



May 9, 2024

Via Email: infrastructure.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Pete Guthrie
Minister of Infrastructure
Office of the Minister, Infrastructure
419 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Guthrie:

On Sunday, April 28th, the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) starting at 8:00 a.m. A total of 157 ASCA Member School Councils, acting on behalf of parents in their school communities, were represented for the majority of the 11.5-hour AGM. A complete copy of the approved Advocacy Policies has been sent to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides.

In addition, ASCA Members requested the Premier, you, and other Ministers whose portfolios intersect with education be made aware of some of these Advocacy Policies. Separate letters containing the Advocacy Policies relevant to each Ministry or Official will be sent to the following, cc'd to Minister Nicolaides:

The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier;
The Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health;
The Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction;
The Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Provincially, the ASCA Board and Executive appreciate the opportunity to provide the advice and feedback received from parents on Alberta's legislated school councils, with respect to new and ongoing Alberta Education initiatives and/or legislation/policies impacting education. We believe a collaborative process results in an enhanced education system focused on the learning success of all Alberta's students.

The ASCA Member adopted Advocacy Policy which references the Minister of Infrastructure is:

P24-04 – Equity in Playground Funding

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).

A summary of the results of all ten (10) Advocacy Resolutions presented to ASCA Members can be found on this page of the ASCA website: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting/meeting-documents-2024> The 2024 Advocacy Policy Manual is currently being updated by ASCA and will be posted as soon as it is available. To find a copy of ASCA Advocacy Policies previously adopted, please visit our website at <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice/advocacy> .

Your comments and feedback would be appreciated and will be shared with our Members. I am pleased to respond to any questions you may have and look forward to discussing these, and other, Advocacy Policies of our Association.

I look forward to hearing back from you, Minister Guthrie.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Bodell', written in a cursive style.

Kerry Bodell

President, Alberta School Councils' Association

Cc: Education Minister, Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides; ASCA Board; Wendy Keiver, Executive Director, ASCA.