



Alberta
School Councils' Association
Promoting parent engagement in public education

Advocacy and Action Updates

for the period ending March 2023

Annual Highlights

Advisory Committee Updates

School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) 2022-2023 Summary

ASCA Internal Board Committees



Highlights 2022-2023

Members and Clients:

1169 Member School Councils representing public, catholic and charter school communities as of March 31, 2023.

Provincial Representation/Advocacy

- On request, advised Minister of Education and Alberta Education staff respecting parent perceptions of current or emerging education issues/trends;
- President Rai provided several media interviews throughout the year, primarily focused on draft K-6 curriculum and/or covid-related matters;
- President Rai participated in two rallies focused on the draft K-6 curriculum;
- Endorsed the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Stand for Education campaign;
- Ongoing outreach to parents and school councils through social-media, e-News and bulletins;
- ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) continued for a ninth term;
- Board/staff members attended or participated in the provincial level opportunities listed in detail on the following page.

Local School Council, COSC and Division Empowerment

- Provided 27 ASCA in person Learning Opportunities delivered by ASCA Instructors and staff requested by school councils, school divisions and division-sponsored learning events for school councils;
- Provided 95 ASCA province-wide virtual online Learning Opportunities delivered by ASCA Instructors and staff to school councils, school divisions and division-sponsored learning events for school councils;
- Provided 20 Learning Opportunities to support school fundraising associations (FRAs) on a cost-recovery basis;
- Through Learning Opportunities, have worked with 231 school councils in Alberta;
- Consulted and worked with school authority administrator teams on parent engagement/school council/council of school council relationships;
- Consulted and worked with school community parents building positive relationships with principals; central office personnel and trustees;
- Provided direction and information with respect to effective school councils and the distinction from school fundraising associations;
- Provided direction and information with respect to appropriate use of the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant;
- Customized Learning Opportunities and offerings to reflect school council and/or district experience and desired outcomes as required;
- Customized Learning Opportunities to include stronger emphasis on school councils' role within the Assurance Framework, and their understanding of Professional Practice Standards.
- Created a 3-module self-paced and directed Learning Opportunity for school councils.
- Created customized professional learning options for independent/private school authorities and First Nations Education Authorities.



External Advisory Committee List

Each year ASCA is invited to represent the advocacy positions established by the membership at provincial level committees. From April 2022 – March 2023 ASCA has been invited to, represented at, or participated on, the following:

Alberta Education

- Alberta Research Network
- Budget 2023 Stakeholder Briefing
- Fall 2023 Curriculum Implementation Stakeholder Briefing

Regional Prof. Development Consortium

- Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) Provincial Advisory Committee (CASS)
- Edmonton (ERLC)
- Southern Alberta (SAPDC)
- Central Alberta (CARC)
- East Central/Learning Network (LNEs)
- Calgary (CRC)
- Northwest (NRLC)

Education Partner Joint Initiatives and Learning Opportunities

- ASBA, ASBOA, ASCA, CASS Four Partners
- Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Advisory Circle (IERC)
- Rural Education Symposium Advisory and Planning (ARES)
- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Spring and Fall General Meetings
- Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA) Conference
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Conferences & FNMI Gathering
- Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) General Meetings
- Rural Education Symposium (ARES)
- Honouring Indigenous Spirit Award Selection Committee and Award Ceremony



Advocacy and Representation Opportunities and Events

DATE	Committee	ASCA Rep.	Updates and Notes
April 5	Four Partners	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA and CASS. The discussions focused on curriculum implementation, funding allocations, Alberta Education's request for school council email addresses, Bill 15, and reserves advocacy.
April 29	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives of ASBA, CASS,ATA, ASCA, ARPDC, Rupertsland, AISCA and ABEd FNMI Directorate. Discussions focused on the mini-gathering, moved to June 23, 2022, and having Racism in Education presentations from all IERC members. There will be a new member organization attending future meetings – TAAPCS. ASCA has been asked to share its strategies and best practices for engaging Elders and Indigenous Leaders in our work, and the work of school councils, at the May meeting.
May 3	Four Partners	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA and CASS. The discussions focused on curriculum implementation, the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant, the ASCA conference and AGM summary, the history of the Four Partners group and each associations' unique role in the education system. Last meeting until September 2022.
May 3	Central Alberta Regional Consortium Advisory Working Group (CARC)	S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives of Red Deer Polytechnique, ASCA, CASS, ASCA and the CARC ED. Discussions focused on preparedness of fall curriculum implementation, and ongoing advocacy efforts of Zone 4 to delay implementation. CARC has PD sessions ready to provide, for teachers, parents etc. ASCA will explore ways to partner to create parent awareness and access. The upcoming Culture Camp agenda and program look amazing – excitement is starting to build for this June event. Last meeting until Fall of 2022.
May 5	Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortia (SAPDC)	W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of U of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat College, ASBA, ASCA, CASS and SAPDC. Focus of discussions related to curriculum implementation and resources, and professional development catering to those. All school divisions are moving forward, with varying paces and requirements for support. ASCA relayed concerns expressed by parents, and the desire to have support in understanding implementation processes, which perhaps the consortia could provide. Also, parents continue to look for and appreciate support and resources in areas of social, emotional, and mental health well-being.
May 9	Northwest Regional Learning Consortia (NRLC)	S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives of CASS, AISCA, ASBA, ASCA and NRLC ED and Admin Assistant. Majority of associations reported on working on or towards curriculum implementation Fall 2022, with supporting PD and resources. Have had some training with the Ministry looking at the curriculum architecture, new LearnAlberta resources, and building asynchronous learning opportunities. Invitation to ask NRLC for resources and support at any time – don't wait until something is created. Last meeting until October 2022.



May 12	Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Regional Advisory Committee	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives of CASS, AISCA, ASBA, ASCA, CPF, Rupertsland Institute and post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Did not attend – ASCA update sent for sharing with organization representatives.</p>
May 12	Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC)		Did not attend – Board had not appointed a new representative in time.
May 13	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	Conflict in schedule - Did not attend. Minutes indicate budget is good; adequate surplus. Reviewed feedback from 2022 event, and discussed potential themes for 2023.
May 20	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of ASBA, CASS, ATA, ASCA, ARPDC, Rupertsland, AISCA and ABEd FNMI Directorate. Members spoke to the work of their organizations related to engaging Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Discussions focused on the mini-gathering, moved to June 23, 2022, and having 2-3 slides of each partner’s Anti-Racism in Education work to present. The ATA and CASS presented on the findings of their joint research focusing on the underrepresentation of Indigenous teachers compared to the number of Indigenous students, as well as ATA’s independent research in this area. The findings (barriers, possible solutions) were not ‘new’, as several similar studies have previously been done. The challenge is to mobilize the solutions, honouring the voices of the Indigenous educators in Alberta’s system. ADM Callihoo announced she is leaving the FNMI Directorate for a position elsewhere.</p>
May 21 – 23	ATA Annual Representative Assembly (ARA)	B. Rai	I was grateful to attend and hear hundreds of teacher representatives from across the province discuss their experiences within their profession and their proposed advocacy positions. Parents are partners in education and it is important to understand the perspectives of educators.
June 2-4	Public School Boards Association (PSBAA) Spring General Meeting	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by trustees and superintendents of PSBAA Member Boards, presentations and PD focused on the theme of “wellness”, of schools, staff, students, and school councils. ASCA Executive networked with attendees and discussed various aspects of ASCA’s activities.
June 5-7	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Spring General Meeting	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by trustees and superintendents from public, separate and francophone school divisions. ASCA President Rai and Vice President Odishaw attended the networking event and political climate presentation June 5 th , speaking to many trustees about the work of ASCA and school councils, and both attended the PD focused on moving forward post-pandemic on June 7 th .



June 7	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	Discussed theme for the event. Budget is good. Possible changes to the MLA panel.
June 13-14	Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA) Annual Conference	W. Keiver B. Kell S. Glionna	Attended by members of ASBOA and partner organizations, the event provided an opportunity to network, meet briefly with the new Executive Director, and present an ASCA Learning Opportunity – FRA Fundamental Principles.
June 23	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC), mini-gathering	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASBA, CASS, ATA, ASCA, ARPDC, Rupertsland, AISCA and ABEd FNMI Directorate and their guests. Dr. Verna St. Denis spoke to key issues of anti-Indigenous racism in education. Participants used breakout rooms and jamboard to further explore ideas presented, which were then shared with the larger group.
June 27	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC), mini-gathering Debrief	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASBA, CASS, ATA, ASCA, ARPDC, Rupertsland, AISCA and ABEd FNMI Directorate. Discussion focused on the successes and areas for improvement related to the mini-gathering. Accolades were given for a very well-run, meaningful engagement, and all participants look forward to future similar events.
July 5-6	Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) Symposium	S. Odishaw	Attended by Education Ministers and other education stakeholders from around the country. Panels included Holistic Approaches to Education and Indigenous Student Experience; Anti-racism, Anti-oppression and Reconciliation; Indigenous Language and Culture.
August 25	ADM Matthew Hebert re: Code of Conduct Public Survey	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver J. Kochisarli	ASCA was given an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the preliminary questions being considered for a public survey related to the Code of Conduct for Teachers and Leaders being developed by Alberta Education. Edits and modifications to the preliminary questions were well received and incorporated by Alberta Education staff at that time.
Sept. 7	Four Partners	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA and CASS. The discussions focused on division funding, governance documents, and UCP leadership.
Sept. 16	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives of AISCA, ARPDC, ASBA, ASCA, CASS, the Deans of Education and the First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Directorate including the ADM Lisa Higgerty. Discussion of in person meetings a couple times a year, always with a hybrid option, November the first. Discussion around the work plan - discussed ranking project completion on a three-point scale. Documents will come out for comment / discussion. TAAPCS being invited to join IERC.



Sept. 22	Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Regional Advisory Committee	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives of CASS, AISCA, ASBA, ASCA, CPF, Rupertsland Institute and post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Reviewed the initial data related to the 2021-22 year. Approved provincial priority areas related to New Curriculum Implementation, Instructional Leadership, Literacy, Math, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Inclusive Education, Mental Health and Wellness. ERLC's regional priority areas include French Immersion and FSL, Assessment, English Language Learners, Technology Integration, Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Racism. Provided update related to ASCA.</p>
Sept. 23	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of Prairieland, Wild Rose, Pembina Hills, FrancoSud, Golden Hills, St. Paul, Livingstone Range and High Prairie School Divisions, as well as ASBA, ASCA, CARC, ATA and Alberta Education. The theme of the event was revisited, and agreed upon: Resilience, Reconciliation, Rejoicing (Re-engagement in 2024). ASCA will participate in the active promotion of this event, scheduled to take place in March of 2023.</p>
Oct. 6	Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortia (SAPDC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attending by representatives of Medicine Hat College, ASBA, CASS, University of Lethbridge, ASCA and SAPDC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incredible amount of curriculum, learning loss and ELL sessions going on through the southern Divisions • Colony schools in each of the ARPDC regions, SAPDC has the most with 90. There is a colony conference the week of October 12-14. • Under the new organizational format of ARPDC, Gloria Antifaiff is the Liaison between ARPDC and CASS as well as the link for ARPDC to the MoE. • A dynamic hybrid center is being installed at SAPDC with the idea that a session can be presented and attended by 30 in person, simultaneously streamed around the province. • All attendees spoke of curriculum, Indigenous learning and relationships, mental health and wellness, and the Assurance Framework.
Oct. 6	Learning Network Education Services (LNES) Regional Stakeholder (Consortium)	W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of LNES, ASCA, Lakeland College, and NLSLSD. Members reviewed and validated regional priorities: new curriculum, literacy and numeracy best practices, assessment, mental health, school leadership, land based learning, supporting school boards, and parent advocacy. ASCA spoke to the alignment of some of these priorities to those of ASCA. LNES will be establishing working advisory groups, and checking in with teachers to determine how the implementation of new curriculum is going, and where/how LNES can assist. Work is being undertaken to develop a new LNES website, update branding, and plan a regional PD Day.</p>
Oct. 13	Alberta Rural Education Symposium	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of Wild Rose, Pembina Hills, FrancoSud, St. Paul, Livingstone Range, High Prairie, Chinook's Edge, Star Catholic, and Grande Prairie Catholic School Divisions, as</p>



	(ARES)		well as ASCA and CARC. Registration will open in early November – there will be price increases. The program for the Symposium is mostly complete. ASCA will actively promote when promotional materials are ready.
Oct. 18	Northwest Regional Learning Consortium (NRLC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of NRLC, AISCA, CASS, ASBA, KTC Education Authority, ASCA.</p> <p>NRLC: Discussed the Goals of the NRLC for the year - ED Report and 22-24 Priority Areas attached. Annual Report presented - Areas of Focus - Communication, Collaboration, Leadership Capacity</p> <p>CASS: Meeting at the end of September. Main focus has been around curriculum, inclusion, leadership and the expectations of it with a strong hint of First Nations Métis and Inuit.</p> <p>ASBA: Meeting at the end of September. Had the Edwin Parr nominees and winners.</p> <p>ASCA: Online Auction to raise funds : Online Member Engagement on November 19. What we are hearing from parents around curriculum, class sizes and mental health.</p> <p>AISCA: Expanded supports to Home Education families in May whose students need assistance with assessments, SLP, OHS and more.</p> <p>KTC: Students coming back full time is an adjustment. Concentrating on numeracy and literacy with a land-based learning system.</p> <p>Also reviewed draft NRLC 22/23 Annual Plan and draft ARPDC 22/23 Annual Plan.</p> <p>Stakeholders continue to have concerns around curriculum, numeracy, and literacy.</p>
Oct. 24	Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) Provincial Advisory Committee	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives from all Regional Consortium, CASS, ASBA, ASCA, AISCA and post-secondary institutions. Reviewed Terms of Reference, Curriculum Implementation Update, 2022-23 ARPDC Learning Plan, PAC Member sharing.</p>
Oct. 31	Central Alberta Regional Consortium Advisory Working Group (CARC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, CASS and CARC. Members shared organizational updates:</p> <p>ASBA - Update on new members in new positions; meetings with the MoE (mental health, internet connectivity).</p> <p>ASCA - November 19 engagement opportunity, auction (19-26); Workshops for ACSE grants; appreciation for Divisions that pay their SC memberships.</p> <p>CASS - Fall conference last week. Focus on CASS being a professional organization and how to move forward with that. Curriculum / resources are being shared with colleagues and through zones. Staff have had to make the decision to move to</p>



			<p>the CASS membership or stay with their ATA membership.</p> <p>CARC - Lots of work going on with curriculum and assessment for issues from the past two years. Mental health supports for teachers implementing curriculum. The fixes are being implemented, overall teachers and the ARPDC are doing the best that they can.</p>
Nov. 18	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of AISCA, ARPDC, ASBA, ASCA, the Deans of Education, Faculty St. Jean and the First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Directorate including the ADM Lisa Higgerty. ATA, RLI and CASS engaged with Métis Week activities. Focus on updating the IERC Work Plan, incorporating suggestions previously submitted and those provided verbally. Many comments related to keeping items within the 'scope and mandate' of IERC, and distinguishing between work to do within organizations, or that which could be done externally or in partnership with others. Strong support for hosting a gathering similar to the one of June 2022 – options will be explored by the Directorate staff.</p>
Nov. 25	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	Did not attend.
Dec. 16	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of AISCA, ARPDC, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, the Deans of Education (AADE), and the First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Directorate.</p> <p>Agreed that the group would like to do a book study utilizing <i>White Benevolence</i>. Each meeting will discuss a chapter, led by a group member.</p> <p>Each member shared what their organizations are doing to encourage Indigenous educators.</p> <p>Discussed the Year 3 workplan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward with another gathering in 2023, the Directorate will reach out to Dr. St. Denis for continuity. <p>Next meeting will discuss how to encourage high school students to consider education as a career, bridging high school and post-secondary.</p> <p>Talked about the agenda for the start of 2023.</p>
Jan. 13	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of Wild Rose, Pembina Hills, Golden Hills, St. Paul, Livingstone Range, High Prairie, and Grande Prairie Catholic School Divisions, as well as ASBA, ATA, ASCA, ABEd and CARC.</p> <p>Registration is going well, in line with past years. Program is tentatively complete. Finalizing travel plans, finances, and script. Save the Date cards are out; info going out reminding of registrations. Sponsors are on the website; speakers' info being added as well.</p>
Jan. 19	Southern Alberta	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASBA, ASCA, CASS, ULeth, MedHat College, and SAPDC. Discussed:</p>



	Professional Development Consortia (SAPDC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARPDC Podcast “Reading Across the Curriculum Series” https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/arpdc-change-maker-conversations-in-education/id1502420500 • SAPDC has been asked to move at the end of the school year. Looking for a new location, hopefully around Lethbridge. Possibility that they may become much more virtual. • Concerns around new resources (texts, manipulative) and the learning around them with the new curriculum. <p>All attendees spoke of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD sessions around wellness and curriculum. • SAPDC has requested that ASCA share parent learning opportunities with the SC network.
Jan. 19	Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Regional Advisory Committee	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives of CASS, AISCA, ASBA, ASCA, CPF, Rupertsland Institute and post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Update reviewed related to ARPDC Professional Learning Supports Overview for 2021-22. Also the ERLC overview for same topic and timeframe. ARPDC October Update for Curriculum Implementation. Discussed topics related to work of ERLC and discussed Assurance Model.</p>
Jan. 20	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of AISCA, ARPDC, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, High Prairie School Division (guest), the University of Alberta (guest), and the First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Directorate.</p> <p>Led by E. Stolfa (FNMI Education Directorate), attendees discussed their reactions and perceptions of the first two chapters of the book <i>White Benevolence</i>. Individual’s life experiences strongly influenced how they received the information presented in the book. The discussion included explorations of what changes need to take place.</p> <p>Attendees received a presentation of information from the guest from High Prairie School Division related to engaging Indigenous students in planning post-secondary pathways, hoping that more Indigenous students will choose to become educators.</p> <p>The guest from the U of A provided meaningful information related to the Supporting Indigenous language Revitalization (SILR) program at the U of A.</p>
Jan. 25	Minister of Education and ASCA Executive Meeting	B. Rai S. Odishaw (virtually) W. Keiver	<p>ASCA Executive appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education to discuss concerns of ASCA Members and parents related to: class size and composition, experiences of lack of funding for students with exceptional needs or requiring specialized supports to be successful, school division reserves, high levels of mental health concerns (students and teaches) in schools, provincial-level consultation opportunities, and the ASCE grant.</p>
Feb. 6	Central Alberta Regional Consortium Advisory Working Group	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASBA, ASCA and CARC.</p> <p>ASBA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about AHS and issues with Child and Social Services (workers not coming when requests made - the centralization to



	(CARC)		<p>Red Deer has made things incredibly difficult); letters have been sent to the Minister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with AHS services for students - they won't come into schools, especially rural schools - parents must take their students out of school for services. <p>ASCA: Conference / AGM; looking for new directors; success with first online auction.</p> <p>CARC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to centralize the work for curriculum to not be doing the same work repeatedly, first meeting on Wednesday; including websites and staff. CARC is leading the way in most of this work; has stuck to timelines and has learned much through the year. Finding that implementation cannot be done in a year - there hasn't been enough PD for teachers to learn / implement the changes. • Rejuvenated a leadership cohort (Aspiring Leaders) that is going well to build leadership potential. 6/8 school divisions signed on. • Indigenous learning kits - have a working group of people who are realigning the resources to line up with the new curriculum. • Support staff conferences will have over 600 Support staff taking part (EA, library, office)
Feb. 10	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives from Prairieland SD, Pembina SD, St. Paul SD, High Prairie SD, Wild Rose SD, Livingstone Range SD, Grand Prairie Catholic SD, ASBA, RCASB, ASCA and CARC. This was the final meeting of the Committee prior to the event (March 5-7). Minister has confirmed attending, as have other MLAs. The program is complete, with a good list of speakers.</p>
Feb. 23	Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) Provincial Advisory Committee	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives from all Regional Consortium, CASS, ASBA, ASCA, AISCA and post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>ARPDC Annual Report update, curriculum implantation update, PAC member sharing, next meeting is in June.</p>
Feb. 28	Northwest Regional Learning Consortium (NRLC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Unable to attend. Written ASCA update provided to NRLC Executive Director.</p>
Feb. 28	Learning Network Education Services (LNES) Regional Stakeholder (Consortium)	W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives from Lakeland Catholic SD, Northern Lights SD/CASS, Pembina Hills SD/ASBA, St Paul SD/CASS, Lloydminster Public SD, Lloydminster Catholic SD, Lakeland College, ASCA, and LNES. Discussions focused on ARPDC Annual report (2021-2022), Annual Plan (2022-2023), changing 'reporting' to more closely align with the Assurance Framework, new resources on the ARPDC website intended for all audiences, the establishment of curriculum subject-area "Think Tanks", and</p>



			Sessions viability. Each attendee also shared updates related to their organization.
Feb. 28	Budget 2023 Education Ministry Briefing	W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASBA, ASCA, AISCA, ATA, ASBOA, ACSTA, CASS, PSBAA, Francophone education authorities, Alberta Education and others. Attendees were given details and explanations of the funding being provided to school divisions and authorities for the 2023 provincial fiscal year. Points of note are a substantial increase in transportation funding, increased eligibility for funded transported students, and funding recognition of complex classrooms. More details will be provided when the 2023 Funding Manual is released, approximately mid-March.
Mar. 5 & 7	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives from Prairieland SD, Pembina SD, St. Paul SD, High Prairie SD, Wild Rose SD, Livingstone Range SD, Grand Prairie Catholic SD, ASBA, RCASB, ASCA and CARC. These were 'pre and post' event meetings, dealing with any last-minute needs for the event, and a quick debrief after the event.
Mar. 17	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of AISCA, ARPDC, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, Rupertsland Institute (RLI), and the First Nations Métis and Inuit Education Directorate. H. Brandsma, Rupertsland Institute, provided a comprehensive presentation showcasing the work of RLI, past and upcoming events, and the plentiful resources available through their website. Led by M. Purcell (ATA) attendees discussed their reactions and perceptions of chapters 3 and 6 of the book <i>White Benevolence</i> . Individual's life experiences strongly influenced how they received the information presented in the book. The discussion included explorations of what changes need to take place.



ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) 2022-2023

In 2022-2023, the ninth year of the program, 30 Member School Councils opted in to participate on the ASCA Board of Directors School Council Engagement Task Force.

The Board consulted these ASCA Member School Councils twice during the 2022-2023 school year. Feedback gathered via email using a survey mechanism with the identified parent liaisons from these 30 ASCA Member School Councils on education related topics of interest relevant to the work of the 2022-2023 Board of Directors. The consolidated responses received for each topic are available on the "[What We Heard](#)" page of the ASCA website.

The ASCA Board of Directors is greatly appreciative of the participation of these 30 SCETF Councils.

Schools/Divisions:

School Name	Division
Arbour Lake School	CBE
Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School	EICSD
Blessed Marie Rose School	CCSD
Calmar Elementary School	BGSD
Covenant Christian School	BGSD
Dunstable School	PHSD
École Agnes Davidson Elementary School	LETHSD
École Holy Cross School	ECSD
École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville	GSACRD
École Secondaire Paul Kane HighSchool	SAPS
Glenbrook School	CBE
Grand Trunk School	GYPSD
Hugh Sutherland School	CESD
Isabel F. Cox School	PRSD
Jessie Duncan Elementary School	CESD
Joseph M. Demko School	STASD
Julia Kiniski School	EPSB
Langdon School	RVSD
Mount View School	CBE
Neerlandia Public Christian School	PHSD
Ochre Park School	STSD
Ramsay School	CBE
Richard F. Staples Secondary School	PHSD
Sam Livingston School	CBE
St. Joan of Arc School	CCSD
Tuscany School	CBE
Vincent J. Maloney School	GSAC
Wes Hosford Elementary School	EIPS
Whispering Ridge Community School	PWSD
W.P. Wagner School	EPSB



ASCA Board 2022-2023 Internal Committees

Terms of Reference for each Committee were approved by the Board. Directors appointed as Lead for their Committee provided regular activity reports and updates to the Board. Committees accomplished their assigned responsibilities, bringing recommendations for actions or decisions as needed to the Board of Directors for approval. The ASCA President and Executive Director are deemed to be ex-officio members of all Committees of the Board, unless otherwise noted.

The Internal Committees on which the 2022-2023 ASCA Board of Directors served were:

Advocacy / Resolutions Committee

Directors: Greta Gerstner, Melissa Smith, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

Following the 2022 AGM and the establishment of the new Advocacy/Resolutions Committee, the new members updated the current Terms of Reference (ToR).

The Advocacy/Resolutions Committee was responsible for compiling the themes and questions for the School Council Engagement Task Force. The responses to these surveys contribute to the information used by ASCA to advocate on behalf of Member School Councils and the parent voice.

The Advocacy/Resolutions Committee reviewed current ASCA Advocacy Policies that have reached the tenth-anniversary date for continued relevancy. The Committee recommended that Policy 13-3, Installation of Speed Monitoring Devices for Schools, be presented to ASCA Member School Councils at the 2023 Annual General Meeting to be maintained.

Based on what the Advocacy/Resolutions Committee has heard through communications with school councils across Alberta, the Committee prepared three Board sponsored Proposed Advocacy Resolutions for consideration at the 2023 AGM. (Add Rights of Victims of Bullying and Violence to Education Act; Required Consultation Opportunities; Meeting Mental Health Support Recommended Ratios).

The Advocacy/Resolutions Committee reviewed and recommended revisions to ASCA's existing PAR submission processes and documents, to assist Member School Councils in writing and submitting Proposed Advocacy Resolutions.

The Advocacy/Resolutions Committee assessed incoming Proposed Advocacy Resolutions (PARs) and assisted Member School Councils in ensuring that the intent of the PARs falls within the parameters of ASCA's foundational documents. The Committee is grateful to all Member School Councils who submitted PARs for the Members to consider and discuss at the Annual General Meeting.

Fund Development Committee

Directors: Greta Gerstner, Krista Li, Andi McDonald (formerly Romito), Kerry Bodell, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

In the June board meeting, the Board approved the establishment of a Fund Development Committee so that the Association can explore/raise alternative funding to realize additional revenue. The Terms of Reference for the committee were created on June 17, 2022, and approved via email vote on June 21, 2022.

Director McDonald led the committee in July in an exercise called mapping to figure out how much we needed to fundraise to meet our financial goals this year and how we can achieve it. Director McDonald and ASCA's contracted Communications Specialist created the Case for Support with input from the Committee to distribute to potential donors.



The committee also submitted a grant proposal for \$5000 to Saskatchewan Mutual Insurance Company (SMI) through Dyberg Insurance Group Inc. to develop Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programming for school communities that reflects the diversity of Alberta. This was unfortunately not successful.

In the August board meeting the Board approved holding an Online Silent Auction with the hopes of raising \$10,000. The months of September, October and November were spent soliciting items for the auction, setting up the auction in 32 Auctions website, collection of items, advertising, and the arrangements for the pick-up of items for successful bidders. The Board, staff, and one volunteer parent from Southern Alberta asked 374 businesses/organizations/school boards/people and received a total of 106 items which helped us raise \$9417.90 through the auction. After direct expenses were paid, the total revenue for the Association was \$9156.

ASCA has a new online fundraising and donor management platform that it will be using from Zeffy to help with Donor Management records. Although the Executive Director has applied through the Canadian Community Services Recovery Fund grant for funds to train and assign a part-time staff position to manage this for a year, for the foreseeable future this may be a shared responsibility of the Fund Development Committee and ASCA administration if the grant application is not successful.

The Fund Development Committee will need to continue next year to find ways to diversify our streams of revenue to ensure the financial viability of the organization. It is not able to explore all the different organizations who align with ASCA to approach for a donation or sponsorship opportunities due to lack of capacity.

Governance Committee

Directors: Greta Gerstner, Kerry Bodell, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Governance Committee was responsible for recommending for approval of the Board, and completing once approved, amendments to the Governance Policy Manual. The recommendations approved were the amendment of GP 2.C – Role of the Board of Directors to establish processes and provide opportunities for membership input, and GP 13 – Whistleblower Policy to provide clarity regarding the concerns and complaint process.

The Committee also worked on proposing amendments for ASCA Member School Councils consideration to bylaws 3.19, 3.24, 3.42, and 4.2 to reflect the change from the School Act to the Education Act in 2018 and to incorporate results from the member survey conducted in the Fall of 2021. The Committee also proposed amendments to bylaw 6.2 to acknowledge acclamations as an alternative to casting secret ballot votes at General Meetings when actual elections are not needed due to the number of nominations received for relevant positions. These proposed amendments will be presented to ASCA Member School Councils as a Special Resolution at the 2023 AGM.

The Board adopted a consent agenda this year to help with time management so it could spend more time on items that needed more discussion and consideration.

The Governance Committee was unable to complete its task list due to a lack of capacity among Committee members. The Committee leaves the following tasks for the 2023/2024 Governance Committee to consider in its work plan: GP 3 – App 3, GP 4 d/e, GP 7.



Internal Financial Committee (IFC)

Directors: Kerry Bodell, Greta Gerstner, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Internal Finance Committee (IFC) met to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. The ToR was approved at the June 2022 Board meeting with no changes made.

Detailed financial updates were presented by management at each board meeting in the form of an Income Statement and Balance Sheet. Information included Budget, Year to Date Actuals and an estimated Year End Forecast. The Committee ensured insurance/liability coverage, Society Annual Return filing, CRA Charity Return filing and ensured that the Board is fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility and that administrative financial procedures comply with non-profit best practices.

The IFC supported the forming of the Fund Development Committee. A SWOT analysis was not done by the Board this year. The Fund Development Committee performed a needs analysis, which was reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

Legacy Committee

Directors: Andi McDonald (formerly Romito), Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

Following the 2022 AGM and establishing the new composition of the Legacy Committee, it met with ASCA Executive members to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. The ToR was approved at the June 2022 Board meeting with no changes made.

The Committee was not able to undertake any ongoing planning or activities this year, resulting from Director and staff capacity constraints.

While the 100th Anniversary of ASCA may seem to still be a few years away (2029), it is recognized that those 6 years will pass more quickly than perhaps anticipated. To prevent Director and staff stress and burnout as 2029 approaches, it is recommended that manageable effort in preparing for and planning the 100 Years recognition and celebration be consistently applied moving forward.

Member Engagement Committee (MEC)

Directors: Melissa Smith, Krista Li, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

Following the 2022 AGM and the establishment of the new Member Engagement Committee, the new members updated the current terms of reference (ToR).

The Committee continues to perceive the cyclical nature of school councils as a challenge for member engagement and understanding of the work ASCA does. The Committee discussed options for engaging with Councils of School Councils (CoSCs) in the future and identifying ways to engage with administrators to enhance their understanding of the role of school councils.

The Committee was satisfied with the ongoing work of the Association to engage our membership. ASCA offered numerous engagement opportunities, including workshops and training, the ASCA School Council Engagement Opportunity in November, and the UCP Leadership Candidates' forum.

The Committee did not identify a need for or direct additional resources to Member Engagement. We look forward to the upcoming engagement opportunities the conference and AGM will provide.



Due to Directors and ASCA staff capacity over the past year, the Association did not attend as many CoSC meetings as it would have liked, nor directly engage with Member School Councils beyond what was offered through ASCA's Learning Opportunities. The incoming committee members may wish to consider this in the future.

Nominations Committee

Directors: Andi McDonald (formerly Romito), Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

Following the 2022 AGM and establishing the new composition of the Nominations Committee, it met to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. The ToR was approved at the June 2022 Board meeting with no changes made.

The Nominations Committee also met to review and revise existing nominations documents for the purposes of improvement and enhancement. The Committee recommended and reviewed updates to the Candidates Questionnaire, the Nomination Form, and the Information Package for a position on the ASCA Board of Directors for use starting in 2023.

The Committee also reviewed all Nomination Forms and Candidate Questionnaires as they were received from parents on ASCA Member School Councils, prior to their posting on the ASCA website.

Recognition Awards Committee (RAC)

Directors: Krista Li, Kerry Bodell, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Recognition Awards Committee is a standing committee that chooses recipients for awards recognizing the contributions of Member School Councils, Parents, Learning Partners, Districts and other ASCA supporters.

The Committee met once to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. The ToR was approved at the June 2022 Board meeting.

When the Board reviewed and approved the 2022-2025 Vision Path, Priority 2 of Destination 2 was revised to reflect the financial realities of the Association, and its inability to continue the recognition program that had previously been in place.

Due to this lack of financial resources, all work related to this Committee continues to be suspended indefinitely.

The 2023-24 Board of Directors needs to consider if there are sufficient resources to resume the work of this Committee.
