



Notice of Intent to Change to Permanent Convention Standing Rules of Order

Please be advised that the ASCA Board of Directors intends to present the traditional AGM Standing Rules of Order as Permanent Convention Standing Rules of Order at ASCA's 2025 Annual General Meeting taking place online via the Zoom platform on Sunday, April 27th, 2025, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Background:

During the 2024 ASCA AGM, some ASCA Members struggled with two (2) aspects of the Standing Rules of Order that were presented to them for approval:

- 1) Permitting Clause #17 {Emergent Resolutions} to exist.
- 2) The proposed change from having to annually approve the AGM Standing Rules of Order to adopting them 'permanently', for any General Meeting of the Association, as Permanent Convention Standing Rules of Order.

In the AGM Chair's speaking notes, Members were informed that the switch to Permanent Convention Standing Rules of Order would mean that the 'rules' would not need to be formally adopted at each AGM, year after year, ultimately saving Members precious time. Historically, Members had often debated specific clauses and wording in clauses, for an unexpected length of time.

The motion to adopt the AGM Standing Rules of Order as Permanent Convention Rules of Order required 2 critical 'components': a) Notice of the proposed change, and b) at least 66.66% of votes to be in favour. Some ASCA Member School Councils felt that appropriate notice of the proposed change had not been provided.

The motion was not adopted.

Ultimately, and after a significant period of discussion, debate, and explanation, the AGM Standing Rules of Order were adopted as originally presented, by unanimous consent.

At its January 2025 Board Meeting, the ASCA Board reviewed the AGM Standing Rules of Order that had been adopted at the previous two (2) AGMs and determined it would provide Notice of Intent to present them, without modification, as Permanent Convention Standing Rules of Order at ASCA's 2025 Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 27th, 2025.

Permanent Convention Standing Rules of Order may be changed at future General Meetings of ASCA, with previous notice and at least 66.66% of votes in favour.

Please contact parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca with any questions, comments, or concerns.



PROPOSED ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION PERMANENT CONVENTION STANDING RULES

Reviewed by ASCA Board of Directors 01.18.25

ASCA Permanent Convention Standing Rules

For all General Meetings of the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

1. **Sign-in.** Each person attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) **in person** shall sign in at the appropriate Check-In Table and is required to wear the Name Badge and wrist band(s) provided while in attendance at the AGM.
2. **Login.** Each person attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) **virtually** 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. **Technical requirements and malfunctions.** Each person attending the AGM **virtually** is responsible for their audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a Voting Delegate's or AGM attendee's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
4. **Forced disconnections.** The Chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a **virtual** attendee's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting.
5. **Quorum.** The presence of quorum shall be established by the Credentials Report and announced by the Chair. Thereafter the continued presence of a quorum shall be presumed unless the Executive Director notifies the Chair of the lack of a quorum. Any Voting Delegate may request a confirmation of quorum when warranted.
6. **Voting Delegates.** Voting Delegates are Parents authorized by ASCA Member School Councils (as per Bylaw 3.44) who have submitted their signed Credential Form prior to the deadline required by ASCA.
7. **Proxy Holders.** Proxy Holders are Parents authorized by an ASCA Member School Council other than their own, to vote on behalf of that School Council (as per Bylaw 3.26), and for which a Proxy Form has been submitted prior to the deadline required by ASCA. Unless also authorized as the Voting Delegate for their own School Council, Proxy Holders may not move or second motions, and may not speak as the mover of a motion made by the School Council for which they hold the Proxy.
8. **Election Buddy.** All Voting Delegates and Proxy Holders shall cast a vote using the **Election Buddy digital voting platform** unless otherwise directed by the Chair. Voting Delegates and Proxy Holders are required to keep secure and confidential the unique Voting Access Key issued to them by Election Buddy.
9. **Unanimous Consent.** Unanimous consent (informal vote) may be used as deemed appropriate by the Chair.

A Voting Delegate attending **in person** may object to Unanimous Consent by approaching the microphone(s), stating the name of the School Council they are representing, location or school division, their full name, and the objection.

A Voting Delegate attending **virtually** may object to Unanimous Consent by typing the school council, community, location or school division and the word "**Object**" in the **Chat Window**. (i.e.: *St. Michael School Council, CSSD, object*).

If there is an objection, a formal vote will be taken.
10. **Assignment of the Floor (Speaking at the AGM).** With the exception of ASCA Directors making recommendations (in the form of motions) to Members on behalf of the Board of Directors, only a Voting Delegate may move or second any motion or resolution.

10.1 IN-PERSON ATTENDEES: To seek recognition from the presiding officer, Voting Delegates attending **in person** shall use the microphone(s), take a place in line and, upon being recognized by the presiding officer, state the name of the School Council they are representing, it's location or school division and their full name



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(i.e.: *Delwood School Council, Edmonton Public, Janice Jones*). They shall then state the purpose for which they are speaking, i.e.: the intention to move or second a motion; the intention to speak for or against the motion. The process for making a Parliamentary Inquiry, a Request for Information, or other interrupting motion is described in Rule #15.

10.2 VIRTUAL ATTENDEES: To seek recognition from the presiding officer, Voting Delegates attending **virtually** shall type 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, "speaking FOR"*). They shall then type the purpose for which they would like to speak, i.e.: the intention to **move** or **second** a motion; the intention to **speak for or against** the motion. The process for making a Parliamentary Inquiry, a Request for Information, or other interrupting motion is described in Rule #15.

The ASCA Virtual Moderator will monitor the **Chat Window** and collaborate with the presiding officer to ensure equity of recognition and keep track of speaking order. Side comments, discussion, and/or debate shall not be permitted in the **Chat Window**. Virtual attendees failing to comply with this rule may be removed from the AGM without warning.

After a motion or resolution is moved, seconded, and stated by the Chair, the Voting Delegate who made the motion may, upon recognition by the Chair, speak to the motion or resolution or invite another parent representative from their school council to speak on their behalf, for a **maximum of three (3) minutes**.

Parent delegates who are not voting may indicate a desire to participate in discussions or speak to any motion, by following the steps for Voting Delegates (in person or virtually) above.

11. **Alternating the floor.** A Voting Delegate, Proxy Holder, or parent representative who wishes to speak for or against any motion may indicate such in the manner described in Rule #10 (Assignment of the Floor), adding either "**speaking FOR (In Favour)**" or "**speaking AGAINST (Opposed)**" and waiting to be recognized by the Chair. Voting Delegates, including those acting as Proxy Holders, and parent representatives may **speak one time only** to any resolution or motion for a **maximum of three (3) minutes**.
12. **Motions submitted in writing.** Any **amendments** or motions not already in writing in the AGM package must **first** be submitted **in writing, signed, or acknowledged, by both the mover and seconder. Only Voting Delegates may move or second motions and amendments.**

For Voting Delegates attending **in person**, submission is made to the **Scribe** using the **duplicate forms** provided, who will prepare it for display for all delegates.

For Voting Delegates attending **virtually**, submission is made through the **Chat Window** using the format indicated in Rule #10 above and shall be seconded in the same manner. The **Scribe** will then prepare it for display for all delegates.

Upon recognition by the Chair, the Voting Delegate may speak to the amendment or new motion.

13. **Substantive motions** or resolutions are main motions which introduce a new subject for discussion and action. Resolutions require a mover and a seconder. **Discussion for Substantive Motions will be limited to 30 minutes.**
14. **Procedural motions**, such as secondary motions, offer different approaches to consider during the discussion of a pending main motion (or substantive motion or resolution). If a procedural motion is debatable, such as an amendment, **discussion will be limited to 10 minutes.**
15. **Interrupting motions.** Interrupting motions, if deemed urgent and related to the immediately pending motion, may be made. No other motions will be allowed to interrupt. The Voting Delegate shall provide the name of their School Council and its location, and their full name, when recognized by the Chair or seeking recognition in the Chat Window. The Virtual Moderator or Executive Director will assist the Chair to ensure interrupting motions are promptly addressed.



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- “**Parliamentary Inquiry**” (PI) (to ask a question on parliamentary procedure); or
- “**Request for Information**” (RI) (to request urgent, germane information); or
- “**Point of Order**” (POO) (to state a breach in the rules, must be timely).

15.1 IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

To make an interrupting motion, an in-person Voting Delegate shall raise their hand to display their wristband, quickly and safely approach the microphone(s), then state the appropriate interrupting motion, the name of their School Council and its location, their full name, and wait for the Chair to respond before stating the question or the rule that is breached.

15.2 VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

To make an interrupting motion, a virtual Voting Delegate shall use the “**raise hand**” icon and type into the **Chat Window** the appropriate interrupting motion, or abbreviation (PI, RI, POO) followed by their School Council and its location or school division (i.e.: *St. Mary School Council, ECSD*) and then the question or the rule that is breached. Upon recognition, the chair will respond.

16. **Division of a Question.** If a motion contains two or more parts capable of standing as separate questions, the assembly may vote to treat each part separately by a motion for **Division of a Question** which shall require a second, is not debatable, is amendable, and requires a majority vote (or unanimous consent).
17. **Emergent Resolutions** introduced at the AGM must be first ruled as fitting the specific criteria required, and then be approved to be **added to the Agenda** by at least two-thirds (66 ⅔%) of the Voting Delegates. To introduce the (Emergent) Resolution, the **specific wording must first be provided in writing** in the manner described in Rule #12. When recognized by the Chair, the Voting Delegate may make a motion to amend the Agenda by adding the (Emergent) Resolution.

If the motion is seconded, and after the Chair states the question on whether to add to the agenda, the maker of the motion may speak only to **the need to consider** the (Emergent) Resolution prior to the vote to add the (Emergent) Resolution to the agenda for consideration.

18. **Extraordinary Resolutions** arising as a result of the business conducted at the AGM must be first ruled as fitting the specific criteria required, and then be approved to be **added to the Agenda** by at least seventy-five (75%) of the Voting Delegates. To introduce the (Extraordinary) Resolution, the **specific wording must first be provided in writing** in the manner described in Rule #12. Upon recognition by the Chair, the Voting Delegate may make a motion to amend the Agenda by adding the (Extraordinary) Resolution.

If the motion is seconded, and after the Chair states the question on whether to add to the agenda, the maker of the motion may speak only to **the need to consider** the (Extraordinary) Resolution prior to the vote to add the (Extraordinary) Resolution to the agenda for consideration.

19. **Chat Window.** 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.
20. **Display of motions.** Main motions or resolutions, or the pertinent part of main motions, amendments, and other documents currently before the assembly, shall be displayed, to the extent feasible.
21. **Non-member or Observer.** Upon recognition by the Chair, and after properly identifying themselves as noted in Rule #10 above, a non-member or observer may ask for permission to address the Assembly. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the Chair, who may seek Approval by Unanimous Consent of the Assembly. When time is of the essence, Voting Delegates shall be given priority to speak before parent representatives, non-members, or observers.



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22. **Promotional Materials.** 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.
23. **Appointments:** The Chair shall make the following appointments, if/as deemed appropriate or needed, to carry out the business of the AGM:
- Minutes Approval Committee
 - Teller(s)
 - Timer(s)
 - Parliamentarian
 - Microphone Monitors
24. **Rules.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the meeting in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) or these Standing Rules.