

Promoting parent engagement in public education

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May 9, 2024 Via Email: <u>minister.municpalaffairs@gov.ab.ca</u>

Honourable Ric McIver Minister of Municipal Affairs Office of the Minister, Municipal Affairs 320 Legislature Building 10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Mclver:

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 Polices 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 Pete Guthrie, Minister of Infrastructure.

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 ASCA Members verbally requested the Minister of Municipal Affairs be made aware of is:

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

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.

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: <u>https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-</u> <u>meeting/meeting-documents-2024</u> 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 <u>https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-</u> <u>voice/advocacy</u>.

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 McIver.

Kind Regards,

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Kerry Bodell President, Alberta School Councils' Association *Cc: Education Minister, Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides; ASCA Board; Wendy Keiver, Executive Director, ASCA.*