



2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**2020 Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)
ANNUAL GENERAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**
April 26, 2020

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was led by Director Rick Sakundiak.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Allison Purcell-Pike.

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Territory Acknowledgement was provided by Director Arlint.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Good morning, everyone!

It is my pleasure to start the Annual General Meeting by presenting my President's report. We are certainly in different times, and I never imagined that I would be delivering my last President's address virtually to you all. I must say, over my eight years serving on the ASCA Board, with the past four years as the President, we have worked hard to be innovative and to be able to hear from you whether you live in Foremost and are busy farming, whether you are in Peace River, navigating the flooding waters, or there is no way for you to leave your family for the weekend to join the ASCA Conference and AGM attendees, we have worked to be able to hear your important voice in innovative ways. As much as we have done so by working to increase proxies in the room, look at ways to change the bylaws to allow for virtual voting and by recommending the change to the number of proxies one could carry.

And here we are today - where we have no choice but to be virtually connected, to be innovative and to come to you from our living rooms to your homes across the province.

We are finding ways to be connected and to continue the work of the Association, ensuring the parent voice is so important and is carried forward. Today you will elect a new Board and we will welcome in the new President and Vice President, who will together, represent your voice.

The virtual AGM could not have been possible without the creativity, determination, and dedication of ASCA Executive Director, Wendy Keiver, leading her team of staff, whom I will introduce individually shortly.

It is simply amazing to see what they have pulled off; they have worked tirelessly over the past month to ensure the AGM was delivered in the best way possible. All while getting things ready for the AGM, the staff have taken ASCA services virtual as well, in ways to support your school councils to continue the important work you do.

I would also like to take the time now to recognize the Board of Directors that have worked hard this past year to be innovative, to connect with you and your school councils, to have figured out ways to ensure your important voice as parents on school councils is valued and have assisted in any way possible through every bump in the road we have encountered. The Directors have given of themselves through monthly zoom Board meetings, attending in person weekend Board meetings, been on Board committees, as well as many external committees. They have prepped for all the work that was required of them and they did so with smiles on their faces and juggling their family life. I could not be standing here today without the support of each and every one of them and am thankful every day for the support they have offered to myself, each other and the Association.

Rick Sakundiak, from Sexsmith

Hollie Tarasewich, from Lethbridge

Shelley Odishaw, from Red Deer

Lisa Arlint, from Grovedale

Sarah Rollingson, from Red Deer

Jacque Surgenor, from Sherwood Park

Last but not least, our Vice President Brandi Rai, from Edmonton.

Thank you to the entire Board!

So here we are, in times of uncertainty, unknowns, new territory, schooling in a different way, trying to figure out our new normal. Some days you may feel like you are barely hanging on and some days you celebrate those little successes. What is important to remember is we are all in this together - we may be in different ships, but the overall storm we are going through is the same; but may present differently in your neck of the woods. It is through connection though, that we will weather the storm - together. As Dr. Jody Carrington reminds us, we are wired to do hard things and we are wired for connection.

This new way of learning is new for all of us, the teachers and the EA's had to learn new ways to deliver curriculum and support students - parents had to figure out how to support virtual learning, juggle multiple children and balance work into the picture. The government had to learn new ways to support divisions, students and teachers, and school boards had to rearrange budgets to meet their local needs. None of these situations came with a manual, none of them came with a "How To" book, and we are all learning together. It's so important that we work together, we communicate more than we ever have, and that we hold grace for those around us.

Work together with the teachers and staff, it's all new to them as well, and it's been amazing to see the creativity from across the province from teachers and staff pulling together to support our students. And you know what is equally impressive, is seeing parents coming together, trying new things, being innovative and to really be transforming and valuing many different parts of life all in the spirit of student success.

As so many of you know, connection is so very important to me, over the years I have connected with so many of you, from your time at the ASCA conference and AGM, to your school council meetings, to emails and phone calls and to connecting through social media. It is very hard to not have the connections with you in our usual fashion this weekend, but over this past year, and the years prior, I have enjoyed meeting each of you. I have valued the relationships I have formed and value the deep discussions we have had. I have worked hard to build important partnerships and look forward to those continuing.

The Board, the staff, instructors and I have connected with you in many ways this past year, with one of the greatest opportunities being the Member Engagement Opportunity held in November. We were able to reach so many of our members virtually, had the opportunity to engage with the Minister of Education, Adrianna LaGrange, as well to be able to get direction from our members on a number of important educational areas.

We also began a Connection Tree, which was a way for our Board and staff to reach out to school councils that are ASCA members but haven't been active within the Association in one way or another. We have encouraged school councils to use their parental voice and expressed the importance of doing so. We have encouraged the increased use of proxy votes if school councils are unable to send a delegate to the AGM and we have encouraged the use of the services ASCA offers. We have worked hard with educational partners to help us encourage parents to be active in their school communities as your voice is so important.

With your parent voice through school councils, ASCA Directors and staff have worked hard to advocate for what is important to you, by representing the parent voice on many educational initiatives and engagement opportunities over the year such as Curriculum Advisory and Choice in Education.

As so many of you have so much on your plates with this new normal, I am so pleased to have you join us today. It may be difficult for you to have arranged everything for the children, but we are thankful that you feel the work of ASCA is so important and we certainly feel your voice is valuable.

Your voice also continues to be valued in your own school communities as COVID-19 continues to impact us. I know many of you may not be able to, but if it is possible, stay connected with your school councils. I have enjoyed hearing of how a number of school councils from across the province are actively engaged in

supporting and enhancing student learning in their new environments. I am hearing of so many school councils setting up virtual school council meetings, and that you are continuing the important work of parents in education.

It is also a great opportunity to invite your trustee to be able to connect with parents, during a virtual school council meeting. Trustees do such valued work in our communities, making vital decisions for our children, and they need to continue to hear your voice as well. So wherever possible, find a way to connect, host your virtual school council meetings, and reach out to ASCA if you have questions about doing so - we are here to support you.

In last year's President's Address, I spoke of it being a busy year. I wish I could have my busy of last year back. I now, instead refer to my days, weeks, and months as full! It has been full of ups and downs, changes and unknowns, but knowing we all have full days ahead, I will briefly provide some of the ASCA highlights in three key areas:

- 1) Representation of our members – also known as Advocacy,
- 2) Service and Support to our members, and
- 3) Stewardship of the Association on behalf of our members.

Available on our website you will find reports that provide a great deal of details regarding what the Association, and your Board, has been working on this year.

Representation/Advocacy:

Eighty-six (86%) percent of the school councils able to be an ASCA Member have done so this past year. We have over 1,350 Member School Councils, out of a possible estimated 1,574.

The majority of the memberships are being paid for by the school divisions. This is very strong evidence of the commitment of Alberta's school boards to their school councils, the value they see in parent engagement, and of the voice and influence school councils have at a provincial level. ASCA greatly appreciates this show of support from school boards, as do the school councils who benefit from contributing to the advocacy executed by the Association on their behalf. In all discussions and decisions, the ASCA Board of Directors strives to be a representative of our members, as our members are of their school communities. As individual Directors, we have to set aside our personal perspectives and carefully consider what is in the best interests of all of Alberta's students, as we've heard through the voices of our Member School Councils across Alberta.

This year's board began the year with an ASCA Value Campaign. The purpose was to ensure the services that support the value of the parent voice through school councils could continue and the funding necessary was put in place. It was important that key decision makers knew who ASCA was and what we do and the value we bring to ensuring the parent voice in education is heard. We engaged with parents, MLAs, trustees and other education partners to raise the importance of supporting parents to best be able to use their voice. The ASCA Value Campaign was successful in the end - securing the funding necessary to continue to provide the services to your school councils so that you are able to operate and ensure your voice is heard through your school council and through ASCA.

Our Board hosted, with the incredible assistance of the ASCA staff and instructors, our first ever Member Engagement Opportunity. It provided the Board with some clear member input into the draft Board Sponsored Proposed Advocacy Resolutions.

One of our ways of hearing from you – our members – about provincial-level educational matters, is our AGM. Obviously, that is different this year as we won't be able to hear your voice on the draft advocacy resolutions today, but we do look forward to doing so on October 17. We were able to continue with what we started last year, with the pre-vote, this year using a new, more appropriate name, the pre-sort.

Seventy-four (74) Member School Councils participated in the pre-sort, which was held in February and March, but was interrupted by the disruption caused by the pandemic. Some of those school councils are

also represented virtually here today.

The Board is pleased with the second-year success of this process even with the change to our new normal - COVID, hitting part way through the pre-sort timeline. The Board will continue to look at ways to make the process even better, for even more Member School Councils to participate next year!

Representing our Member's perspectives to Alberta Education, our education partners, stakeholders, and the general community, is a responsibility taken very seriously by your Board of Directors, and the provincial office staff. While the Advocacy Resolution process at our AGM is typically one way to hear from our Member School Councils, our Board of Directors recognizes that it must utilize a variety of methods to also hear your voices between AGMs. The School Council Engagement Task Force has helped us to do this, as have the efforts of Directors to reach into the community and connect with individual school councils or Councils of School Councils through our Connection Tree. We have purposefully tracked this work and continue to build on those connections to increase participation to have the parent voice heard through school councils. This very important work of the Board will continue into 2020-2021, along with exploration of other methods the Association can use to hear from you.

Service and Support:

We are proud of the work our Association does in Alberta, and proud of the work our Member School Councils do in their local school communities. Although this year provided some uncertainty for the funding we receive from the Alberta Government, we worked hard to emphasize the value of ASCA and the work we do to support school councils. As a result of the funding received from Alberta Education in the form of a Conditional Grant, supporting and guiding school councils to understand and fulfill their legislated purpose in their school communities is a primary focus of ASCA.

Beginning in August, our Client Services team of Instructors and staff have provided on-site services to over 161 groups so far this year; some of them individual school councils, some fundraising associations, some multi-school council groups like Councils of School Councils and district gatherings, and some specifically to groups of principals, trustees or district administrative teams. Through these on-site deliveries, almost 420 school councils have increased their knowledge and skills in order to support and enhance student learning. The staff team continues to be innovative in delivery and certainly plan to continue being creative in how to support school councils in the work that will continue in your school communities, even if that is virtually.

As well as ensuring on-site support is timely and effective, staff in the office have responded to close to 1,500 phone calls and emails from individual parents, school council chairs or executive members, principals, trustees, superintendents and parents on school-based fundraising associations. This work continues in this "new normal" with workshops being offered virtually, and our new Meeting Mondays and Webinar Wednesdays - check out our website for more information on these!

Regardless of the audience, and the times we are in, our message is always consistent: *School councils have an important role to fulfill to support and enhance student learning.* Let's hear that again - School councils have an important role to fulfill to support and enhance student learning! You are important, you are valued, and we support the work you are doing!

Stewardship of the Association:

Speaking of important roles, one belonging to your ASCA Board of Directors is to set the direction for the Association, and to ensure that the decisions of the Members and the Board can be acted upon with the processes, skills, tools and resources available to the Association.

The Board of 2019-2020 reviewed and revised the long-term goals – articulated in the 2020-2023 Vision Path.

In addition, through very active and dedicated Board Committees, stewardship of the Association was

always a top priority for your Board of Directors.

In Summary:

As we go forward, not knowing what the education landscape will present us, you can be assured that the Mission and Vision of ASCA will continue to be the banner under which your Board of Directors will persistently move forward. Each and every decision made, and action taken, will reflect the views of our Members, will be intended to support and guide school councils in their communities even when the ways we do so are new. We will ensure the long-term relevancy and sustainability of your provincial Association.

Thank you – our Member School Councils and the parents, teachers, principals, trustees, students and others who serve them - for being the reason ASCA does the work we do!

Thank you.

1. AFFIRMATION TO ALLOW VIRTUAL/ELECTRONIC VOTING

100% of the voting participants agreed to allow virtual/electronic voting for the 2020 ASCA AGM.

2. AFFIRMATION TO POSTPONE PROPOSED ADVOCACY RESOLUTIONS

96% of the voting participants agreed to postpone discussion of the Proposed Advocacy Resolutions to October 17, 2020.

3. APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

École Notre Dame School Council, Dawn Miller **moved** that Becky Kallal be accepted as Parliamentarian.

CARRIED

4. PARLIAMENTARIAN

Becky Kallal gave an overview of the virtual meeting protocols and etiquette.

5. APPROVAL OF RULES OF ORDER

ASCA 2020 AGM Rules of Order

1. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority in all cases **not covered** by the Bylaws of the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) or these Rules of Order; in particular, in the handling of resolutions and motions.
2. Each person attending the Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall sign in using their proper first and last name and use the **Chat Window** to identify the school council, community, location, school division or education organization they are representing. (i.e.: *École Dickinsfield School Council, EPSB or Trustee, High Prairie SD*)
3. Voting members are only those authorized Parent Delegates from ASCA Member School Councils who have submitted their signed Credential Voting Form prior to the deadline required by ASCA.
4. Voting by Parent Delegates shall be conducted by use of the Election Buddy digital voting platform only.
5. Voting Parent Delegates from ASCA Member School Councils are required to keep secure and confidential the unique Voting Access Key issued to them by Election Buddy.
6. Only a Voting Parent Delegate may move or second the Special Resolution or any motion by indicating – in the **Chat Window** – the name of the School Council they are representing and its location or school division (i.e.: *Delwood School Council, Edmonton Public, moves; Fultonvale School Council, EIPS, seconds*). After moving, and upon recognition by the Chair, the

Voting Parent Delegate may speak to the Special Resolution or the motion, or invite another delegate from his/her school council to speak on his/her behalf, for a maximum of three (3) minutes.

7. Upon recognition by the Chair, and if desired, the moving Voting Parent Delegate or his/her designate shall have a further two (2) minutes for closing comments.
8. Any delegate may speak only once to any resolution or motion for a maximum of three (3) minutes. Those wishing to speak shall indicate such by using the **Raise Hand** feature in the virtual platform and waiting to be recognized by the Chair. A delegate wishing to raise a Point of Order shall type "Point of Order" in the Chat Window for quicker recognition by the Chair. Upon recognition by the Chair, delegates shall state the name of their School Council and its location, and their full name, before making comments or asking questions.
9. Upon recognition by the Chair, and after properly identifying themselves as noted in #8 above, non-voting delegates may ask questions during discussions or speak to any motion, but they may not introduce motions or vote.
10. When time is of the essence, Voting Parent Delegates shall be given priority to speak over non-voting delegates.
11. Any amendments or motions not already in writing in the AGM package must be submitted through the **Chat Window** using the format indicated in #6 above and be seconded in the same manner. Upon recognition by the Chair, the Voting Parent Delegate may speak to the amendment or new motion.
12. Procedural Motions, such as the adoption of the Rules of Order, Agenda, and Minutes, require only a mover.
13. Substantive Motions, such as those required for the Special Resolution, require a mover and a seconder, and will be so noted on the Agenda where appropriate.
14. Affirmations requiring ASCA Member School Council support will be introduced by the Chair, and do not require a mover or seconder. Affirmations will be considered affirmed by a 50% show of support by Voting Parent Delegates.
15. Emergent Resolutions will not be considered at the Virtual AGM.
16. Extraordinary Resolutions arising as a result of the business conducted at the AGM must be approved by 75% of the Voting Parent Delegates in order *to be added to the order paper*, with specific wording provided in the **Chat Window** by a Voting Parent Delegate only. Upon recognition by the Chair, the Voting Parent Delegate may speak to the Extraordinary Resolution.
17. The **Chat Window** shall be used only to conduct business associated with the Annual General Meeting, unless otherwise directed. Improper use of the **Chat Window** may result in an attendee being removed from the AGM.
18. The **Q&A** feature shall be used only to ask technical questions for ASCA staff to offer assistance, unless otherwise directed. Improper use of the **Q&A** feature may result in an attendee being removed from the AGM.
19. No materials of any kind shall be distributed, sold, or displayed at or during the AGM, and no appeals for support or collections of any kind shall be made, without prior approval of the Alberta School Councils' Association President.

Bawlf School Council, Christee Langkamp **moved** that the 2020 AGM Rules of Order be accepted, as presented.

Blessed Marie-Rose School Council, Edward Tse **moved to amend** the Rules of Order #15: Emergent Resolutions will ~~not~~ be considered at the Virtual AGM *and to allow Emergent Resolutions with a majority vote to the order paper*. **Seconded** by John Costello School Council, Gabriella Grabas.

Holy Cross School Council, Veronica Coronado **moved to amend the amendment:** Emergent Resolutions will ~~not~~ be considered at the Virtual AGM *and to allow Emergent Resolutions with a majority vote to be added to the order paper, and 75% majority to become an ASCA resolution*. No seconder offered or recorded.

Raymond Elementary School Council, Natalie Ball **suggested an amendment by unanimous consent** (friendly amendment): 75% majority to **pass as** an ASCA resolution
CONSENT NOT UNANIMOUS (DEFEATED)

Results of the vote on the amendment to the amendment: “to be added” and “, and 75% majority to become an ASCA resolution”
CARRIED

Bawlf School Council, Christee Langkamp, **moved to Call the Question** on the **amendment** (to Rule of Order #15 as amended). **Seconded** by Forestburg School Council, Whitney Badry.

Results of the vote to **Call the Question** on the **amendment** (to Rule of Order #15 as amended):
CARRIED

Results of the vote on the **amendment** (to Rule of Order #15 as amended):
Emergent Resolutions will ~~not~~ be considered at the Virtual AGM *and to allow Emergent Resolutions with a majority vote to be added to the order paper, and 75% majority to become an ASCA resolution*.
CARRIED

Results of the vote to **accept the 2020 AGM Rules of Order, as amended:**
CARRIED

6. ADOPTION OF AGM AGENDA

Ross Sheppard School Council, Shauna Gibbons **moved** that the 2020 AGM Agenda be adopted, as presented.

Blessed Marie-Rose School Council, Edward Tse **moved to amend** the agenda to include the Emergent Resolution Online Learning Advocacy Recommendations as item 10A. **Seconded** by John Costello School Council, Gabriella Grabas.
CARRIED

7. APPROVAL OF 2019 AGM MINUTES

Archbishop O’Leary School Council, Karen Hannah-Masse, **moved** that the 2019 Draft Annual General Meeting Minutes be approved, as presented.
CARRIED

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Audited Financial Statement in the Auditor's Report for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was presented by Director Surgenor, she mentioned that the Association will be using Metrix Group LLP for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. She reported that there will be no increase in Membership Fees for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Director Surgenor presented the board-approved 2020-2021 Budget.

9. CREDENTIALS REPORT

Votes in the Virtual Meeting Room

Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs, Vice President Rai and Director Odishaw, reported that there are 103 ASCA Member School Councils and votes represented in the virtual meeting room.

10. SPECIAL RESOLUTION SR20-01

Bawlf School Council, Christee Langkamp **moved** that the Alberta School Councils' Association amends ASCA Bylaws Articles 3 and 5, as presented. **Seconded** by Garneau School Council, Cynthia Bale.

CARRIED Unanimously

10A. EMERGENT RESOLUTION – Online Learning Advocacy Recommendations

Blessed Marie-Rose School Council, Edward Tse **moved** that:

1. ASCA shall advocate to the Alberta Ministry of Education to provide schools with the infrastructure, technology and training funding needed to ensure that all students have access to learning, and
2. ASCA shall advocate to the Alberta Ministry of Education to require schools to deliver training for mindset, mental health and using the online learning environments to parents.

Seconded by John Costello School Council, Gabriella Grabas.

Pine Street School Council, Leslie Bowman **moved** to **Call the Question**. **Seconded** by McGrath Elementary School Council, Olivia Fletcher.

CARRIED

Results of the vote on **the Emergent Resolution**:

1. ASCA shall advocate to the Alberta Ministry of Education to provide schools with the infrastructure, technology and training funding needed to ensure that all students have access to learning, and
2. ASCA shall advocate to the Alberta Ministry of Education to require schools to deliver training for mindset, mental health and using the online learning environments to parents.

DEFEATED

11. NOMINATION PROCESS

(all new Terms of Office begin at the conclusion of the AGM)

President: Affirmation of Acclamation – Brandi Rai, Victoria School of Fine Arts School Council
Nominated by: Jacquie Surgenor Gaglione, Salisbury Composite High School Council
Present and accepted the position of President

Vice President: Affirmation of Acclamation – Shelley Odishaw, Eastview Middle School Council
Nominated by: Hollie Tarasewich, Winston Churchill High School Council
Present and accepted the position of Vice President

Directors – 2 Year Term: five (5) positions; seven (7) candidates

Richard Haggarty, Prescott Learning Centre School Council
Nominated by: Brenda Cryer Prescott Learning Centre School Council
Present and accepted nomination.

Greta Gerstner, TD Baker School Council
Nominated by: Kristi Rouse Sister Alphonse Academy School Council
Present and accepted nomination.

Hollie Tarasewich, Winston Churchill High, School Council
Nominated by: Joy Morris Winston Churchill High School Council
Present and accepted nomination.

Jacque Surgenor Gaglione, Salisbury Composite High, School Council
Nominated by: Krista Scott Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School Council
Present and accepted nomination.

Krista Scott, Fultonvale Christian Academy, School Council
Nominated by: Jacque Surgenor Gaglione Salisbury Composite High School Council
Present and accepted nomination.

Janeen Samson, Good Shepherd School Council
Nominated by: Lindsay Reid, Good Shepherd School Council
Not present – Nomination removed.

Sheila Hobday, Sam Livingston, School Council
Nominated by: Cassandra Witke Wyatt Sam Livingston School Council
Present and accepted nomination.

Successful Candidates for Directors: 2 Year Term

Richard Haggarty
Hollie Tarasewich
Jacque Surgenor Gaglione
Krista Scott
Sheila Hobday

Directors – 1 Year Term:

No candidates to consider for Directors – 1 Year Term.

12. **AFFIRMATION OF PAST PRESIDENT**

President Elect Rai provided President Allison Purcell-Pike an opportunity to seek affirmation from the Members to serve in the capacity of the 1 Year Past President advisory non-voting position. President Purcell-Pike declined seeking affirmation to serve as Past President, thanking President Elect Rai, and the Members, for the opportunity.

13. **FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSED 2021 ADVOCACY RESOLUTIONS**

École Notre Dame School Council, Dawn Miller – Referred Bylaw 5.8 to the Board as the Board may want to bring changes forward with respect to the methods of voting, given the possibility for future electronic voting.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

AGM Chair/President Purcell-Pike adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Brandi Rai

President
Brandi Rai

Wendy Keiver

Executive Director
Wendy Keiver