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Can Utilizing School Councils Increase Parent Engagement?

2nd Annual First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering
April 2017




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Introductions

Presenters

Participants




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What Does ASCA Do?




- Representation: Provincial Education Stakeholder Committees
- Consultation: Email, phone, in-person
- School Council Engagement Task Force
- Resources: Digital SC Resource Guide, Templates, Tip sheets, Tools
- Events: Conference/AGM
- Communication: e-News
- Virtual: Webinars, Tutorials
- Site Services: Workshops, Sessions, Coaching, Mentoring

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4 Today's Objectives:




To Understand:

- The **legislated purpose** of School Councils relative to the principal, the board and the school community

To Explore:

- School Councils as a means to reflect the diversity of the families in school communities
- School Councils as a means to increase parental engagement in school communities

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5 Clarification...

School Council • School Act Sect 22	Parent Fundraising Assoc./Society • Societies Act
• support student learning	• recreational, cultural, scientific, or charitable interest
• advisory with limited authority	• legal authority, ability and liability

No school council shall incorporate under the Societies Act or Part 9 of the Companies Act. Alberta Regulation 113/2007 School Councils Regulation Section 12

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6 What School Councils Are:

- Required by law: School Act Section 22 (1)
- Comprised of a majority of parents: School Act Section 22(2)
- Given authority over their own operations: School Act Section 22(5) & (6)
- Advisory in intention: School Act Section 22(4)(a, c & d)

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7 What School Councils are NOT:

- School governance bodies (School Board)
- Employers (Superintendent)
- School managers (Principal)
- Primarily fundraisers (Fundraising Society)
- Primarily lobbyists (Trustee, Muni Coun. or MLA)
- Complaint sessions (Spouse, Dr., Spiritual Advisor)

CAUTION

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8 School Councils are Legislated to...



Advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school. (School Act Section 22 (4)(a))


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9 School Councils Should Be:

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




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10 Regulations (113/2007) Authorize School Councils to:

- Exist
- Decide membership, structure
- Decide bylaws, operating procedures, policies
- Advise on the **development** of the school's:
 - Mission, vision and philosophy,
 - Policies,
 - Annual education plan,
 - Annual results report, and
 - Budget.



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11 The **Purpose** of School Councils

- To support and enhance student learning
 - Provide the **opportunity to participate** in the advisory role
 - Seek and represent school community views
 - Create the forum for discussion
 - Foster, develop, maintain and **reflect the culture** of the school

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12 The **Purpose** is **NOT** the **Meeting**

We will continue having lots of meetings until we find out why no work is getting done.



somecards

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The Purpose Means Being Inclusive

To effectively do their work, School Councils need guidance and support to:

- Realize their true mandate,
- Extend their reach beyond their meetings,
- Inform all parents of topics requiring input,
- Gather multiple opinions, multiple ways
- Represent broad parent perspectives,
- Create respectful relationships.



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The Purpose Requires Relationships!




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Creating Relationships



Relationship Ingredients:

- * Consistent, Openness
- * Mutual Respect
- * Shared Understanding

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What is the "Common Ground" for all School Council Relationships?




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Relationships with Whom?



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Thoughts and Discussion (Activity Sheet)


- What actions or activities can lead to specific relationships?
- Who can assist in creating specific relationships?
- How will these relationships enable a school council to fulfill its **purpose**?
- How will these relationships, supporting the **purpose**, strengthen and increase parent engagement?

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19 Thank you, Evaluations and More Info!

- 1.800.661.3470
- Twitter @Abschoolcouncil
- www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca
- Facebook/pages/Alberta-School-Councils-Association



2nd Annual Fall Network, Skills and Staff Education Conference - April 2015

