



**MINUTES  
September 21-22, 2024**

**Present:** Kerry Bodell, President  
Greta Gerstner, Director  
Edward Tse, Director  
Meagan Parisian, Director  
Brandi Rai, Past President  
Ken Glazebrook, Vice President (arrived 9:20 a.m. 09.21.24)  
Richard Haggarty, Director (left at 9:05 a.m. 09.21.24)  
Stephanie Bugbee, Director

**Regrets/Leave:** Chelsea Ezeagwuna, Director (Leave)  
Ismeria Bruce, Director

**Guests:** Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education (10:00 – 10:35 a.m. September 21, 2024)  
Education Chief of Staff James Johnson

**Staff:** Wendy Keiver, Executive Director

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Bodell called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2024, and welcomed everyone. She provided a Land Acknowledgement and Directors then participated in a Team Building activity.

**2. BOARD MEETING PROTOCOLS/TEAM AGREEMENT/CULTURE CONTAINER**

The ASCA Board Meeting Protocols, the ASCA Team Agreement and the ASCA Culture Container were supplied for information and review.

**3. REVIEW OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

President Bodell noted that Vice President Glazebrook would be late joining the meeting and suggested that the two (2) Committee reports requiring significant discussion be moved to later in the agenda to allow for his participation. The Board agreed to a reorganization of the agenda items to accommodate this, and to prepare for the arrival of the Minister.

**3.1 Previous Board Minutes & Action/Motion Tracking: August 28, 2024**

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the August 28, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes as presented.*

**3.2 Internal Committee Report (4.1.F)**

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Internal Committee report for information.*

**MOTION:** Directors Gerstner/Parisian

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Consent Agenda as presented.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**4. BUSINESS: STEWARDSHIP AND REPRESENTATION**

**4.1 Stewardship (Association Oversight)**

**A. External Committee**

**MOTION:** Directors Parisian/Tse

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the External Committee report for information.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*



**MOTION:** Director Parisian/Vice President Glazebrook

*That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the External Committee to undertake activities to provide a maximum 3-hour virtual Engagement Opportunity for (ASCA Members or all) School Councils on the afternoon of Saturday, November 23rd, 2024.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**MOTION:** Directors Bugbee/Vice President Glazebrook

*That the ASCA Board of Directors sets a draft agenda for the virtual Engagement Opportunity in November.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**MOTION:** Directors Parisian/Tse

*That the ASCA Board of Directors allows for one (1) or more attending School Council(s) of the virtual Engagement Opportunity to win one (1) or more door prize(s) if provided by a donor or sponsor.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**MOTION:** Director Parisian/Vice President Glazebrook

*That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the Executive Director to invite the Minister of Education to observe and/or participate in the Engagement Opportunity.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

Director Bugbee experienced technical difficulties during the 12:30 lunch recess and rejoined the meeting via audio at 1:12 p.m. on September 21, 2024, until she was able to rejoin the meeting virtually.

## **B. Fund Development Committee**

**MOTION:** Directors Tse/Parisian

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Fund Development Committee report for information.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**MOTION:** Directors Tse/Gerstner

*That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the Executive Director to share the ASCE grant survey in the next ASCA School Council Newsletter, and to report the results at or before the November 2024 ASCA Board Meeting.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**MOTION:** Directors Tse/Parisian

*That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the Fund Development Committee to develop a budget proposal for the Education Symposium with a date in mind to be presented at the November 2024 ASCA Board Meeting.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

**MOTION:** Directors Tse/Parisian

*That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the Fund Development Committee to determine a way to make it easier for School Councils to pay for the Education Symposium or ASCA Annual Conference using their ASCE grant.*

*ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY*

## **C. Internal Committee (Consent Agenda Item)**

### **D. Education Issues and E-Scan**

The President spoke to highlights of the meeting ASCA Executive and past President Rai had with the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Provincial Executive Council (PEC).

#### **Stop the Excuses Campaign**



The President encouraged Directors to view the commercials and posts being produced by the ATA on this campaign, highlighting that Alberta provides the least per student funding in all of Canada, and discuss the contents/concepts with those in their education circles.

#### **Provincial Proposed Gender Policies**

The Advocacy Policies related to this topic recently adopted at ASCA's 2024 AGM have been shared with ATA President Jason Schilling.

#### **Curriculum and Assessment**

Discussion on this topic focused on the resources that are available for teachers to use for teaching and assessment, that some are difficult to find, some need to be vetted by teachers themselves, and there is still a need for additional resources.

#### **Cell Phone / Digital Communication Devices Policies**

President Bodell has heard from several parents about the new standards and policies, and most support what has been implemented. There are still concerns that parents – specifically school councils – have not been included in the development processes by most school divisions.

#### **Recent Education Infrastructure announcement.**

The President referenced the announcement by the Premier this week about significant additional funding being provided for new school construction to address the stresses caused by increased enrollment.

#### **Roundtable: Items Identified by Directors:**

Some Directors are hearing that the standards and policies related to the use of mobile devices have been generally well received. There are situations where some students need these devices to use as tools for learning (translation as an example), and in some cases, schools are choosing leniency. In one situation, visible evidence of the cell phones in the 'pocket holders' on the wall of the classroom is being used as an indication of attendance, even when students are present and have their devices in their backpacks. In one division, financial pressures and attitudinal climate are overshadowing what should be other priorities, which is being felt by parents and division constituents. Some parents are concerned that these new policies will give schools and divisions excuses for not dealing with inappropriate social media behaviour and students' mental health issues being caused by access to some mobile device platforms. With the absence of constant access to mobile devices, some students are finding new and creative ways to continue bullying and inappropriate treatment of other student.

The recent funding announcement related to infrastructure is welcome, but relief in some areas of the province is still many months, even years, away. There is still the question about what is being done to solve these pressures now, immediately. There is a possibility that new schools will be at capacity before they even open, meaning more new schools will be needed right away. Some communities are also experiencing other stresses of inadequate infrastructure in the wake of increased municipal populations. New communities in larger municipalities are still fated to not benefit from this new funding, as school authorities don't have new school builds in their capital plans in some neighbourhoods that severely need them. Messaging from the Premier and other cabinet members is implying that the pressures municipalities and school divisions are facing are a result of divisions and municipalities not working well together. The addition of infrastructure funding for new private school builds is exceptionally concerning.

Increased incidents of heightened potential, or real, violence in and around schools is already a concern in some schools.



School and transportation fees have increased significantly, causing stress for many parents and families. This does not support the concept of equitable access to quality education for all, as many families simply cannot afford to pay substantial, or any, fees.

Divisional financial pressures have resulted in exceedingly large class sizes in some cases, and teachers are struggling to provide the expected inclusive learning environments, which is quite impossible without adequate classroom supports.

While many of the recent anti-gender protests in Canada were far less attended than ones held previously, some are seeing it as possibly being a sign that those who might protest feel protesting is no longer necessary, given the new legislation in Alberta.

#### **E. Financial Reports**

- i. Income Statement at August 31, 2024 forecast and revised budget

**MOTION:** *Directors Bugbee/Gerstner*

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the August 31, 2024 Income Statement for information*

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ii. Balance Sheet at August 31, 2024

**MOTION:** *Directors Bugbee/Gerstner*

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the August 31, 2024 Balance Sheet for information.*

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **F. Board Progress: Vision Path Destinations and Growth Goals Progress**

No report. The Board has not utilized this tracking tool in recent months.

#### **G. Executive Director Report**

- i. Monthly Activities: ED, Staff

**MOTION:** *Directors Bugbee/Gerstner*

*That the ASCA Board of Directors adopts the Executive Director Activities Report for information.*

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **H. Board Management**

- i. Mentorship/PODs

The President reminded Directors that mentoring is happening this term during the virtual Connections meetings she has scheduled each month. The invitation is also open to Directors to attend and/or drop in, as their schedules permit.

- ii. In Camera

The Board did not move in camera during this meeting.

- iii. Resignation of Director

**MOTION:** *Vice President Glazebrook/Director Gerstner*

*That the ASCA Board of Directors accepts the resignation of Ismeria Bruce as an ASCA Director due to her family's relocation away from Alberta.*

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Action:** The Executive Director will update the list of the Board of Directors with Corporate Registry, Revenue Canada, and on the website, and remove the former Director's access to all ASCA materials and resources.

**4.2 Representation (Provincial Level Participation)**

**A. Director's Reports**

No Report. Directors have not utilized this reporting tool in recent months.

**B. School Council Engagement Task Force: Results**

No Report.

**C. Stakeholder Engagement**

- i. Engagement Opportunity (November) Agenda

**MOTION:** *Directors Parisian/Gerstner*

*That the ASCA Board of Directors directs the External Committee to construct the Agenda for the November 2024 Mental Health focused Engagement Event with the parameters that have been discussed, and circulate to the Board for review no later than Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.*

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Action:** Directors are required to provide any comments or feedback on the proposed agenda by the deadline specified by the External Committee once distributed.

- ii. Walk Alongside Alberta Update

**MOTION:** *Director Gerstner/Vice President Glazebrook*

*That the ASCA Board of Directors continues to partner on the Walk Alongside Alberta November 2024 event.*

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Action:** The Executive Director is to seek permission from the Walk Alongside Alberta Organizing Committee to have the ASCA Banner and Booth at the event.

- iii. Education Minister, Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides  
The President welcomed Minister Nicolaides and his Chief of Staff, James Johnson. Each Director introduced themselves, and briefly highlighted a concern or challenge they were hearing or experiencing related to K-12 public education in Alberta. Minister Nicolaides expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to learn more about parents' concerns, and for working together to find solutions. The Minister then spoke to the need for preparing students for post-secondary education, careers, and transitions. He also mentioned the implementation of the new K-6 Social Studies Curriculum this school year. Minister Nicolaides responded to, or commented on, as many of the topics raised by Directors as possible during the time he had with the Board.

**D. Advocacy in Action Summary**

A link was provided to the ongoing summary of opportunities the President, Vice President, Directors and the Executive Directors have had to represent ASCA at various regional and provincial committees and events.



**4.3 Unfinished Business**

The Board completed all business items within their allotted periods of time.

**5. Information Items:**

**5.1. Future Weekend Board Meeting Dates:**

- A. **November 23-24, 2024, 8:00 a.m.**
- B. **January 18-19, 2025, 8:00 a.m.**
- C. **March 22-23, 2025, 8:00 a.m.**

**5.2. Future Weekday Evening Board Meeting Dates: None**

**5.3. Future Pre-AGM Board Meeting: April 2025**

**5.4. Future General Meetings of ASCA: 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**5.5. Future Post-AGM Board Meeting: April 2025**

**6. Meeting Evaluations (electronic):** The Board was reminded to complete the online Board Meeting Evaluation prior to 12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 12:00 noon

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

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President  
Ken Glazebrook in lieu of Kerry Bodell

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Executive Director  
Wendy Keiver

*The ASCA Board of Directors makes decisions to ensure the Alberta School Councils' Association is:  
Relevant; Sustainable; Autonomous; and Innovative.*