

Westboro School Council - AGM

School Council Minutes- May 22, 2024

6:30 p.m. School Library

**indicates written report/attachment provided*

Attendance

Parents: Christan Rasmussen (Chair), Hilary Schmidt (Vice-Chair), Carrie Bounds (Secretary),
Dan Schmidt, Mallory Jackson, Allison Usher

School Staff: Mike Lastiwka (Principal), Tracey Prouse (Vice-Principal), Andrea Perotta (PLACE)

Others: Trina Boymook

1) Call to order at 6:31 p.m.

2) Review of the Agenda

Agenda approved as presented.

3) Approval of the minutes from April 17, 2024.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

4) New Business:

- Christan attended the ASCA which was an EIPS sponsored event. It included discussing the AGM resolution votes. Almost all the votes were passed, and those ones will now be presented to the minister of education.
 - This year's Keynote speaker was Barbra Coloroso who wrote the book "Kids Are Worth It". You can also read her thoughts at www.kidsareworthit.com
 - Sessions attended included School Council Purpose, reinforcing the importance of this group as it is meant to enhance school learning, to connect parents, staff, and community members, and it is where parents get to have a voice and become informed about the school and all its happenings; also School Council Samples of Practice presented by Hugh Sutherland School, their school council plan is attached for reference and information to be reviewed by us next school year.

5) EIPS Trustee Report: **see attached*

6) Administration Report:

Mike Lastiwka

- Due to the budget, we will not be replacing the grade 2 teacher going on leave next year, and will combine both Grade 3 classes to form one slightly larger class. We will, however, look into extra EA's for class assistance.
- We are happy to announce that we will have three full time, permanent EA staff in the STEPS program, instead of multiple part-time rotating staff.

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- Attended AI conference. Surprisingly enough, the classes related a lot to education and health care which both have pockets of innovation but are both very slow in developing. This is in comparison to a lot of private industries that have been incorporating AI for the last decade. Further examples of what was learned at the conference include:
 - Digital twinning, for example, can make digital versions and replicas of buildings and infrastructure to monitor everyone's coming and goings to help create the most streamlined systems they can. Personal digital twinning is where people can make a digital version of themselves based on their own likes/dislikes and searches.
 - AI will be coming into the schools in the coming years, and we need to teach both students and staff how to ethically use it. It will be helpful in deciding future curriculums, etc.
 - Anytime AI is used in the schools, for example if a teacher uses it to grade test papers, there MUST be a disclaimer somewhere on the paper informing both parents and students that it was AI and not the teacher that dealt with that particular paper.
 - We will need to make sure kids are using AI that is specifically designed for their age group, and we will need to learn to recognize indicators of what is false information.
 - One disclaimer to mention is that when it comes to AI, once you enter information into the system, not even the people who wrote the software knows WHERE the information goes or WHO it goes to. They aren't even sure HOW it makes the decisions it does.
- Last, but certainly not the least, this year has been Mr. Lastiwkas last year at Westboro. His new replacement, Shelby Labreque, will be joining us for the 24/25 school year.

Tracey Prouse

- Our shoe drive was a huge success! Many students won prizes associated with their donations so thank you again to everyone who contributed.
- Art projects have been in full swing with Mrs. Richard and Ms. Kulhavy. We have had connections with colors and motions, FNMI and Mother's Day, and most recently, soapstone carving.
- Popcorn sales have been well supported and our Grade 6 class goes to Birch Bay Ranch for their year-end trip tomorrow. They are all very excited!
- Our Westboro Track Team had an amazing season. Our last race was finished off at SAP, and our boys team managed to beat a top tier team so they were all very proud.
- The Run Wild event in St. Albert continued for its second year in a row in support of the Zebra Centre and Seniors Centre. Fifteen kids participated this year from Westboro.
- Kindergarten Open House evening was fun, full, and exciting- as of today we have 29 students registered to join Mrs. Wheeler in the fall.

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- The Family Dance was wildly successful thanks to all the volunteers and helpers. We had 256 people in attendance which is amazing considering it was a night of hockey playoffs!
- GOA and STAR assessments have begun with teachers.
- This week was gymnastics week in school. We had trampolines and mats and the kids had fun learning new things and burning their energy in different ways.
- The Makery had its second successful field trip for our school- this time for the Grade 2/3, 3 classes
- Staff Appreciation Day was wonderful- we felt very VERY appreciated by you all. Thank you!
- Our May 3rd PD day was a School Education Plan. The staff made new goals that they are excited to talk more about in the new year.

7) Teacher Report: Andrea Perrotta (Place)

- I am super grateful for this School Council and for all the background work that they do here for us at school

8) AGM

- Executive election- all positions are open to be filled.
 - President- Christan Rasmussen is nominated.
 - Christan accepts and is acclaimed.
 - Vice Chair- Hillary Schmidt is nominated.
 - Hillary accepts and is acclaimed.
 - Secretary- Carrie Bounds is nominated.
 - Carrie accepts and is acclaimed.

9) Open Discussion- none

Adjourn 7:27 p.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at 6:30pm.

- Future meeting dates: Oct 8, Nov 19, Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, May 13

Trustee Report • Trina Boymook
May 2024

- The Board has received an increase in our funding allocation to address student enrolment and covering the Teacher's collective agreement. There have been no increases to offset the cost of inflation and there has been no increase to the classroom complexity grant. In addition, no funding was received to extend support for the Reset Room Pilot Project.

In response to school assurance review and budget survey completed by parents and staff, classroom complexity has been identified as one of the key priority areas in building this budget. Without any increase in the classroom complexity grant, it has been decided to introduce a new way of allocating the specialized supports for inclusive students and system programs.

An algorithm has been established to includes factors the contribute to complexity in the classroom.

- Provincial Achievement and Diploma Test results including standard deviation/mean;
- socio-economic factors;
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit self-identified students;
- English as an Additional Language;
- students in care; and
- students with non-levelled special education codes, and student population size.

\$1.508M has been allocated to schools based on the algorithm.

Classroom complexity grant of \$861,000, EIPS will use for the following items:

- part of the classroom complexity allocation;
- a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant position;
- a Speech Language Pathologist Assistive Technology position; and
- a Reading Specialist Consultant position. The use of reserves will be used to expand the READ program to all elementary schools for identified Grade 2 students.

The key priority areas in building the budget are

- Classroom Complexity
- Curriculum and resource development to support teachers
- Year 3 of the Mental Health Strategic Plan (through use of reserves)
- Continued pursuit of Collegiate School /Program and support for Career Pathways (through use of reserves)
- Equity for rural schools, equity for all
- Retention of Staff
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) considerations (through use of reserves)

The 2024-25 Budget will be a tight budget and it is anticipated that the 2025-26 Budget will even tighter.

Trustee Report • Trina Boymook
May 2024

- The Board approved the student transportation fees at the upcoming school year at its April 18 Board meeting, parents will see large decreases in fees for those eligible families (K- 6 residing over 1km Grades 7-12 Over 2km from registered school) who are attending school and program of choice. Dropping from \$175 to \$75. Ineligible riders fee will be \$150 for next year. Overall people will see sizeable decreases in fees for the upcoming year due to the new funding model introduced by the province last year. Deadline for paying fees is June 30, 2024. Those that don't pay by the deadline will need to pay a \$25 late fee.



Hugh Sutherland School Council Plan

April 2023 - June 2024

The Hugh Sutherland School Council believes the responsibility for education lies with the students, parents, school and community. The council will commit to learning, promoting and participating in open communications for productive growth among all to achieve excellence in our school community.

Engagement that leads to enhancement of HSS school culture

GOALS	Parents actively engaged in our building	Parents connected to classrooms and working with teachers as part stakeholders in their child's education	Parents engaging other parents to be active participants in their child's education
<p>Strategy and Corresponding Outcomes</p>	<p>Gain increased parent perspective to improve school culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Maximize parent involvement in annual Assurance Survey and CESD survey *Create a voice for parents and students to collaborate with administration *Allow opportunities for parents to have influence in school culture outside of meetings 	<p>Encourage parents to use the resources & tools available to them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Share the importance of checking Powerschool and google classroom regularly *HSS website tutorial: Calendar, Newsletter, Online Payments, etc *Encourage word of mouth to teach fellow parents how to navigate software and communication *Host education sessions about PowerSchool for improved usage 	<p>Move from a traditional School Council to a more advisory role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Follow Assurance Framework by involving parents in an advisory role within our school *Collaborate with administration on school programming *Co-create & provide input for annual and 3 year education plan *Council representatives will meet with admin to review and provide input on the school budget & fund allocation
<p>Strategy and Corresponding Outcomes</p>	<p>Share what School Council is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Through advertising, HSS messenger system, and word of mouth *Be present at events like school concerts, parent-teacher interview nights, Welcome Back BBQ, Neighbourhood party, Beef & Barley Days etc, to educate about school council's role in our schools success *Have an education kit ready to roll out at any event by council members *Send a Welcome email to new registered parents (gr 5 or other) 	<p>Encourage parent engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Teach and encourage all parents to get police checks into the office and be prepared to volunteer (traditionally a lack of male presence) *Encourage parents to frequently engage in dialog with their child's classroom teacher and understand the benefits *Encourage timely parent response to classroom communication (field trip info/forms, teacher requests) *Encourage parents to read all HSS communication from the messenger system (weekly Kodiak review and other important messaging) 	<p>Create opportunities for parents to be involved in ways that align with the HSS education plan and goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review current areas of parent involvement available within school * Ask teachers about additional ways that parents can help such as career engagement, gaps in current programming where parent support would be beneficial * Identify parent representatives for Grades 5,6/7,8/9-12 so unique needs can be better recognized through school council * Collaborate with MS and HS leadership teams to maximize student influence among peers
<p>Success Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of parent interactions with school council representatives *number of people and/or parent concerns represented at council meetings *Number of Assurance Surveys and CESD Surveys done *June 2023 and ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Number of police checks in office *Grade 5 and Grade 9/10 orientations with school council presence *June 2023 and ongoing into fall 2023 with school kickoff events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Published plan for parents and staff to see *Acting on teacher feedback *Number of opportunities created for parent's to be involved in their child's school and classroom *Parent representatives selected *Spring 2023 and collaborate ongoing for spring of 2024



Hugh Sutherland School Council Plan

April 2023 - June 2024

Broader goals that would shape our decision making moving forward:

- Become a collective parent voice encompassing entire school community
- Ensure school building reflects the culture of our community
- Meaningful inclusive meetings/events that are welcoming to all
- Participate in engagement activities that lead to enhancement of our school community
- Engage positively with principal/administration as leaders understand parent councils do important work
- Assist the school in reaching the goals of their education plan

What makes HSS unique/defines us and creates unique challenges:

- Grade 5-12 in one school sharing the same spaces
- Extreme growth in our town and school population
- Rural and situated in a town branding itself as 'An Authentic Town'
- We have about 50/50 split in rural and town students
- We do have authenticity and a community spirit of 'pitch in and help out'
- Many of our teachers and parents are commuters
- Social/emotional factors for students with changes in family dynamics and covid recovery
- More people moving from other areas and not understanding the differences in our town or school
- Border RVSD

Key takeaway messages for school council members and HSS school community:

- Identify what is internal vs external school council work and accomplish/delegate accordingly - choose wisely according to parent involvement and do it well.
- Make sure we have meaningful involvement that enhances our school culture
- Make sure our ideas fit back into the HSS education plan to work together
- Ensure parents know the importance of school council and why they should be involved in the school - when parents engaged in education there is higher student achievement, better attendance, higher graduation rates and more positive behavior
- School council work goes beyond the meetings and requires the involvement of parents who may never attend a meeting

ASCA documents as Appendix to plan

- School council participant roles
- School council internal partnerships
- Why participate on school council
- Parental Engagement checklist
- Sample SC code of ethics and conduct



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2024 Annual General Meeting Advocacy Resolutions Results

A24-01 – Maintain five (5) existing ASCA Advocacy Policies

Sponsor: ASCA Board of Directors

Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) maintains ASCA Advocacy Policies 94-8 (Funding of Evening and Summer Schools), 02-15 (Textbook Fees and Workbooks), 03-09 (Field Trip Safety for Alberta Students), 04-15 (Recognition of School Completion / Opportunities for Post-Secondary Opportunities), and 14-3 (Accountability – Parent Right to Quality of Service).

Adopted with unanimous consent.

A24-02 – Amend three (3) and revise two (2) ASCA Advocacy Policies

Sponsor: ASCA Board of Directors

Motion: To amend ASCA Advocacy Policies 02-13 (Input on Selection of School Staff), 02-12 (Input on Selection of Principal), and 02-4 (School Nutrition Programs), and to revise ASCA Advocacy Policies 03-07 (Sharing Responsibility for Appropriate Use of Standardized Testing) and 06-6 (Capital Project Approval Criteria), as presented.

Adopted with 92.74%

P24-01 – Integrate Climate & Biodiversity Education Throughout the Curriculum from K-12

Sponsor: Colonel Irvine School Council

Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education for a framework for embedding climate & biodiversity throughout the K-12 curriculum that incorporates hands-on learning experiences with a focus on critical thinking, equity, and wellbeing.

Adopted with 52.70%

P24-02 – Funding for More Assessments of Learning Disabilities

Sponsor: Kensington School Council

1st Amendment: Adopted with 75.36%

2nd Amendment: Defeated with 40.52%

Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health for new and targeted funding for increased availability of professionals to help diagnose learning disabilities and support neurodivergent children.

Main Motion as Amended: Adopted with 88.36%



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2024 Annual General Meeting Advocacy Resolutions Results

P24-03 – Improving Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Alberta Classrooms & Shared Environments

Sponsor: Kensington School Council

1st Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education for increased funding for modern HVAC systems for health & learning (with air filtration and cooling systems) not only in new schools but retrofitted in older school buildings as well.

Adopted with 77.86%

P24-03 – Improving Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Alberta Classrooms & Shared Environments

Sponsor: Kensington School Council

Amendment: Adopted with 87.02%

2nd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education to require school boards to provide frequent and regular information on indoor air quality (IAQ) and improvements made to IAQ in schools to parents, including specific air quality improvements and IAQ specifications and monitoring in schools, including classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, bathrooms, and all shared environments, and that they release this information publicly to afford all students and staff a safer environment in which to work, learn and thrive.

Main motion as Amended: Defeated with 48.89%

P24-04 – Equity in Playground Funding

Sponsor: Forest Heights School Council

1st Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure to correct the inequities caused by the Playground grant funding available to new schools by:

- 1) Creating an equitable grant program targeted for the life cycle replacement of existing playgrounds at older schools, especially where the school has no access to any other government funding; and
- 2) Allow schools where no playground currently exists to access the same grant funding as brand-new schools (\$250,000 in 2023-2024).

Adopted with unanimous consent.



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2024 Annual General Meeting Advocacy Resolutions Results

P24-04 – Equity in Playground Funding

Sponsor: Forest Heights School Council

2nd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Advocacy Policy 05-02 Funding for Playground Facilities (2021) be amended:

- 1) By inserting “life cycle replacement” and “including removal of existing structure” before “maintenance” and by inserting “at older schools” before “based on established criteria” in the first paragraph;

Amendment: Adopted with 87.02%

- 2) And by adding “That funding priority is targeted to schools with playground footprints located on school land, and which are ineligible to receive funding from other levels of government. Funding should be prioritized based on an assessment of need and factors such as existing playgrounds age/condition, social vulnerability, access to other funding sources, school population, and location of adjacent public playgrounds accessible to the school” as a second paragraph.

Adopted with unanimous consent.

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

1st Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners to pause the proposed changes until meaningful consultation on the substance of the policy, not only its implementation, has occurred with key stakeholders including 2SLGBTQI+ students, 2SLGBTQI+ community-based organizations, teachers, and the ATA, parents and ASCA, and school board associations.

Adopted with 74.81%

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

2nd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners to maintain the current legislation for one notification with an opt-out option for sexual education.

Adopted with 83.94%



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2024 Annual General Meeting Advocacy Resolutions Results

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

3rd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners for the preservation of GSAs/QSAs in all schools in Alberta with continued protections surrounding the personal information of students participating in GSAs/QSAs. These protections should continue to allow students to participate in GSAs without fear of their families or others being notified.

Adopted with 76.69%

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

4th Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners to continue to allow teachers to use third-party, evidence-based, medically accurate sexual education and gender and relationship materials in developmentally-appropriate ways without requiring prior approval from the Ministry of Education.

Adopted with 73.68%

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

5th Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners to support schools and school boards to be gender inclusive on school forms, websites, and communications, recognizing that gender exists on a spectrum, not as a male/female binary.

Adopted with 83.48%

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

6th Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners to support professional development for teachers to provide the knowledge and skills to a) respond immediately and in developmentally-appropriate ways to discriminatory language and behavior and b) use inclusive language, and c) incorporate positive example that affirm and embrace differing sexual orientations and gender identities.

Adopted with 81.25%



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2024 Annual General Meeting Advocacy Resolutions Results

P24-05 – Preserving Safe and Inclusive Spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ Students

Sponsor: Sam Livingston School Council

7th Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate to the Minister of Education and other education stakeholders and partners to allow students to use a name and/or pronoun that is different from the one they were given at birth without requiring parental permission.

Adopted with 70.97%

P24-06 – Resource Support for French Immersion Teachers (Available Before Implementation of Curriculum Changes)

Sponsor: École Broxton Park School Council

Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education for French Immersion resources to be developed and available at the same time as English resources prior to the implementation of curriculum.

Adopted with unanimous consent.

P24-07 – Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity

Sponsor: ASCA Board of Directors

1st Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association advocates to the Minister of Education to:

- 1) Annually report class sizes while actively enacting initiatives aimed at reducing class sizes to levels that facilitate effective teaching and learning;
- 2) Allocate funding and resources for ongoing professional development for educators, ensuring they have the skills and strategies needed to navigate complex classrooms effectively;
- 3) Increase funding to hire additional qualified educators and support staff, recognizing their pivotal roles in addressing the complex needs of students;
- 4) Commit to engaging in meaningful collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including parents, educators, and community members, to develop and implement strategies that promote educational equity through thoughtful consideration of class size and complexity.

Adopted with unanimous consent.



**Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)
2024 Annual General Meeting
Advocacy Resolutions Results**

P24-07 – Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity

Sponsor: ASCA Board of Directors

2nd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Advocacy Policy 20-05 Support for Addressing Class Size and Complexity be archived.

Adopted with unanimous consent.

ER24-01 – Opposing the Alberta Government's Proposed Policies Re: "Preserving Choice for Children and Youth"

Sponsor: Bisset School Council

1st Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education and the Premier of Alberta to stop further development and implementation of the proposed policy "Preserving Choice for Children and Youth".

WITHDRAWN

ER24-01 – Opposing the Alberta Government's Proposed Policies Re: "Preserving Choice for Children and Youth"

Sponsor: Bisset School Council

2nd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education and the Premier of Alberta to increase support of 2SLGBTQIA+ students to protect them from discrimination and bullying in the classroom.

Adopted with 70%

ER24-01 – Opposing the Alberta Government's Proposed Policies Re: "Preserving Choice for Children and Youth"

Sponsor: Bisset School Council

Amendment Adopted with 87.13%

3rd Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education and the Premier of Alberta to dedicate funding, resources, and programming that serve to better educate parents, caregivers, and peers on gender diversity and the importance of acceptance and inclusion.

Main motion as Amended: Adopted with 59.80%



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) 2024 Annual General Meeting Advocacy Resolutions Results

ER24-02 – Preserve Non-Partisan Elections for Alberta School Board Trustees

Sponsor: ASCA Board of Directors

Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education, and the Government of Alberta for the preservation of non-partisan elections for school board trustees.

Adopted with unanimous consent.

ER24-03 – Request for Emergency, Multi-Tiered Task Force to Ensure Public School Space for All Students

Sponsor: Rutherford Elementary School Council

Amendment: Adopted with unanimous consent.

Motion: That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocate for the Minister of Education to establish a Task Force with the following objectives and mandates:

- 1) To develop an Emergency Provincial strategic, province-wide plan for school infrastructure that aligns with ASCA's existing advocacy policies while introducing innovative approaches such as but not limited to new funding models, and cost-effective solutions.
- 2) To collaborate closely with the Alberta Government, school districts, and other relevant stakeholders to gather data, assess needs, and prioritize infrastructure projects based on educational necessity rather than political influence.
- 3) To implement a comprehensive public engagement strategy that includes regular updates via social media, press releases, and public forums, allowing for parent and community input into the planning and prioritization processes.
- 4) To ensure that the task force's findings and recommendations are presented in a timely manner with a detailed progress report that is shared publicly.
- 5) To establish mechanisms for ongoing review and adaptation of the infrastructure strategy to respond to new challenges and opportunities as they arise.
- 6) To advocate for amendments to the Alberta Education Act to make the prioritization of school builds transparent, providing clear criteria and timelines accessible to all parents and communities, ensuring that decisions on when and where schools are built are made public, regardless of the school board.
- 7) To ensure that no school exceeds 100% capacity - a situation where students do not have access to a school in their area.

Main motion as Amended: Adopted with unanimous consent.
