

CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE for Prospective Board Members 2025

Please note - there is a 100-word limit on all answers.

Name: Beverly McCool

1. Why do you wish to serve on the ASCA Board of Directors?

I am interested in serving on the ASCA Board of Directors because I am passionate about investing my energy into supporting and advocating for families across Alberta. I have lived experience in navigating the education system with a child with a developmental disability, as well as one that identifies as LGBTQ. I want to ensure that families and students from all walks of life feel heard and represented.

2. What is your school council experience?

I have been a member of my children's school councils for the last 5 yrs. I have held positions (Chair, Secretary, Director) and have also just been a member. I recognize the value and need for school councils in affecting change within the political system of Education. I have presented as a delegation to our local school board regarding issues, and I have chaired committees that were responsible for staff appreciation, or student engagement. I have experience with being on a council for Pre-K-8, a high school (9-12), as well as a French Immersion Pre-k-9.

3. How will your greatest strength help you perform as a board member?

My greatest strength is my passion and this will support my board member performance by fueling the drive to advocate to the best of my ability.

4. What do you see as the top priority or challenge for K-12 parents in the province?

I see the reduced funding as the largest challenge for K-12 parents. Our children need smaller class sizes, more Educational Support Aides, safe and modern buildings, and access to the latest information and technology.

5. Give an example of how you have dealt with differing perspectives:

I work with small children in at-home childcare. There are frequent misunderstandings, and the way I deal with them works well for adults as well. I model a calm outer appearance, and take some deep breathes if I need to. I remind them that we are all on the same team, and that all feelings matter. I then say who will tell their side first, and who is next. Then I ensure there are no interruptions when someone is speaking so that everyone has the opportunity to share their point of view. Once everyone has spoken I sum up what I have heard/how I understood and ask for clarification. Generally discussion continues smoothly after that.

6. Have you reviewed the time commitment required to be a Director? Yes How do you see yourself

balancing your professional and personal life to manage the duties of a board member?

My husband and children are very supportive of my volunteer obligations, as well as my dayhome families as they know that the time I spend advocating will benefit their families as well. As long as I have a schedule of meeting dates in advance I can make the necessary plans so that I can attend.

7. Do you have affiliations/involvement that may affect/influence your performance as a board member or be perceived as a conflict of interest? (e.g. family, political, volunteer, employment, etc.)

I do not believe so. I do not have any affiliations within Education aside from being on our school council and occasionally driving a bus for students. I am an employee of the school district, but just within Transportation and am very casual.

8. On which social media platforms do you have a profile or presence, in either your own name, a business/organization name, or an alias? (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter "X", Instagram, etc.)

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, X

9. Please provide all social media profile or presence usernames, addresses, and links. Failure to disclose all accounts for which you have a recognizable online presence may result in your disqualification as a candidate.

Facebook Beverly Kane McCool <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=724031717>

Instagram Kindofahippie <https://www.instagram.com/kindofahippie/>

LinkedIn Beverly McCool <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/beverly-mccool-9b019b110>

Pinterest Beverly McCool <https://ca.pinterest.com/kindofahippie/>

old X accounts <https://x.com/Kindofahippie11> and <https://x.com/BKane85>

10. What do you view as the purpose for social media?

I mainly use social media for connecting with friends and family. I also appreciate that social media allows for community members to connect with others that are in similar situations or seasons of life to be able to support each other and share strategies or knowledge of programs/organizations that are able to provide direct support.

11. What makes you an ideal candidate for the position?

I have experience parenting children through Pre-K and grade 12, (my kids are currently in Grades 2, 5, 11 and 3rd year of University). I am fairly versed in navigating IPPS and the available supports (both in and out of school) for children with disabilities. I also bring a fair amount of School Council and Non-Profit Board experience.

Additional CANDIDATES QUESTIONS for Previous or Current Board Members

How has the ASCA Board been successful because of your work on the Board?

How did your preparation and attendance impact your contribution to the Board?

What have you learned during your time with the Board, and what will you do with that experience moving forward?

Please include a (jpeg) photo submitted with the questionnaire and nomination form.

Candidate information is posted on the ASCA website at **three** intervals; March 15, April 1, and 10 days prior to the election at the AGM. This **FORM** must be completed and submitted electronically ONLY by email to parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca