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SCHOOL COUNCIL PURPOSE
FOUNDATION



Alberta
School Councils' Association
Promoting parent engagement in public education



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INTRODUCTIONS

➤ Territory Recognition

➤ Presenter

➤ A bit about me

➤ Participants

➤ A bit about you





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WHAT DOES ASCA DO?



➤ DEVELOPMENT

➤ Site Services

➤ Resources

➤ Online Learning

➤ Annual Conference (April 24 & 25, 2020)

➤ COMMUNICATION

➤ E-News

➤ Surveys

➤ Social Media

➤ REPRESENTATION

➤ Consultation

➤ School Council Engagement Task Force

➤ AGM (April 26, 2020)

➤ Advocacy

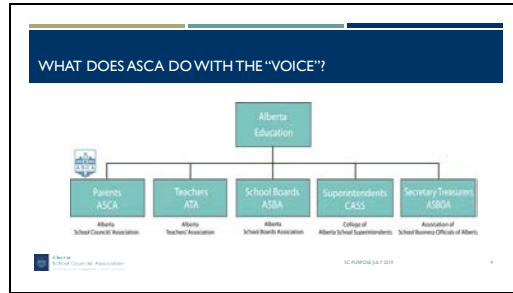


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SC TRUSTEE RELATIONSHIP
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TODAY'S OBJECTIVES:

To Understand:

- How a School Council may fulfill its **legislated purpose** to the principal, community and the board
- On what items, and in which areas, a School Council may **make decisions**

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SCHOOL COUNCILS ARE BRIDGES

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SCHOOL COUNCIL IS...

A means for parents and community members to work together with the principal and the school community to **support and enhance student learning.**



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LEGISLATED TO...



Inquire by "Seeking to Understand"

How does this improve our school community?

What does this look like in our school?

How does this help to support student success?

Advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the **school.**

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ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCHOOL, SUCH AS...

➤ **Alberta Education Initiatives**

- impact at local, division level
- voice at provincial level through ASCA

➤ **Respecting Diversity and Promoting Inclusion**

➤ **Advancing Reconciliation**

➤ **Professional Practice Standards**
(TQS, LQS, SQS)

➤ **Development of School Policies**

➤ **Education Plans:**

- ABED Business Plan
- Division Education Plan
- School Education Plan
- School Council Plan

➤ **Annual Results Reports**

➤ **Development of School Budget:**

ABED \$ ➡ Division \$ ➡ School \$

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CLARIFICATION

SCHOOL COUNCIL

- governed by Education Act
- mandatory
- support and enhance student learning
- advisory only
- no legal authority

FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION

- governed by Societies Act
- optional
- financially support and enhance student learning through the school and/or school council
- legal authority, ability and liability

No school council shall incorporate under the Societies Act or Part 9 of the Companies Act. Alberta Regulation 94/2019 School Councils Regulation

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SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

➤ Principal

➤ Teacher

➤ Student (if senior high)

➤ Parents of children enrolled in the school must be the majority

➤ Others as decided

School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019

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THE BIG PICTURE:
RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

➤ Foster, develop, maintain and reflect the culture of the school

➤ Provide the opportunity to participate in the advisory role

➤ Create the forum for discussion

➤ Seek and represent school community views

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"SHALL," "MUST" AND "MAY" ...IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

- **Shall: (8)** — paraphrased as "**has the duty to**". (**mandatory**) "A board *shall* establish a dispute resolution process...."
- **Must: (1)** — imposes a **legal obligation (mandatory)**. **Required by law.** "For each school operated by a board, a school council *must* be established in accordance with the regulations."
- **May: (4a)** — '**permissive**'...something is allowed...or **choice**" "A school council *may*, at its discretion, advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school."

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Source: <https://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/pr/csj-sjc/sjc-legis-redact-legistics>

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WHAT MUST A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

- **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.

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*School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019

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WHAT ELSE MUST A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

- **14(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.
- **14(3)** School Council **must** retain the minutes for each meeting of the School Council for at **least 7 years**.

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*School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019

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A SCHOOL COUNCIL MAY:
(AT ITS DISCRETION,)

➤ **Advise** the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school,

➤ Perform any duty...delegated to it by the Board...

➤ Decide operating procedures for itself

➤ Carry out activities related to its advisory role

➤ Handle monies

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HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE
(SOMETIMES)

➤ **Principals** have to consider many perspectives when making decisions in the **best interest** of the **students** in their school.



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A SCHOOL COUNCIL MAY ALSO:
(AGAIN, AT ITS DISCRETION,)

➤ Advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school,

➤ **Perform any duty**...delegated to it by the Board...

➤ **Decide** operating procedures for itself

➤ **Carry out** activities related to its advisory role

➤ **Handle monies**

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WHAT SCHOOL COUNCILS ARE NOT:

➤ School governance bodies

➤ Employers

➤ System managers

➤ School managers

➤ Primarily fundraisers

➤ Primarily lobbyists

➤ Complaint sessions

...(School Board)

...(School Board)

...(Superintendent)

...(Principal)

...(Fundraising Society)

...(Trustee, Muni Coun. or MLA)

...(Spouse, Dr., Spiritual Advisor)

CAUTION

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Alberta School Council Resource Guide, Page 4

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A SCHOOL BOARD MUST...
(NO "IFS, ANDS OR BUTS")

12(1) ...provide the School Council with an opportunity to provide **advice** on the development of the school's

(a) foundations 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.

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A SCHOOL BOARD MUST ALSO ...
(AGAIN, NO "IFS, ANDS OR BUTS")

12(2) ...provide the school council with

(a) the **results** for the school **from provincial assessments** and **an interpretation** of these results, and

(b) the same information that the board disseminates to students, parents or electors under section 67(2) of the Act.

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A SCHOOL BOARD SHALL...
(REMEMBER, "SHALL" = "MANDATORY")

55(8) 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*.

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SCHOOL COUNCILS ...

support and enhance student learning.

What CAN we do?

How do we do it?

Joint Annual Planning

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SCHOOL COUNCILS HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

➤ **Advise**
– the School Council provides input, but does not make the decision.



➤ **Make the decision**
– the School Council makes the decision.



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WHAT CAN SCHOOL COUNCILS DECIDE?

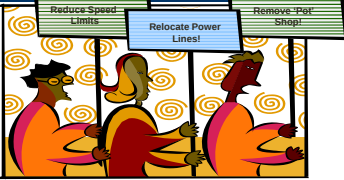
1. **Who** will choose the work of School Council? Executive, all members...
2. **What** work will be done? Advising, educating, communicating, planning...
3. **How** will the work be done? Committees, surveys, special events, parent sessions...
4. **Who** will do the work? Everyone, no one... someone?

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WHEN SHOULD SCHOOL COUNCILS "LOBBY"?

For issues NOT within the authority of the school or school board. Eg municipal, provincial or federal decision makers.



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QUIZ TIME!

➤ Refer to "School Council – Advise/Decide/Lobby or Reframe?" Handout



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CONCLUSION

School Councils

➤ Have a **legislated purpose** which involves the principal, parents, community and the board

➤ May **make decisions** related to how they want to fulfill that purpose



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EVALUATIONS AND MORE INFO!

➤ 1.800.661.3470

➤ Twitter: @Abschoolcouncil

➤ www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca (SCETF, email list, templates)

➤ Facebook/pages/Alberta-School-Councils-Association

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