that for the purposes of section 7(1)(d), the school council may include
- (a) all parents of students enrolled in the school, and

- (b) if an early childhood services program is offered at the school, all parents of children enrolled in an early childhood services program at the school

who wish to be members.

Right to vote at establishment meeting

6 Despite section 5, only persons who attend the establishment meeting and are

- (a) parents of students enrolled in the school, or
- (b) parents of children enrolled in an early childhood services program at the school

are entitled to vote on matters raised at the meeting.

School council membership

7(1) A school council must include the following members:

- (a) the principal of the school;
- (b) at least one person who is a teacher at the school, elected or appointed by the teachers at the school;
- (c) if the school includes a senior high school program, at least one person who is a student enrolled in the high school, elected or appointed by the students enrolled in the high school;
- (d) in accordance with section 55(2) of the Act, parents of students enrolled in the school;
- (e) if an early childhood services program is offered at the school, parents of children enrolled in the program.

(2) The members of a school council referred to in subsection (1) may establish a process to appoint as members of the school council one or more persons who are not parents of students enrolled in the school but who have an interest in the school.

School council executive

8(1) A school council must have a chair and any other members of the executive determined by the persons attending an establishment meeting.

(2) A parent of a student enrolled in the school or, if an early childhood services program is offered at the school, a parent of a

child enrolled in the program must be elected chair of the executive.

(3) Despite subsection (2), a member who is not a parent referred to in subsection (2) may be elected chair of the executive if no such parent is willing to be nominated as chair.

(4) Subject to subsection (2), every member of a school council is eligible to be elected as a member of the executive.

Faith of school council members

9 Subject to any resolution passed under section 55(3) of the Act, the members of a school council may be of any faith.

Remuneration of school council members

10 No member of a school council shall receive any remuneration for acting as a member of the council.

Prohibition against incorporation

11 No school council shall incorporate under the *Societies Act* or Part 9 of the *Companies Act*.

Responsibilities of board

12(1) A board must provide the school council with an opportunity to provide advice on the development of the school's

- (a) foundation statements, if any, respecting the school's vision, principles and beliefs,
- (b) policies,
- (c) annual education plan and annual results report required by the Minister to be reported under section 67 of the Act, and
- (d) budget required to be reported under section 139 of the Act.

(2) A board must provide the school council with

- (a) the results for the school from provincial assessments and an interpretation of those results, and
- (b) the same information that the board disseminates to students, parents or electors under section 67(2) of the Act.

(3) A board must at all reasonable times allow the school council free and full access to timely and accurate information of the board that is publicly available, including board policies and minutes of board meetings.

Donations

13(1) A school council may receive donations on behalf of a board but no school council shall raise funds or otherwise solicit donations in any manner that would require a gaming licence under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.

(2) A school council must handle and report all money it receives, if any, in accordance with applicable policies and procedures of the board.

Duty to report to the board

14(1) The chair of a school council must prepare and provide to the board by September 30 of each year a report

- (a) summarizing the activities of the school council in the previous school year, and
- (b) detailing, in accordance with the policies referred to in section 13(2), the receipt, handling and use of any money by the school council in the previous school year.

(2) A school council must retain at the school a copy of the minutes for each meeting of the school council and make them available to the board or the public on request.

(3) A school council must retain the minutes for each meeting of the school council for at least 7 years.

Date for first meeting of school council

15 For any school year, the first meeting of the school council must be held within 40 days after the start of the school year or as specified in the bylaws of the school council.

Suspension of school council

16(1) If a quorum is not available for a meeting of a school council and the meeting has been rescheduled on 2 or more occasions, the board may suspend the operation of the school council until the following year.

(2) If the operation of a school council is suspended, the principal may establish an advisory committee to carry out one or more of

the duties or functions of the school council until a new school council is established under subsection (3).

(3) If the operation of a school council is suspended under subsection (1), a new school council must be established within 40 school days after the start of the next school year in accordance with sections 2 to 8.

Bylaws of school council

17(1) Each school council may make bylaws respecting the conduct of its business and affairs, including, without limitation, bylaws

- (a) respecting the calling of regular, special or annual meetings of the school council;
- (b) subject to section 5, respecting the election of members of the school council;
- (c) subject to section 5, respecting the election of members of the executive;
- (d) respecting the role of the chair and other members of the executive relating to the conduct of the school council's affairs;
- (e) respecting the number of times the school council must meet each year;
- (f) respecting the location of school council meetings;
- (g) respecting the number of school council members that constitutes a quorum at meetings of the school council;
- (h) respecting a conflict resolution process for internal school council disputes.

(2) A bylaw under subsection (1) does not come into force unless it is approved by a majority of

- (a) parents of students enrolled in the school, and
- (b) parents of children enrolled in an early childhood services program at the school

who vote at a special meeting of the school council called for that purpose.

(3) The bylaws continue in force from year to year unless

- (a) they are amended at a special meeting of the school council called for that purpose, and
- (b) the amendment is approved in accordance with subsection (2).

Fees prohibited

18 No school council shall be charged a fee for the use of the school or school facilities for the purpose of holding a meeting of the school council.

Exemptions

19 The following are exempt from the application of section 55 of the Act and this Regulation:

- (a) a school for resident students of the Government as described in section 4(7) of the Act that is provided in an institution approved by the Minister;
- (b) a school for students that is provided in an institution approved by the Minister.

Transitional

20(1) In this section, “former regulation” means the *School Councils Regulation* (AR 113/2007).

- (2) A school council established under the former regulation is deemed to have been established under this Regulation.
- (3) A member of a school council referred to in subsection (2) continues to serve in the same capacity under this Regulation.
- (4) Bylaws made by a school council under the former regulation continue in force as if made under this Regulation, except to the extent of any inconsistency with the Act or this Regulation.

Repeal

21 The *School Councils Regulation* (AR 113/2007) is repealed.


Expiry

22 For the purpose of ensuring that this Regulation is reviewed for ongoing relevancy and necessity, with the option that it may be repassed in its present or an amended form following a review, this Regulation expires on August 31, 2029.

Coming into force

23 This Regulation comes into force on September 1, 2019.



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School Council Resource Guide

Alberta School Councils' Association

Created for digital access, this Guide contains links to online resources available to all ASCA Member School Councils.

ASCA Members must be signed into the [Members Only](#) section of the ASCA website to access the resources listed.

School Councils in Alberta

School councils are structured groups of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students and community representatives who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. They provide a means for members of the school community to consult with and provide advice to the principal and the school board.

School councils were legislated in 1995 under Alberta's Education Act and are mandatory for all schools in the public education system, including charter schools.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the value of parents and the community to be engaged in the education of children. It is through school council that parents, community members and school staff have a means of participating in decisions that impact student learning success.

Legislation relevant to school councils in Alberta is contained in [Section 55 of the Education Act](#) and further defined in the [School Councils Regulation](#) outlining requirements.

The [Alberta School Councils' Association \(ASCA\)](#) is the provincial association representing parents on school council. Recognized as the voice of parents in public education, ASCA presents the parent perspective to government and education organizations in Alberta and provides resources, supports and services to enhance parent engagement and school council effectiveness.

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Look for [LINKS](#) to relevant resource documents available in this Guide. **Note* ASCA Member School councils must be signed into the [Members Only](#) section of the ASCA website to access the resources.**



School Council

School councils are an important forum through which members of school communities play an advisory role in school improvement planning. Key factors in collaborative relationships are building meaningful, two-way communication and supporting respectful interactions among education partners.

School council is a structured group of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students and community representatives whose purpose is to advise the principal and the school board respecting matters relating to the school. It is a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

A school council is a vehicle to support meaningful parental involvement in decisions that affect the school and its operations. School council provides the venue for parents to reflect the wishes of the broader community for the education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal in the operations of the school. The actual decision-making authority of the school council is limited to:

- determining the school council operating procedures
- setting policies to govern school council activities at the school level, as described in the *Education Act*
- planning engagement activities that align with school council's legislated purpose
- choosing to provide advice to the principal and school board

Core Activities

- Advises the principal and board on educational issues that pertain to the school.
- Establishes and reviews school council's goals, objectives, action plans and procedures.
- Communicates and consults with parents and the school community.
- Meets regularly.

[Annual Agenda Framework](#)

[Sample School Council Annual Agenda](#)

Role

A school council should review its mission, vision and goals annually to ensure they reflect the views of the current membership.

School council functions may include:

- consulting with the principal to ensure students have opportunities to meet Ministry standards, fiscal management is sound, and the community is taken into consideration during school-based planning
- advising the principal and the school board on topics as requested
- being involved in school-based planning
- sharing ideas and information with other school councils and provincial organizations
- communicating information to the school community and other school councils
- setting policies that relate to school council functions, such as:
 - location of school council meetings
 - mail, email address for school council correspondence
 - school council orientation and development
 - financial management and/or fundraising
 - communications
 - privacy
 - minutes of school council meetings
 - pertinent information unique to the school council

Effective School Council Checklist

What School Councils are Not

As the primary role is advisory, school councils are not eligible to incorporate as societies. It is not the primary intent of school councils to fundraise or lobby.

Roles that are not to be taken on by a school council include:

- school governance
- employment issues
- school management
- listening to complaints

Education Act & School Councils Regulation

Advisory

The school council is a legislated structure - a forum for parents and community members to participate in an advisory capacity in their local school decision-making processes. The advisory role is intended to engage parents, high school students and the community in school decision-making for which the principal is responsible.

Advising the Principal

School council may, at its discretion, advise the principal on matters relating to the school. Some of the more common topics for discussion include:

- school's overall mission, philosophy, policies, rules and goals
- school's improvement planning, including three-year plans
- school division policies (e.g. school fees, school council policies)
- school budget
- school volunteers
- provincial achievement test results and diploma exam results
- guidelines and principles for the school resource allocations
- fundraising
- training and/or information needs of school council members
- school policy on use of facilities by the larger community
- facility renovations
- ways of reporting student achievement results to parents and public
- methods of communicating with parents and the public
- promotion of the school in the community
- programs offered in the school
- extracurricular activities offered in the school
- student attendance procedures, standards of student conduct and bullying issues
- services for students to improve learning, such as assistance from reading specialists and guidance counsellors
- school calendar and adjustments in school hours
- graduation and other school celebrations

Advising the Board of Trustees and Charter Boards

School council may, at its discretion, advise the school board/charter board on matters relating to the school.

Typical topics include:

- division's three-year plan
- school division budget
- fundraising issues and methods of generating additional revenue
- school council policies
- division-wide programming priorities
- school infrastructure priorities
- safety issues that affect students/schools in the division
- advocacy for students, parents and public education
- transportation issues
- suggested criteria for hiring a school principal

Advising the Minister of Education

School councils may also come together to advise the Minister of Education on matters that pertain to provincial educational policy and directions. When advice with the potential to affect change in schools across the province is given, it becomes **advocacy**. This form of advising or advocacy can be undertaken through the government recognized provincial association that represents the voice of parents in public education - the **Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)**.

ASCA members bring forward issues, in the form of resolutions, at the annual general meeting. If a resolution is endorsed or voted in by the majority of the assembly at the meeting, it becomes a policy of the association. This policy forms the basis for advocating change to the Minister of Education.

Responsibility

While individual members of school council may have specific duties, all members are responsible for creating a culture of respect, collaboration and inclusion.

Each school council must decide how to fulfill its responsibility in the school community through activities, such as:

- seeking the views of the school community (through questionnaires, informal discussions, topic-specific meetings)
- representing the views of the school community actively and accurately (through consulting as widely as possible with parents, teachers, students and community before making major decisions or providing conclusive advice to the principal or board)
- informing the school community of items, such as meetings, committee work, news and surveys (through newsletters, bulletin boards, emails)
- involving the school community (by inviting, supporting, including)
- encouraging and promoting parental engagement and support (by publicizing opportunities for ways to get involved, not just school council meetings)
- becoming well informed (by asking questions, reading, critically examining what is presented)
- focusing on the best interests of all students (by considering a wide variety of students and families when making decisions and formulating advice)
- becoming familiar with the policies of the local school board and understanding how they impact the school community
- maintaining ethical standards and setting ground rules of respect for meetings (adopting a code of conduct for school council members, rules of order for meetings)

School Councils Supporting the Assurance Framework and Professional Practice Standards

School Councils Supporting the Assurance Framework

Alberta Education changed the way it demonstrates confidence in meeting the needs of students and enabling their success, with the adoption of a new *Assurance Framework*, implemented alongside funding changes in 2020.

Assurance is a concept that encompasses accountability, engagement, transparency and reporting.

The assurance model creates new opportunities for parents to engage with the education system and help shape local priorities and initiatives. This new process (or *mindset*) affects school council activities.

The new approach changes the focus of the work of School Boards and schools from being *accountable* to the Ministry - to that of *demonstrating* to (local and provincial) Albertans that the system is meeting the needs of students, and that students are successful.

The concept is about *continuous improvement* – not a reaction to yearly results, but *ongoing reviews* of actions being taken, and sharing these reviews.

It is about conferring with stakeholders, including parents, about what is expected – in the LOCAL context as well as Provincial – creating and initiating plans that correspond to those expectations, following up those plans on a constant basis, to find out if there is success or a need to change direction, and checking in with stakeholders to demonstrate the results, and asking “*Did we get it right?*”.

School Boards are also expected to include evidence of stakeholder engagement in their planning documents. This approach relies on creating strong relationships between education partners and stakeholders, and a commitment to transparency.

The new framework is an excellent opportunity for school councils to be engaged. Alberta Education sees the involvement of school councils contributing to assurance in valuable ways, including the following:

- Become familiar with the *Assurance Framework* and the related school authority planning and reporting requirements
- Review the School Board’s education plan and annual education report (*posted annually on Board’s website by November 30 and May 31, respectively*) and those of the school (*posted annually on either the school or School Board website*)
- Participate in engagement opportunities surrounding the development of school and School Board education plan priorities
- Participate in engagement opportunities respecting results and progress towards meeting the School Board’s priorities
- Participate in the development of school education plans, annual education results reports, and budget
- Educate Grade 4, 7 and 10 parents about the *Alberta Education Assurance Parent Survey* and encourage their input

[How do SCHOOL COUNCILS contribute to Alberta Education’s ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK?](#)

School Councils supporting the Professional Practice Standards (PPS)

Three *Professional Practice Standards* for Alberta's teaching profession came into effect in September 2019.

- The *Teaching Quality Standard* (TQS) describing the professional expectations for teachers who work directly with students (an updated version)
- The *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* (SLQS) which defines the professional expectations that superintendents must demonstrate to create the conditions under which school leaders and teachers can do their best work,

and – of particular interest to School Councils:

- The *Leadership Quality Standard* (LQS) that outlines the professional expectations that principals and school jurisdiction leaders must demonstrate to create the conditions under which teachers can do their best work.

A professional practice standard identifies the competency requirements for members of a profession.

As the *Principal* is a legislated member of School Council, and the person in charge of administration at the school, *(and the person who is the receiver of most of School Councils' work - the receiver of advice)*, it is imperative that School Council understand the expectations of the Principal role associated with the relationship, as defined in the [Leadership Quality Standard](#) (LQS).

Competency #7, reads:

“A leader provides opportunities for members of the school community to develop leadership capacity and to support others in fulfilling their educational roles.”

One of this competency's indicators is:

“c. promoting the engagement of parents in school council(s) and facilitating the constructive involvement of school council(s) in school life”;

In the nine competencies outlined, a comprehensive 22 indicators relate specifically to school councils and the school community (*highlighted in the document link here*). This is why it is so important for members of school councils to be aware of, and understand, the LQS.

Education Planning

Accountability in the education system is an ongoing cycle that enables continuous improvement and critical reflection. Key components are measuring progress and using results to inform decision-making. Plans are developed on a three-year cycle and updated each year to respond to the past year's performance results and changes in the operating environment.

With the goal of encouraging continuous improvement in learning for children, Alberta Education mandates province-wide, three-year education planning and results reporting for school boards and schools. It is fundamental that each level of education strive to ensure the success of children and that planning is aligned.

School councils are important forums through which members of school communities play a role in school improvement planning. To increase meaningful engagement of parents, school councils should be aware of the three-year education plan of their school and consider developing a complementary school council plan.

School councils can participate in levels of planning and results reporting in three ways:

- provide advice in the development of the division's plan and results report
- provide advice on the school's plan and results report
- create a school council's plan

Designing plans and results reports involves vision, decision-making, evaluation and critical thinking, all of which is done best with the participation of all those who have an interest in the success of the school.

The **Government of Alberta** outlines its goals for the future and strategies to achieve goals in a three-year business plan. Each Ministry or government department must also develop three-year plans, with goals that are connected to and aligned with those of the province.

Alberta Education has a three-year business plan that identifies goals aligned with the Government of Alberta's business plan. Alberta Education is required to report the achievement of its goals, on an annual basis, as part of the government's accountability to the public.

Parents are involved in the development of goals and a review of Alberta Education's business plan each year, through the **Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)**. The ASCA is invited, along with other education partner organizations, to send representatives to the provincial table when items are under discussion. Parents bring a valuable perspective to the establishment and review of provincial goals for education.

The **school board** develops three-year plans that must align with provincial goals as well as address local needs and issues. The school board is responsible for submitting an annual results report to Alberta Education, which provides information on the division and schools' major accomplishments and results of the past year. It includes results from surveys, provincial achievement tests and diploma exams, along with other information.

Councils of School Councils (COSC) or groups of school council representatives that have division-wide membership are ideal for providing input into the development of the division's three-year plan.

School Improvement Planning

Schools plan and implement three-year education plans that are aligned with the school division and provincial direction. Education plans for schools are developed by school administrators and staff, in consultation with school councils. The school's three-year education plan must complement the division's three-year plan and address the unique context and issues at the school level. The school's plan reflects the culture, opportunities, challenges and values of the school community.

Some components of a plan, such as strategies and priorities, are revamped annually. Thus, one year is completed and another is added to maintain a three-year time frame. Near the end of each year, schools must prepare an education results report for their division.

School and division plans must describe how the school council was involved in the development of the plan. *"School councils must have the opportunity to participate in the development and implementation of the school's plan and the opportunity to develop and include strategies the council intends to pursue to support the achievement of the outcomes in the school's plan."*

It is important that staff, students, parents and community members have an opportunity to provide input into a plan and have the results interpreted to encourage broad ownership of the plan and results.

School Council Planning

Some school councils develop a three-year plan that supports or parallels the goals of the school. It provides continuity of focus and purpose from year to year. A school council develops a three-year plan based on goals that align with the school's plan and reflect the interests of the community. Planning begins with reviewing what's already in place:

- schools council's plan
- school's three-year plan and results report
- division's three-year plan and results report

Once a school council plan has been created and the goals accomplished, it can be shared with the school, school board and school community. The more who know and understand the work of the school council, the more the school council work will be supported.

[School Council Planning Status Update](#)

Levels of Engagement

Legislation created school councils, but it cannot make them work. That is up to the members, including parents, staff, principals, school boards and, in some cases, students. The experience of members, the leadership of the principal and chair and the goals of the group play a role in defining the discussions and the level of engagement of a school council. The means by which a school council defines its meaningful engagement is up to each school council.

There are different levels of engagement for school councils. It is suggested that each school council decide the preferred level of engagement at the first school council meeting of the year.

[Types of Engagement](#)

Building a School Council

The *Education Act* and the *School Councils Regulation* provide a school council with parameters to create their own operating procedures. The following outlines what school councils should consider in their operations.

School Council Mission

What is the purpose of the school council?

School Council Goals

The purpose made more specific - what will school council do?

Governance of School Council

What model of governance will the school council adopt?

Decision Making

What will be the decision-making model for the school council? Who is permitted to vote? Does the school council need a quorum? How will the quorum be defined?

Meetings

What will be the procedures for regular meetings, annual general meetings and special meetings?

Members of School Council

Who are the members of the school council? Are members elected or is every parent of a student enrolled in the school a member of school council?

What will be the executive positions? What will be their term of office? Does the executive have authority beyond other school council members? How will vacancies be filled?

Roles and Responsibilities of School Council Members

What are the roles and responsibilities of the members and the executive?

Committees

What committees, if any, will the school council have?

How will the school council create committees and their terms of reference?

Relationship with Fundraising Association/Society

What will be the relationship of school council with the fundraising association, if there is an association/society?

Reporting

What reporting is required?

Funds from Fundraising

What is the policy of the school board regarding school council funds?

What will be the purpose of a fundraising activity? How will school council funds be managed? Who will manage the funds? Who will decide how the funds are distributed?

Amendments

How and when will the school council's operating procedures be amended?

Policies

Will the school council develop policy in addition to the operating procedures to assist it in its year-to-year operation? How will policy be created?

Code of Ethics

What will be the code of ethics?

Privacy

Who will be the school council member designated to ensure the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA) and privacy issues are understood and implemented for the school council? Who will be the school council member responsible to manage the personal information of school council members and school community members involved with school council?

Operating Procedures

A school council creates operating procedures or bylaws to assist it in functioning effectively and can decide what will be included in its operating procedures.

Operating procedures or bylaws are the guidelines that inform a school council of the expected way to conduct its business. Operating procedures are less formal and serve the same function as bylaws. Operating procedures should be aligned with government legislation and local school board policy. They typically detail items, such as:

- membership of the school council
- members of the executive of the school council; e.g. chair or co-chairs, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer
- duties of the officers, their role descriptions
- types of committees that may be established
- meeting times and descriptions
- quorum necessary to make school council decisions
- decision-making style
- when the annual meeting will be held and who should attend
- annual report details, including when it is filed and the information it should contain
- methods to amend the bylaws/operating procedures
- which officers have signing authority
- processes to deal with conflict, should it arise

[School Council Operating Procedures Checklist](#)

[School Council Operating Procedures Template](#)

Models of Governance/Operational Style

School councils choose the model of governance that will work best for their communities and indicate the selected model in their operating procedures. Two common models are the **town hall** model and the **representative** model.

In a **town hall** model, decisions are made at regular meetings open to the entire school community and the executive members of the school council act only to carry out the wishes of the assembly. All parents that attend meetings are welcome to participate and vote. Individuals are elected or appointed (executive and others) to manage meetings and coordinate school council business.

A **representative** model acts like a board of directors to conduct the day-to-day business and reports back to the wider school community one or more times a year. The school community elects or appoints individuals to specific positions (representing a particular responsibility or activity area). Only individuals (parents, staff, students, community members) that are designated will have a vote and are considered to be “the school council.” All other attendees are welcome to attend, and participate in discussion at meetings but are not eligible to vote.

Many school councils have taken aspects of each model and created a **combined** model that reflects their community and serves their purposes. Some meetings, or specific agenda items, may allow for all attendees to participate and vote.

Governance Types

Membership

Membership in the school council is defined in *Regulation* and in the *Education Act*. The majority of the members must be parents of children enrolled at the school. Other members are the principal, one or more teacher representatives and a high school student, if the school has a high school. A school council may also have *Early Childhood Services* (ECS) parents, if the school has an ECS program, and community members.

Executive

The *Regulation* refers to “the executive” of a school council, and requires the school community to decide what size and which positions are to be included. Generally, the “executive” are the primary members needed to ensure the operations of the school council are managed: chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer (if required).

Other positions may be filled by individuals considered to part of the “executive committee” or apart from it (at the discretion of the school community). These individuals may be called “officers” of the school council or have a title assigned; e.g. Communications Officer, Event Organizer, Reading Club Coordinator, Volunteer Officer, Fundraising Chair.

Member Roles

School Council Chair

It is expected that the school council chairperson will be a parent of a student attending the school. The chair should be someone who can work collaboratively and knows how to organize both programs and people. The chair should actively encourage others to become engaged in meaningful ways.

Typical chairing duties include:

- chair all meetings of the school council
- coordinate with the principal to establish meeting agendas
- ensure that the operating procedures are current and followed
- be the official spokesperson of the school council
- ensure there is regular communication with the whole school community

- stay informed about school board policy that impacts school council
- comply with the *School Councils Regulation* by providing the school board with an annual report that summarizes the school council's activities for the previous school year, including a financial statement relating to money, if any, handled by the school council

Chair's Relationship with the Principal

The chair's role is key to the success of the school council. An important responsibility is regular and ongoing communication with the school principal. This relationship of mutual trust and respect must be nurtured and supportive of common goals for the learning community.

Principal

The principal is the instructional leader who manages the day-to-day operations of the school and is a key member on school council who promotes cooperation between the school and the community. As a provincially mandated member of the school council, the principal:

- may be identified as a member of the executive
- works in collaboration with the chair to prepare school council agendas
- supports the chair in running efficient school council meetings
- provides contextual information, as requested by the school council, on matters relating to the school
- seeks input from the school council, parents and community on major decisions that affect the school
- encourages and supports the formation and continuous improvement of school council
- interprets and shares results of provincial achievement tests and diploma exams
- enables the school council to provide input into the school's education plan, policies and budget

School Council Participant Roles

Vice-Chair

On some school councils, the role of chair is shared, either through the creation of co-chairing positions or through the chair's dependence on the vice-chair to undertake part of the work.

Typically, the vice-chair's duties are, in the event of resignation, incapacity or leave of absence of the chair, to fulfill the chair's responsibilities, and in the absence of the chair, supervise the affairs and preside at meetings of the school council.

Secretary

The school council secretary typically acts as a recorder at each meeting and ensures that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting.

Treasurer

If the school council is handling money, through fundraising activities or donations, the treasurer keeps accurate records of all financial transactions and ensure that records are available upon request of the school board or school community.

Teacher

Each school council must have at least one teacher representative, as per the legislation. A teacher representative contributes to a successful school council by sharing professional knowledge with school council members and presenting the teachers' perspective.

Parents/Guardians

Parents of children enrolled at the school form the majority of the members of school council, and:

- encourage participation of parents and representatives from the school community
- share their professional knowledge, expertise and life experience
- encourage feedback and participation from community groups and individuals
- communicate information of interest to the school council and the school community
- share information from school council meetings with the community
- have a clear understanding of the school council objectives
- attend school council meetings and create an inviting environment
- identify possible topics for agendas and recommend training sessions on school council effectiveness

Community Member

School councils are encouraged to have a community member attend meetings. The community representative can play a strong role in bringing the community perspective into the school. The member helps the school and school council build partnerships with the larger community and, in many instances, acts as a resource to promote cooperative ventures between community and school to enhance student learning.

Student

The student is the centre of the education system and, in high school, has an important role to play as a participant on school council. A student presents the student perspective on issues, helps with school policies, seeks other students' views to share with school council and communicates school council's information to fellow students.

Education Community

When everyone has a clear understanding of roles on school council, it fosters mutual respect and collaboration. Others have distinct responsibilities in the education environment, which school councils should be aware of and support as well.

Superintendent

The superintendent, as the chief executive and educational officer of the board/charter board, is responsible to the board/charter board and to the Minister of Education for the overall achievement and success of the students within the division.

School Boards and Charter Boards

The school board consists of elected community members (trustees) who determine policy and set goals and directions to guide education in the school division. A charter board consists of members that are appointed or elected to the board. The board member can bring the board's perspective and information, as an invited guest, at school council meetings.

Minister of Education

The Minister of Education determines the general direction for education policy and is responsible for legislation governing the formation of school councils. In addition to the Province of Alberta's *Education Act*, the Minister sets:

- funding levels for education
- guidelines for curriculum and student assessment
- reports annually about education in the province

[School Council Partnerships: Who's Who?](#)

Committees

Members who attend school council meetings cannot do everything themselves. Sometimes, it is necessary to delegate to a committee. Parents, teachers or members of the community who are unable to attend regular council meetings may be willing to serve on a short-term specific-task committee.

Effective committee work helps make school council meetings brief and effective. Committees also enable the school council to accomplish much more.

- Committees are formed after initial school council discussion.
- Items requiring more lengthy discussion or research are assigned to a committee.
- Committees make decisions or recommendations, according to the mandate provided by school council.
- Standing committees operate on an ongoing basis, with specified lengths of terms for members.
- Ad hoc committees are formed as necessary and are to work within a specified time period.

Creating Committees-Best Practices

Meetings

If a school had a school council the previous year, the school council is **renewed** (not re-established) at the beginning of the next school year, as per the *School Councils Regulation*, or at a time agreed upon by members.

Establishment Meeting

In schools where there is no school council, the principal arranges an establishment meeting, following the process outlined in the *School Councils Regulation*. The *Regulation* identifies who the principal must notify, when the notification must occur, and who is to act as the chair and as the secretary. The agenda for the establishment meeting must include discussion about the:

- school council membership
- size of the school council and the executive positions
- term of office of each member of the school council
- model of governance to be followed
- preferred decision-making model, including who is able to vote
- frequency of school council meetings
- operating procedures
- any other matters that require clarification
- election of executive members of the school council

First School Council Meeting of the Year

The agenda for the first meeting should review the relevant legislation, allow discussion of the work of school council and help set the focus for the coming year. Ideally, the agenda is set through collaborative efforts between the principal and chair.

Suggested topics for the first meeting may include one or more of the following:

- review of the legislation, operating procedures
- roles and responsibilities of school councils, principals, teachers and school board
- mission, vision and code of ethics for school council and/or school
- school council's previous year's report to the school board
- rules of order that the school council will use throughout the year, including voting procedures
- school and/or school council's three-year plan and activities
- minutes of the last school council meeting and how to access minutes from previous meetings

- potential school council committees and their responsibilities
- meeting dates and times for the year
- review of the governance model used in previous years, including how decisions are made

Decision Making

The way school councils make decisions may vary, depending on the issue. Two typical models for making decisions are *consensus* and *majority vote*. School councils may combine both strategies to seek consensus from the school community and then confirm the decision by a majority vote.

When making a decision by majority vote, it is necessary to provide ample time for school council members to become informed on the issue and to discuss it thoroughly. Majority vote is effective when it is not likely that a compromise will be reached.

Rules of Order

Rules of order help school councils operate effectively. School councils can establish rules of order, according to their culture and needs. Rules of order help manage and direct discussion, debate and decisions for the group. It is important that the school council follows a set of rules and that the chair knows the rules and adheres to them. There are complex official rules, such as *Robert's Rules of Order*, as well as simplified versions better suited for school councils.

[Sample School Council Rules of Order](#)

Chairing the Meeting

It is expected that a parent will chair school council meetings. An effective chair or co-chairs will have an agenda that is focused on the business of the school council. The chair should start the meeting on time, encourage or allow opinions on each topic, sum up each discussion item with a view to closing the item and moving on, and end the meeting on time.

[Tips for School Council Chairs](#)

Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes are usually recorded by the secretary of the school council as per the *Regulation*. The minutes should be recorded using a template that matches the agenda in one of three ways:

- verbatim minutes – word for word record of what was said (*not recommended for school council*)
- decision-only minutes – motions or decisions only – no discussions recorded
- anecdotal minutes – decisions and concise discussion summaries (*recommended for school council*)

Accurate anecdotal minutes provide school council members with:

- a clear objective summary of what went on during the meeting
- an historical account of the group's decisions and the rationale behind them, including:
 - objective comments, rather than opinions
 - decisions about action items
 - highlights, rather than narrative accounts
 - motions and resolutions recorded verbatim

The minutes must be consistently recorded, retained at the school (for at least seven years) and made available to the board and/or the public, on request.

[Minutes Template](#) [Sample Minutes](#) [Making Motions](#) [Sample Agenda Template](#) [Three Types of Minutes](#)

Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the school council will be held within 20 school days after the start of the school year or at an appropriate time during the school year as determined by the school council. The meeting will be advertised throughout the school and the community until the date of the AGM. The business of the AGM may include:

- election of school council members and/or executive members
- proposed operating procedures amendments
- motion to accept a financial statement of the previous year
- plans and budget for the upcoming year
- discussion of major issues in which parents should have input, such as:
 - changes to the vision or mission statement of the school
 - major changes in the school program or focus
 - formal evaluation of the school council

[Sample School Council AGM Agenda](#)

[School Council Executive Transition Checklist](#)

Productive Meetings

One way to ensure school council members feel positive about their role on school council is to have productive and effective school council meetings. Here are five signs of a productive meeting.

1. The meeting has an agenda and is chaired effectively. People know why they're there, what they're hoping to accomplish and feel it's a valuable use of their time.
2. Members understand meeting expectations and participate actively.
3. All participants feel welcome and that their participation is valued.
4. The participants generate creative ideas and solutions and are committed to the decisions and actions they reach.
5. Participants are willing to work together again. Feeling positive about the meeting and maintaining mutual respect is important.

[Making Meetings Meaningful](#)

Attendance

Communication is the most useful tool to get people interested in the work of school council. Letting parents and community members know about school council meetings and sharing information about school council decisions, directions and activities helps keep them interested.

- Collect and maintain a list of parents' names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.
- Use email to send meeting notices, event announcements, requests for help and updates on school issues.
- Use the school's outdoor sign to advertise and promote school council meetings and events.
- Ask local businesses if they will post school council meeting information and/or distribute the school council newsletter. Ask local churches, seniors' facilities, daycares or community leagues as well.
- Send parents and others the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting several days before each school council meeting.
- Call people a few days before each meeting and encourage them to attend.
- Translate important notices and information into the main languages of the school, when possible.
- Create a school council newsletter.
- Make sure the community knows and understands the goals of the school and school council.
- Thank and recognize participant efforts often and publicly.

[Increase Meeting Participation](#)

Participation

School councils are forums through which members of school communities play important roles in school improvement planning. It is important that school councils make an effort to reflect the diversity within the school community.

Educators recognize the crucial role that school councils, parents and community members have in enhancing student learning. **Studies identify the benefits of parental involvement in education**, which include:

- higher student achievement
- better student attendance
- more positive student attitudes and behaviours
- higher student graduation rates

Effective recruiting needs to be an ongoing, year-round activity. As with any group, it is important to support the participation of existing participants and to invite newcomers to ensure continued success into the future. Having skilled and committed school council leaders assume key organizing and chairing roles also enhances the success and sustainability of a school council.

Recruitment is about approaching those who may have an interest in school council and matching their skills with the work that needs to be done. Everyone should be encouraged to identify opportunities to involve school community members in the school decision-making process on school council. Parents, teachers, students, administrators, community leaders and trustees may know people who can make positive school council contributions.

It is important to develop and use a variety of methods to encourage involvement on school council.

[Engagement Opportunities](#)

[Why Participate on School Council](#)

Engagement

Once new school council members have been recruited, efforts need to be made to keep them involved. Developing and implementing procedures to create an environment of inclusion and involvement is essential. **Orienting, mentoring and training** new members promotes a sense of belonging that immediately involves them in the school council. Running productive meetings, **recognizing** participants and **succession planning** for the future are ways to retain school council members.

[How to Recognize Participants](#)

[Ideas to Engage the School Community](#)

Communication and Promotion

A school council is representative of parents and others from the broader school community. It is important that the school council identify ways and means to check the pulse of the school community and ensure the community's wishes, goals and aspirations for its school are articulated through the school council.

It is also important that the work of school council - its advice to the principal on school decisions, the strategies school council uses to enhance school climate and culture, and the ongoing support it gives the principal, staff and students in the school - is shared with the school community.

Open and clear communication is essential in helping everyone feel included as part of the school community.

One of the keys to an effective school council is the ability of the members to communicate well with each other. A responsibility of a school council is to communicate with the parents of the school community. There are several ways to communicate the work of the school council. Outlined below are some suggestions that may be useful.

Within Council

- Utilize a Permission to Contact form distributed to parents/guardians, maintained securely (in keeping with privacy legislation) to send out school council notices, agendas and minutes.
- Research and develop a list of relevant and interesting website addresses, companies and organizations for distribution to school council members.
- Set up a school council email account, either through the school, or separately (e.g. gmail). Check regularly for messages. Since chairs change from year to year, it is recommended that the email address be generic rather than an individual's name (e.g. *chair@yourschoolname.ca* or *schoolnamechair@gmail.com*).
- Network and communicate with other school councils, through a Council of School Councils (COSC) division group, or provincially, through the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA).

In the School Community

- Include highlights of school council meetings in the school newsletter or on the school website.
- Seek opportunities to translate school newsletters and other forms of communication into the languages commonly used by parents in the community.
- Send school council bulletins (meeting notices, other important dates) home with students on a regular basis.
- Ask the local newspaper to run an article about your school council.
- Ask a local ethnic newspaper to translate and run an article about your school council.
- Seek networking opportunities within your community - make a presentation to city council or to service clubs about the work of the school council.
- Keep the lines of communication open between your school council and your school board - invite your local trustee/charter board member to your meetings or attend a board meeting.

Effective communication by school council builds support for the success of its goals. It demonstrates that parents and school council are serious about the school, children's learning and engagement as partners in helping create a successful learning environment for students.

[Strategies to Raise the Profile & Awareness of School Council](#)

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Having a code of ethics for the school council and a code of conduct for members can dispel misunderstandings about the school council, what it does and how it deals with issues. When those involved in discussion and decision-making at a school embrace both a code of ethics and conduct that speak to collaboration, cooperation, continuous improvement and understanding, conflicts can be dealt with more effectively. [Sample School Council Code of Ethics and Conduct](#)

Fundraising and Accounting

A school council **cannot** be incorporated under the *Societies Act* or Part 9 of the *Companies Act*. Although a school council may fundraise, subject to school board policies, it cannot undertake fundraising endeavours that require a gaming license from the *Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis* (AGLC), such as bingos, casinos or raffles.

School councils may choose to raise funds through non-gaming activities, and maintain a bank account or utilize the school's account, by following the policies, expectations and use of accounting procedures established by their school board/charter board. *Note - school councils may not be covered by school board insurance if something goes awry with money or a bank account. Signers may have personal liability for the account.*

As a statutory entity, and not a legal authority, school councils should focus on their mandated advisory role, and let the Fundraising Association (incorporated society) handle the money.

Insurance and Liability

School councils may be covered under the school board's liability insurance. The *Education Act* states that a board must maintain an insurance policy or policies that indemnify the board, its employees and school councils (***operating within their mandated advisory role***). A school council chair is encouraged to check with the superintendent or school board/charter board chairperson to determine the details of coverage. Limitations are identified in the policies.

As an advisory body, school councils should not require a bank account. An insurance company could question their activities, and indicate they are going beyond their legally mandated advisory role (and potential insured coverage).

Privacy Legislation

Two separate statutes govern the use of personal information within schools:

1. **FOIP**- School boards and school employees operate under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). FOIP legislation defines the amount and nature of personal information that can be shared and for what purposes. All division staff are subject to FOIP regulations when handling personal information.
2. **PIPA**- School councils and fundraising associations/societies operate under the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA). PIPA legislation governs the collection and use of personal information for organizations that are not public bodies.

These acts, in their respective ways, govern an individual's right of access to records and how personal information is collected, used and disclosed in school communities.

Recommendations for School Councils in Relation to PIPA

- Each year, designate a person responsible for responding to questions about the use of personal information by school council.
- Review school council's privacy policy.
- Obtain consent to collect, use and/or disclose personal information from parents, students, school council members or others from the school community.
- Collect only the essential personal information required to fulfill its role in the school.
- State the purpose for and intended use of personal information when consent is sought.
- Use personal information only for the purpose stated when it was collected, unless consent is obtained for an alternative use.
- Ensure that all personal information is protected from unauthorized access and destroyed safely once it is no longer needed.

[PIPA School Council FAQs](#)

[Sample PIPA Policy](#)

[Sample Permission to Contact Form](#)

Reporting

Apart from a responsibility to report to the larger school community, school councils have a duty to submit an annual report to the school board/charter board. This report helps boards measure and be accountable for parent and community involvement within the division.

The chair of a school council must prepare and provide to the board by September 30 of each year a report:

- summarizing the activities of the school council in the previous school year, and
- including a financial statement relating to money handled by the school council in the previous school year, if any, and how the funds were used

A school council must retain at the school, a copy of the minutes for each meeting of the school council (for at least seven years) and make them available to the board or the public on request.

[Sample School Council Annual Report](#)

[Sample School Council Financial Statement](#)

School Councils and Fundraising Associations (Societies)

School councils evolved from or replaced Parent Advisory Councils (PACs), advancing the role of parents and others in the community from volunteers supporting the school, usually through extensive fundraising, to collaborative participants in school decision-making. This change raised new questions about how to handle fundraising issues and continue providing enhanced resources and support to the school.

School councils and fundraising associations are completely different entities. School councils are forums through which members of school communities play an important role in school improvement planning.

Fundraising associations are groups of people who have incorporated under the *Societies Act* or Part 9 of the *Companies Act*. Under current legislation, school councils may raise money, but cannot register as fundraising associations. By appreciating the differences between school councils and fundraising associations, school councils can improve their effectiveness to meet the needs of the school community.

Fundraising associations have been directly or indirectly connected with schools for decades. They are often program specific and go by many names, such as *Friends of Neighbourhood School* or *Neighbourhood School Band Society*. Prior to the legislation that created school councils in Alberta, some PACs and Home and School Associations also registered as incorporated societies.

Making the Distinction

School councils and fundraising associations provide two separate and distinct contexts for parent and community involvement in the school.

School councils provide a means for parents and community to work together with administration, staff and high school students to promote the well-being and overall effectiveness of the school community. The main role is advisory.

Fundraising associations provide a means for parents and community members to provide additional financial resources and support to the school. Their main role is fundraising.

Members who serve on a school council can also serve on a fundraising association, and vice versa, unless the operating procedures/bylaws of either organization prohibit it.

Fundraising associations are responsible for reporting on their activities and fall within the statutes of the *Societies Act*, *Alberta Corporate Registry* and *Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission*, depending on the group's fundraising activities.

Due to the potential confusion when school communities have both a school council and a fundraising association, membership in each organization should be clearly defined and communicated to parents and guardians.

[School Council & Fundraising Associations Comparison](#) [School Council & fundraising Associations Distinctions](#)

[School Council & Fundraising Associations Checklist](#) [Joint Annual Planning](#)

Resources

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) website offers additional resources and information for school councils (*links below*), as well as a calendar of events, latest news, Ministry updates, member benefits, annual conference, education resources, publications and parent links. **Please note – some links are only accessible by signing in to the Members Only section of the ASCA website.**

www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca

Workshops

- Workshops for School Councils/Groups of School Councils
- Workshops for School Division Administration/Principals/School Boards
- Workshops for Fundraising Associations

Tip Sheets, Templates and Samples

- [Insurance Information for School Councils](#)
- **[Parent Engagement Checklist](#)**
- [PIPA Summary for Organizations](#)
- [School Council Web Pages](#)
- [Tips for Directing Meeting Discussion](#)
- [Sample Social Media Policy for School Council](#)
- [Name Cards with Ground Rules](#)
- [Glossary of Terms and Education Resources](#)

Online Learning Resources

- Web clips, Webcasts, Webinars, Recordings
- Webinar Wednesdays
- Meeting Mondays

Effective School Councils

Agenda Topics for School Councils

School Council Advocacy

Provincial Awards of Recognition

Student Health and Wellness

Provincial Education Advocacy

School Division Resources

Fundraising Association Resources

Indigenous Awareness and Advancing Reconciliation

Alphabetical listing of Resource Links in this Guide

ASCA Members must be signed into the [Members Only](#) section of the ASCA website to access the resources listed.

[Annual Agenda Framework](#)
[Creating Committees-Best Practices](#)
[Effective School Council Checklist](#)
[Engagement Opportunities](#)
[Governance Models](#)
[How to Recognize Participants](#)
[Ideas to Engage the School Community](#)
[Increase Meeting Participation](#)
[Joint Annual Planning](#)
[Making Meetings Meaningful](#)
[Making Motions](#)
[Minutes Template](#)
[Personal Information Protection Act \(PIPA\) School Council FAQs](#)
[Sample Agenda Template](#)
[Sample Minutes](#)
[Sample Permission to Contact Form](#)
[Sample Personal Information Protection Act \(PIPA\) Policy](#)
[Sample School Council AGM Agenda](#)
[Sample School Council Annual Agenda](#)
[Sample School Council Annual Report](#)
[Sample School Council Code of Ethics and Conduct](#)
[Sample School Council Financial Statement](#)
[Sample School Council Rules of Order](#)
[Education Act & School Councils Regulation](#)
[School Council & Fundraising Associations Checklist](#)
[School Council & Fundraising Associations Comparison](#)
[School Council & Fundraising Associations Distinctions](#)
[School Council Executive Transition Checklist](#)
[School Council Operating Procedures Checklist](#)
[School Council Operating Procedures Template](#)
[School Council Participant Roles](#)
[School Council Partnerships: Who's Who?](#)
[School Council Planning Status Update](#)
[School Improvement Planning](#)
[Strategies to Raise the Profile & Awareness of School Council](#)
[Three Types of Minutes](#)
[Tips for School Council Chairs](#)
[Types of Engagement](#)
[Why Participate on School Council](#)

For information contact:

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

207, 11010 – 142 Street NW Edmonton AB T5N 2R1

Website www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca Email parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca

Telephone 780-454-9867 in Edmonton Toll-free in Alberta 1-800-661-3470 Fax 780-455-0167

Appeals

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

REVISED: February 28, 2020

REVIEW: 2022-2023

1.0 POLICY

The Board of Trustees expects staff members to resolve issues with individuals in a proactive, respectful and timely manner. The Board recognizes that a resolution acceptable to both parties cannot always be achieved. The Board respects the rights of individuals to appeal decisions of the Administration to the Board. Therefore, upon written request, the Board may hear appeals when a decision significantly affects the education of a student. In addition, the Board reserves the right to hear or not to hear appeals on other matters.

Appeals shall be heard by the Board or Committee of the Board, depending upon the nature of the appeal as determined by the Board.

2.0 GUIDELINES

2.1 Dispute Resolution

2.1.1 The individual must be prepared to address his/her concern in person or in writing to the person or persons involved.

2.1.2 Administrators are responsible for encouraging staff to mutually resolve issues with stakeholders. If the issue remains unresolved, it should, then, be referred to the site based administrator.

2.1.3 Administrators are responsible for ensuring that stakeholder concerns are documented. The documentation should include:

2.1.3.1 A description of the concern;

2.1.3.2 A record of the stakeholder/staff interactions, staff decisions and actions, and stakeholder actions; as well as,

2.1.3.3 Related correspondence.

2.1.4 Generally, complaints or concerns regarding school based matters can be resolved with the parties involved. The Superintendent/CEO and/or a Trustee may receive a request to intervene in school or administrative affairs. In this event, the complaint/concern will be resolved according to the following:

2.1.4.1 The Superintendent/CEO or designate will, as appropriate, refer a complaint/concern to the school or department, engage in mediation, or conduct an inquiry.

References: Education Act: Sections 41, 42, 44, 212
Policy 220 – Trustee Responsibility and Conduct

Appeals

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

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REVIEW: 2022-2023

- 2.1.4.2 The Superintendent/CEO or designate will ensure, in co-operation with schools and departments, that parents/guardians are provided with the opportunity to express their concerns and be heard by school-based and/or division Administrators.
- 2.1.4.3 The Trustee, upon receipt of an inquiry/concern, will refer the individual to the Superintendent/CEO. The concern will be addressed as outlined above.
- 2.1.5 Upon receiving an inquiry, the Superintendent/CEO or designate will ascertain if all local avenues for resolution have been considered. If not, the individual will be advised to do so as the first means of achieving resolution.
- 2.1.6 If the individual feels his/her concern has not been addressed by the parties involved, the concerns are to be taken to the immediate supervisor.
- 2.1.7 When all other steps have been followed, the Superintendent/CEO or designate will contact the individual and school-based and/or Division Administrators in an attempt to resolve the issue.
- 2.1.8 If resolution of the issue is not achieved at the Superintendent/CEO level, the individual shall be advised of his/her right to an appeal to the Board if the matter significantly affects the education of a student.

2.2 Appeal Process

- 2.2.1 If the issue is not resolved at the local administrative level, the administrator will inform the stakeholder that the matter may be directed to the Superintendent/CEO of Schools or his/her designate.
- 2.2.2 The site Administrator shall ensure stakeholders are provided a copy of Policy 245 – Appeals.
- 2.2.3 If the issue is not resolved by the Superintendent/CEO or designate, he/she shall inform the stakeholder of the Board's appeal procedures.
- 2.2.4 If further action is desired, the next step would be to the Superintendent of Schools/CEO and subsequently an appeal in writing to the Board of Trustees.
- 2.2.5 The Board will decide at its next meeting after receiving the request whether or not to hear the appeal.

References: Education Act: Sections 41, 42, 44, 212
Policy 220 – Trustee Responsibility and Conduct

Appeals

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

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REVIEW: 2022-2023

- 2.2.6 If the Board decides not to hear the appeal, the Board will inform the stakeholder in writing of the reason(s) for the decision.
- 2.2.7 If the Board decides to hear the appeal, the Superintendent/CEO will inform the stakeholder, in writing, of the proposed date and location for the appeal hearing. A copy of the Appeal Policy will be provided at the same time.
- 2.2.8 The Board shall address the appeal in one of two ways, by:
 - 2.2.8.1 The Board as a Committee of the Whole
 - 2.2.8.2 A sub-committee of the Board
- 2.2.9 The appeal hearing will be conducted in accordance with a pre-set agenda (Appendix A).
- 2.2.10 The stakeholder making the appeal may be represented by an advocate or legal counsel, at the individual's own initiative and expense.
- 2.2.11 The Administration may also use an advocate or legal counsel.
- 2.2.12 The Board will inform both parties of the result of the appeal, in writing, within three days of the appeal hearing. If the Board upholds the Administration's decision, then in the same letter, the individual will be informed of the right of appeal to the Minister under section 44 of the Education Act (where applicable).

2.3 Appeal of Teacher Transfer

In the event of a teacher appeal of a transfer, the process will be as outlined in Section 144 of the Education Act.

References: Education Act: Sections 41, 42, 44, 212
Policy 220 – Trustee Responsibility and Conduct

Appeals

EFFECTIVE: March 27, 2019

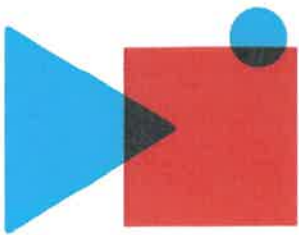
REVISED: February 28, 2020

REVIEW: 2022-2023

APPENDIX A - APPEAL HEARING

- 1.0 Call to Order
- 2.0 Call for any Conflict of Interest Disclosures
- 3.0 Agenda Consideration and Approval
- 4.0 Motion to Go-in-Camera
- 5.0 Introduction by Superintendent/CEO
- 6.0 Outline of Procedure – Chair
- 7.0 Superintendent/CEO's and/or Representative's Presentation
- 8.0 Trustee Questions of Superintendent and/or Representative
- 9.0 Applicant's and/or Representative's Presentation
- 10.0 Trustee Questions of Applicant and/or Representative
- 11.0 Recess if Desire
- 12.0 Superintendent/CEO's and/or Representative's Rebuttal
- 13.0 Applicant's and/or Representative's Rebuttal
- 14.0 Opportunity for Questions by Trustees
- 15.0 Deliberations by the Board in Closed Session
- 16.0 Call all Parties back to Meeting
- 17.0 Motion to Go-Out-of-Camera
- 18.0 Board Decision by Motion and Vote
- 19.0 Adjournment

References: Education Act: Sections 41, 42, 44, 212
Policy 220 – Trustee Responsibility and Conduct



B O A R D
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Board of Trustees
From: Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Originator(s): Shawna Walter, Associate Superintendent, Education Services
Subject: Policy 810 – Off-Site Activities



Background:

Attached for Trustee review is Policy 810 – *Off-Site Activities*, with suggested revisions for Trustee consideration, which will replace Policy 810 – *Field Trips*. The suggested revisions reflect updated *Administrative Procedure 310 Off-Site Activities*.

Attached for Trustee information is *Administrative Procedure 310 Off-Site Activities* which was brought to the October 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting with amendments to meet the requirements outlined by the Division's new insurance provider, reflect the new online submission and approval process, and reflect feedback received from school-based administration.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 10, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting.

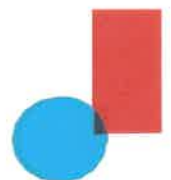
Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees review *Policy 810 – Off-Site Activities* and refer the policy to the November 24, 2021, Public Board meeting for approval.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M.Ed
Associate Superintendent, Education Services

Attachment





Off-Site Activities~~Field Trips~~

EFFECTIVE: April 24, 2019

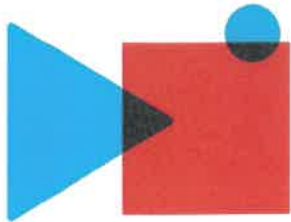
REVISED: ~~November~~January 0129, 20210REVIEW: 20242-20253

1.0 POLICY

The Board of Trustees believes that off-site school sponsored activities can enhance student learning and development. ~~Field trips must clearly demonstrate that they complement expected curriculum outcomes. Off-site activities enable students to participate in quality educational experiences that are at the heart of the educational process and connected to the Guide to Education, Programs of Study, curriculum and learning outcomes.~~

The Superintendent/CEO or designate shall be responsible for approving and monitoring ~~off-site activity~~~~field trip~~ requirements and expectations to promote student and staff safety.

References: Board Policy: 410 – Student Fees
Administrative Procedure: AP310 – ~~Field Trip Operational Procedures~~Off-Site Activities



B O A R D
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Board of Trustees
From: Liliana LeVesconte, Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services
Originator(s): Steve Schick, Director, Technology Services
Subject: Monthly IT Report

Background:

Find attached a written IT Report for the month of October 2021.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 10, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Recommendation:

That the report be received as information.

Sincerely,

Liliana LeVesconte, CPA, CMA, MBA Candidate
Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services

Attachment

