



Alberta
School Councils' Association
Promoting parent engagement in public education

Advocacy and Action Updates

for the period ending March 2025

Annual Highlights

Advisory Committee Updates

ASCA Board Committees



Highlights 2024-2025

July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Members and Clients:

1183 Member School Councils representing public, catholic and charter school communities.

9 Associate Members (non-voting; Fundraising Associations)

Provincial Representation/Advocacy

- Advised Minister of Education and Alberta Education staff respecting parent perceptions of current or emerging education issues/trends;
- President Glazebrook provided several media interviews throughout the year;
- Ongoing outreach to parents and school councils through social-media, e-News and bulletins;
- Board/staff attended or participated in the provincial level opportunities listed in detail on the following page.

Local School Council, COSC and Division Empowerment

- Provided 10 ASCA in person Learning Opportunities and/or Consultations delivered by ASCA Instructors and staff requested by school councils, school divisions and division-sponsored learning events;
- Provided 34 ASCA province-wide virtual online Learning Opportunities and/or consultations delivered by ASCA Instructors and staff to school councils, school divisions and division-sponsored learning events for school councils;
- Provided 8 Learning Opportunities and/or consultations to support school fundraising associations (FRAs) on a cost-recovery basis;
- Through Learning Opportunities and/or consultations, worked with 324 school councils, 434 parents, 1 student, 86 principals, 5 community members, 17 Superintendent/Central Admin, and 32 Trustees in Alberta;
- Conducted the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant Survey
- Assisted four (4) School Councils to administer their own Engagement Surveys
- Hosted a virtual Fall School Council Engagement Event
- Consulted and worked with school authority administrator teams on parent engagement/school council/council of school council relationships;
- Consulted and worked with school community parents building positive relationships with principals; central office personnel and trustees;
- Provided direction and information with respect to effective school councils and the distinction from school fundraising associations;
- Provided direction and information with respect to appropriate use of the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant;
- Customized Learning Opportunities and offerings to reflect school council and/or district experience and desired outcomes as required;
- Customized Learning Opportunities to meet the needs of specific school divisions and/or communities.



External Advisory Committee List

Each year ASCA is invited to represent the advocacy positions established by the membership at provincial level committees. From April 2024 – March 2025 ASCA has been invited to, represented at, or participated on, the following:

Alberta Education

- Alberta Research Network
- Preserving Choice for Children and Youth: ABEd Parent Engagement
- Engagement on Cell Phone use in Schools (ABEd)
- Alberta Education Post-Budget Stakeholder Presentation (webinar)

Regional Prof. Development Consortium

- Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC)
- Edmonton (ERLC)
- Southern Alberta (SAPDC)
- Central Alberta (CARC)
- East Central/Learning Network (LNES)
- Calgary (CRC)
- Northwest (NRLC)

Education Partner Joint Initiatives and Learning Opportunities

- ASBA, ASCA, CASS Education Partners
- Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) Fall General Meeting
- Alberta School Board's Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting
- Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Advisory Circle (IERC)
- Rural Education Symposium Advisory and Planning (ARES)
- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Spring and Fall General Meetings
- Advancing Educational Equity in Alberta Classrooms, Schools, and Structures
- Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Provincial Executive Council (PEC)
- Rural Education Symposium (ARES)
- Honouring Indigenous Spirit Award Selection Committee and Award Ceremony

Advocacy and Representation Opportunities and Events

DATE	Committee	ASCA Rep.	Updates and Notes
April 8	Preserving Choice for Children and Youth: ABEd Parent Engagement – Virtual	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by Alberta Education ADM and staff, and parents from across Alberta. Breakout groups discussed the below topics with outcomes shared with the group as a whole. All of these topics will affect students, parents and school councils. At the time of this engagement, ASCA had a number of Proposed Advocacy Resolutions supporting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The conversation(s) during the engagement showed little support for these changes and much support for the PARs to be discussed at AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental notification of student requests for name change



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental opt IN requirement for classroom discussion on gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality • Pre-approval of all curriculum-related materials related to gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality before materials are available in Alberta classrooms • Counselling pilot project to provide appropriate counselling services to support parents and transgender youth; this project will complement mental health and wellness supports available currently • GoA will work with sporting organizations to ensure biological born female athletes are able to compete in biological female only divisions; expansion of co-ed or other gender neutral divisions for meaningful participation for transgender athletes
April 8	Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) Focus Group	W. Keiver	Participants reviewed results from the ARPDC Assurance Survey, and provided feedback and perspectives related to same, and to improving practices across all Consortia.
April 12	Preserving Choice for Children and Youth: ABEEd Parent Engagement – Edmonton in Person	B. Rai	Parent representatives met with Alberta Education staff for three hours and were led through discussions related to proposed policy changes. These changes included restricting students from using preferred pronouns without parent notification and/or consent based on age of student. Changes also discussed limiting resources for teacher use related to health curriculum/ 2SLGTBQIA/ sexual orientation/gender identity materials to those resources approved by the Ministry of Education. Also, discussions were held related to parents needing to opt in for their students to learn/participate in lessons related to sexual orientation and gender identity, which is one of the proposed policy changes. The changes proposed related to restricting trans girls from playing sports with girls, as well as a proposed pilot counseling project for trans students were also discussed. Overall, many of these policy changes were considered unnecessary by the parents in this engagement session. The staff from Alberta Education stated the scope of the session was related to the implementation of these policies, irrespective of the feedback that generally stated that each of these policies did not support students, parents, or school communities. The out-of-scope comments from the group would still be passed to the Ministry though, according to Alberta Education staff.
April 15	Honouring Spirit Indigenous Student Awards	B. Rai K. Bodell	Attended by the students and families being honoured, representatives from ASBA, ASCA, GOA, and other stakeholders. It was an honor to be able to participate in the selection committee process again. Reading the nomination packages and seeing all the good being done in communities



			across our province by students is inspiring and affirming. Attending the Awards ceremony was beautiful as each selected recipient received a blanket, a certificate, and a grant.
April 23	Engagement on Cell Phone use in Schools (ABEd)	W. Keiver	Attended by representatives from: ATA, ASCA, ASBA, AISCA, CASS, TAAPCS, and possibly others. Participants were asked to provide their perspectives on the idea of the GoA establishing provincial policies, expectations, or guidelines for cell phone usage in school. In general, associations represented stated that while their specific association did not have a 'position' on this topic, it was acknowledged that school authorities, schools, and even some teachers were already implementing rules and expectations. One association present did support the idea of a provincial policy. ASCA advocated for broad parent consultation, at local, division, and provincial levels, to ensure that what was either happening or being contemplated, aligned with parents' expectations.
April 23	Advocacy & Government Relations Community of Practice (Edmonton Chamber of Volunteer Organizations – ECVO)	W. Keiver	Did not attend.
May 3	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)		ASCA did not attend as a new representative was not yet appointed.
May 9	Southern Office of ARPDC		ASCA did not attend as a new representative was not yet appointed.
May 18-20	Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Annual Representative Assembly (ARA)	B. Rai	ASCA was grateful to have been invited to attend and bring greetings to the hundreds of teachers from across Alberta gathered for this important event. ASCA stayed for the duration of the assembly, across three days, to listen to their perspectives on their proposed advocacy resolutions.
May 23	Learning Network Education Services (LNES) Regional Stakeholder Consortium		ASCA did not attend as a new representative was not yet appointed.
May 23	Northwest Regional Learning Consortium (NRLC)		ASCA did not attend as a new representative was not yet appointed. Meeting minutes show discussions focused on results from the ARPDC Assurance Survey, priorities in the upcoming months and school year, and organizational restructuring.
May 25	ATA Local 37 Panel Discussion and Round	K. Glazebrook	Attended by representatives from several provincial education partners, MLAs, Trustees, teachers, and other



	Table		dignitaries. Through a guided process, each table focused on developing three to five concrete, realistic, timely action items related to the local implications concerning the Premier's recent announcement on Transgender and 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth. These were then shared with the room, and there were conversations about the importance of sharing lived experiences and perspectives on these issues. The facilitator will create a summary report of the suggested action items which will be shared with all invited stakeholders.
May 28	Advocacy & Government Relations Community of Practice (Edmonton Chamber of Volunteer Organizations – ECVO)	W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of various non-profits in Edmonton area (PolicyWise, Aviation Museum, etc.) and ECVO. Discussion focused on the outcomes and optics of public pressure on GoA announcements/direction, resulting in GoA needing to 'walk back' some decisions. Participants had been asked to view a recent Discourse podcast as context for the discussions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxrHuyvwqql
May 29	Alberta Regional Profession Development Consortium (ARPDC) Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)	W. Keiver	Attended by representatives from CASS, ARPDC, TAAPCS, AISCA, ASBA, Alberta Education, Rupertsland, the Deans of Education, and ASCA. Participants were provided with details relating to the rebranding of ARPDC to the Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC) and invited to provide feedback. A summary report of the results from the ARPDC Provincial Assurance Survey and subsequent focus groups was presented. Areas for growth were highlighted and discussed from a 'solutions-focused' perspective. The four (4) Strategic Plan Priorities and Goals for APLC 2024-2027 were reviewed and discussed. Participants were then invited to provide updates and/or information from their respective organizations.
May 30	Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC)	K. Bodell W. Keiver	Attended by representatives from post-secondary, Rupertsland, ASCA, and ERLC. A review of the restricting and rebranding of ARPDC was presented, with explanations of rationale and timelines. An update regarding how the regional offices and ARPDC have supported curriculum implementation was provided, along with an overview of the areas of focus for the 2024-2025 school year.
May 30	ATA Local 37 Pie and Politics	B. Rai K. Bodell	Teachers and advocacy group representatives met to discuss ways in which we can encourage parents to advocate alongside our organizations on education related matters. Past President Rai represented ASCA; speaking about the Association and what we do. A less formal round table discussion explored ways to help increase parent involvement in advocacy as well as how to advocate while remaining politically neutral.
June 4	ASCA Executive Meeting with Education Minister	K. Bodell K. Glazebrook W. Keiver	ASCA Executive met with Minister Nicolaides to discuss the following recently Member-adopted (2024) Advocacy Policies: P24-04 Equity in Playground Funding: Minister recognized that Boards cannot use funds from maintenance to build/maintain



	Nicolaides		<p>playgrounds. Will work on ways to help schools access funds to do this work.</p> <p>P24-03 Improved Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Alberta Classrooms & Shared Environments: Minister mentioned the Capital Maintenance and Renewal funding. They are committed to making sure there are funds set aside for this. There is money in Board budgets and it is up to the Boards to allocate specific funds for HVAC.</p> <p>P24-06 Resource Support for French Immersion Teachers: work on promoting the new Alberta site. There is funding set aside for curriculum materials, including French. They are currently working on developing more resources for the 2024-2025 school year. The Ministry and ASCA are going to find a way to work together to bring awareness to how/where to access French resources.</p> <p>ER24-02 Preserve Non-Partisan Elections for Alberta School Board Trustees: Minister mentioned that there were some amendments. It was mentioned that there is more work to be done on the policy and that Municipal Affairs is having additional conversations with Boards and that the conversation is still open. Wording included that it's not that they MUST be affiliated but that they CAN be affiliated with a political party and that the political party they can be affiliated with is not one of the existing provincial parties. We have requested further information in writing from the Minister.</p> <p>A future meeting to discuss policies within P24-05 and ER24-01 was requested by ASCA.</p>
June 10	Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Awards	K. Bodell W. Keiver	Attended as a supporting education partner along with representatives from ACSTA, ATA, PSBAA, CASS and ASBA. Was an opportunity for some networking and relationship building with stakeholders.
June 11	Education Partners Meeting (ASBA, CASS, ASCA)	K. Bodell K. Glazebrook W. Keiver	<p>Heard discussions between partners and Minister McIver regarding Bill 20. They were told that as of now the policy does not apply to trustee elections.</p> <p>Talked about the broad concern of WMA funding and how the partners can work together to create joint advocacy messaging to for more funding and how the WMA is not working for the majority of divisions and that the per student amount is not increasing along with inflation and rising costs. Future Partner Agendas will include this topic as a standing item.</p>
June 19	Indigenous Education Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	K. Bodell W. Keiver	Representatives from ATA, CASS, ASBA, Rupertsland, Deans of Education, ARPDC, and ASCA met with the new Assistant Deputy Minister of the FNMI Division. A verbal history of IERC was provided, a discussion related to the IERC Strategic Plan was informative, and some plans for future meetings were suggested.
June 20	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)		Cancelled by organizer



August 29	Advancing Educational Equity in Alberta Classrooms, Schools, and Structures	K. Bodell	<p>ASCA is a Partner Organization participating to bring the parent perspective and assist in ways that will help engage parents in the project. An ice breaker exercise was done, which was a great way to start to promote collaboration, understanding how people can see things differently and to embrace those differences.</p> <p>The focus of the meeting was to review the SSHRC Partnership Grant proposal to set the purpose, goals and process.</p> <p>Discussions around the goals (themes) to set the overall vision and values.</p> <p>There was a governance model consideration to facilitate discussion regarding structure and decision-making process.</p> <p>It ended with a closing circle with words of encouragement from all participants.</p> <p>Next steps will require Dr. Emily Milne, MacEwan University, to draft the Stage 2 Grant application for review by partners before October 1, 2024.</p>
Sept 5	Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Provincial Executive Council (PEC)	K. Bodell K. Glazebrook B. Rai W. Keiver	<p>The ASCA Executive met with ATA PEC to discuss common areas of advocacy and support for each other's messages. Primary topics were education funding, proposed provincial gender policies, curriculum resources, and the newly announced provincial assessments.</p>
Sept 17	Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	K. Bodell	<p>APLC (formerly ARPDC) will be called 'Consortium' for short.</p> <p>RAC has been focusing on new curriculum and continuing to support school divisions. Mostly elementary teachers attending sessions on curriculum.</p> <p>Consortium has provided about 3000 sessions province wide to date.</p> <p>APLC is part of the piloting committee for new curriculum and is still supporting curriculum that is not considered new.</p> <p>CPF has a francophone website. More French resources are coming soon. They also have online French for parents classes which have been popular with school councils and parents.</p> <p>UofA seeing a need for English as an additional language resources for Rural schools as the province sees more newcomers. Also seeing a need for more courses on understanding special needs kids; how can the Consortium meet the needs of a more complex classroom? Seeing an increase in teachers retiring alongside the rapid growth in student population.</p> <p>Rupertsland has uploaded new resources to the NewLearn website. Found it difficult to navigate and find the resources that they have contributed. Requested that APLC create some sessions on navigating the NewLearn website as there are tons of resources available but it is very difficult and time consuming to navigate, and likely not being used because of this.</p>



Sept 26	Central Alberta Regional Consortia (CARC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	M. Parisian	Cancelled by organizer
Sept 27	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Bugbee	Technology challenge prevented virtual attendance.
Oct 1	Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium (SAPDC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	E. Tse	Cancelled by organizer.
Oct 15	ASCA Executive Meeting with Education Minister Nicolaides	K. Glazebrook B. Rai W. Keiver	The focus of this meeting was to emphasize ASCA Member's positions related to the upcoming gender-related legislation & policies being released by Government this fall. While the Minister seemed grateful to hear the perspectives, there was no indication of any changes pending resulting from those, are other perspectives opposing incoming legislation. The Minister was not certain at this time what 'implementation' will look like.
Oct 16	Education Partners (ASBA, CASS, ASCA)	K. Glazebrook W. Keiver	<p>Attended by Executive and CEOs/EDs of these organizations, ASBA spoke to their upcoming FGM, their newly published AI guide <a 102="" 322="" 938="" 955"="" data-label="Page-Footer" href="https://www.asba.ab.ca/asba-releases-artificial-intelligence-policy-guidance-for-k-12-education; and their phased learning and education series approach in preparation for the Fall 2025 Municipal elections. ASCA offered to help distribute information for potential trustee candidates to our audiences. ASCA highlighted the meeting with the Minister, the Scheduled Learning Opportunities (and other services, etc.) and the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Engagement event.</p> <p>CASS covered their Continuing Education Program for system and school leaders, rooted in the competencies of the SLQS and LQS. More information is available on their website. There was an open discussion about the ongoing challenges of the current model of education funding, and ASCA spoke of its efforts to influence changes that may be ready for the 2025 Funding Manual.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 17</td> <td>Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC) Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)</td> <td>W. Keiver</td> <td> <p>Attended by representatives from CASS, APLC, TAAPCS, ASBA, Alberta Education, the Deans of Education, and ASCA. Participants reviewed progress details relating to the rebranding of ARPDC to the Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC) and were invited to provide feedback. The Terms of Reference for APLC-PAC were reviewed, followed by the 2024-2025 Learning Plan Discussion, the 2024-2025 Professional Learning Opportunities discussion and the 2025 Assurance</p> </td> </tr> </table> </div> <div data-bbox="> <p>ASCA Advocacy and Action Updates</p> </p>



			Planning discussion. Participants then provided updates and/or information related to Professional Learning Opportunities from their respective organizations.
Oct 22	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Bugbee	Attended by representatives of CARC, PLSD, ASBA, ASBOA, PSBAA, and ASCA. This meeting focused on the speaker/presenter line up, aligning with the 2025 theme “Ensuring Equitable Outcomes for Rural Students”. ASCA will assist in developing the Student Presentation piece of the Symposium.
Oct 24	Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC) Regional Advisory Committee	E. Tse	Attended by representatives of ASCA, TAAPCS, APLC, Blackwater Tsuut’sina, Ambrose University, Canadian Rockies Public Schools, and CASS. Participants engaged in learning and discussions related to: CRC Priorities (New Curriculum, Quality Teaching, Quality Leadership, Quality Engagement), the Consortium Assurance Framework Survey, the Consortium Branding Update, Non-Registered Programs and Updates, and representative organization updates.
Oct 29	Northwest Regional Learning Consortium (NRLC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	W. Keiver	Attended by representatives from Holy Family Catholic SD, ASBA (PRSD), AISCA, KTCEA, NW Polytech, and NRLC. The participants reviewed the Terms of Reference for NRLC, along with the Minutes from the May 2024 meeting. Members were then provided with reports from NRLC (Director’s Report, APLC Quarterly report). Highlights of the APLC 2024-2027 Strategic Plan were reviewed. Each participant then shared what their organization is providing and looking for in terms of PD for their respective audiences. ASCA highlighted SLO’s, Consultations, and the November Engagement Opportunity.
Nov 1	CBC Edmonton Interview	K. Glazebrook	Live interview with Travis McEwan focusing on Bill 27. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH2nLPLksK8
Nov 1	CBC Calgary Eye-Opener Interview	K. Glazebrook	Written response provided to questions/concerns related to Bill 27. The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is voicing concerns over the proposed changes introduced by the Alberta Government through Bill 27. Following our recent Annual General Meeting in Alberta, it's abundantly clear that our Members do not support these changes. We anticipate that many Member School Councils and parents are feeling disappointed and worried about the implications of this legislation. ASCA remains committed to representing the views of our Members and will closely monitor any further developments in provincial regulations. We urge School Councils across all school authorities to actively engage in policy development processes and advocate for parental involvement. Parents' voices must be central in discussions to uphold the safety and well-being of all students within school communities. We stand ready to support our Members in navigating these challenging times.



Nov 3	CBC News	K. Glazebrook	Quoted within article on Bill 27: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/parents-react-bill-27-alberta-education-sex-ed-1.7371673
Nov 5	Indigenous Education Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	K. Glazebrook	Representatives from ATA, CASS, ASBA, Rupertsland, Deans of Education, ARPDC, and ASCA met with the new Assistant Deputy Minister of the FNMI Division. Attendees received a presentation from the Minister’s Youth Council, and had discussions related to the applications and applicants (number, geographics, cultural background, etc.). The MYC meets 3 times per year over weekends, and there are 40 students on MYC each year, with an average of 8 staying on for a second year each year. This year had 198 applicants, with 10 identifying as Indigenous. Applications open in Feb/March each year. The Committee then finalized the IERC Terms of Reference.
Nov 15, 16	Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) Fall General Meeting	K. Glazebrook W. Keiver	Executive Director Keiver and President Glazebrook attended the Opening Dinner on the 15 th and engaged in the Keynote presentation by Justice Kevin Feehan on the history of Catholic Education in Alberta and across Canada. On the 16 th we observed the insightful fireside chat with the Minister. Both days provided good opportunities for networking and building relationships with Catholic trustees from a variety of school divisions.
Nov 19	CBC Calgary	W. Keiver	Focus of article on overflowing schools in Calgary. ASCA office contacted parents in Calgary, inviting connection with reporter.
Nov 19	Alberta School Board’s Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting	K. Glazebrook	Attended final morning of the 3-day event, networking with trustees, observing conversation with Premier Smith and ASBA President Dennis, and learning from keynote David Allison.
Nov 21	Learning Network Education Services (LNES) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	W. Keiver	Unable to attend. Provided ASCA update on Engagement Event, Scheduled Learning Opportunities, Services, Supports, Call for Advocacy Resolutions, and seeing Nominations for the ASCA Board of Directors.
Nov 21	Alberta Research Network (ARN) Symposium	E. Tse	Attendees were presented with information resulting from recent research partnerships and initiatives. Dr. Kerry Barnes - Career Education in a Complex Changing World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Market Evolution: Predictions of automation eliminating jobs (90M over 30 years) did not fully materialize, but work structures changed. Current AI estimates suggest 25-50% job loss, with programmers and office workers most at risk. • Career Needs Research: Junior high students feel career education is lacking. Programs include elective career courses and practicum placements across school levels. • Holistic Career Development: Career choices should integrate personal meaning—health, education, work, hobbies, relationships, etc.



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices: More parent engagement needed to share real-world career experiences with students. Career education should be embedded across all K-12 subjects. • Teacher Retention Crisis: 1 in 3 Alberta teachers are considering leaving, relocating, or early retirement due to professional challenges (per Dr. Phil McRae). <p>Aligning Generative AI, Ethics, and Teachers' Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns around cheating, AI policy alignment, and assessment integrity. • Ethical discussions dominate over practical AI use, limiting teachers' ability to engage with the technology effectively. <p>Exploring Social Emotional Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEAKS (Place-based Experiences Adventures and Knowledge for Students): Focus on place-conscious pedagogy and social-emotional learning (SEL). • Broader discussion on education across Canada.
Nov 25	Canadian Affairs Interview with Hadassah Alencar	K. Glazebrook	<p>Interview focused on the challenges parents face in the school system, and how schools can better manage the education of kids with special needs. Questions included what challenges there to are accommodating/educating autistic children in the classroom what improvements schools can do to help autistic children get educated. I gave an overview of ASCA, talked about our work with other education partners and that we advocate the Member driven policies with the Minister of Education. I focused on the broader challenges with children with special needs in the school system, and covered ASCA Advocacy Policies:</p> <p>24-02 Funding for More Assessments of Learning Disabilities; 24-07 Enhanced Reporting of and Support for Class Size and Complexity; 18-3A Supports for Learning Success of all Students: Early Screening; 18-3B Supports for Learning Success of all Students: Enhanced Teacher Training; 17-6 Funding for Inclusive Education; 16-3 Individualized Program Plans (IPPs)/Instructional Support Plans (ISPs) and other outcome-based tools; 13-4 Early Intervention; 93-2 Education of Special Needs Students</p>
Nov 29	Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA)	K. Glazebrook	Letter to President Whalen expressing gratitude for Fall event and sincere desire to work together enhancing our partnership.
Dec 3	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)	K. Glazebrook	Letter to President Dennis expressing gratitude for Fall Event, and acknowledging the motion passed by ASBA Members at FGM to have sex education remain an 'opt out' option for parents, and an ask to work together on this common point of advocacy.
Dec 3	Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB)	K. Glazebrook	Letter to Board Chair Trustee Kusiek acknowledging their letter to ASCA and thanking them for their joint advocacy on the 2SLGBTQIA+ concerns, including having sex education remain an 'opt out' option.
Dec 3	Education Minister Nicolaides	K. Glazebrook	Letter to the Minister acknowledging the advocacy of EPSB and ASBA on the 2SLGBTQIA+ issues and concerns, reminding the



			Minister that ASCA’s Members are also in favour of leaving sex education as “opt out”.
Dec 17	Chief of Staff to Ed Minister	W. Keiver	<p>ASCA Exec Director provided ASCA Members’ perspectives on: Early Assessment; Education Funding; Sex Education – opt in vs opt out; ASCE Grant; Student Mental Health and Weighted Moving Average (WMA) funding formula.</p> <p>Also discussed changes in transportation regulation (distances) effective Sept 1., 2025 and the province’s perspective on the National School Food Program.</p>
Jan 23	Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium (SAPDC) Regional Advisory Committee	E. Tse	<p>Attended by representatives from SAPDC, CASS, APLC, ASBA, EPSB, Peigan Board of Education, Medicine Hat College.</p> <p>The meeting covered professional learning, curriculum support, and funding challenges. Discussions included updates on curriculum implementation (FLA, FILA, Social), literacy sessions, AI learning with Jillian Kowalchuk, and EAL benchmarks by Kathy Salmon. Upcoming leadership sessions will address difficult conversations, cultural capacity, and learning disabilities.</p> <p>Funding concerns were a major focus, with ASBA reporting unpredictable grants and enrollment growth clawbacks. CASS noted curriculum funding limitations and increasing educational assistant (EA) strikes. EPSB and other divisions shared free resources, but access remains inconsistent.</p> <p>Indigenous education topics included NRLC’s resource hub, FNMI advisory efforts, and the Peigan Board of Education’s state of emergency due to fentanyl-related deaths. They are advocating for medical and optometry services in schools.</p> <p>Social-emotional wellness was also discussed, including a TikTok mental health series by Dr. Chris Matador. Medicine Hat College is addressing classroom behavioral challenges with new training initiatives.</p>
Jan 23	Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC) Regional Advisory Committee	E. Tse	<p>Attended by representatives from: Werklund School of Education, Calgary Boys School, Foothills School Division (ASBA), Mount Royal University, CASS, Mental Health Collaborative, APLC, and ASCA.</p> <p>The meeting focused on professional learning, curriculum updates, and AI in education. Topics included Mathology, literacy development, and inclusive education strategies. Specialists presented on fluency development, assessment, and resilience in students. New curriculum resources include FLPL Grade 4-6, social studies assessment tasks, and math differentiation videos. AI discussions centered on governance, combined-grade classrooms, and policy integration.</p> <p>Alberta Parks is collaborating with teachers for outdoor literacy and numeracy learning. Calgary Catholic is working on FLAL co-teaching strategies. AISCA is managing in-person conferences. Mental health resources were discussed, with an emphasis on accessibility. Attendees highlighted the rise of charter schools and classroom complexity challenges. The conversation also touched on encouraging men in teaching and neurodiversity in</p>



			education. APLC continues to develop and share digital resources for professional learning.
Jan 28	Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	K. Glazebrook	Unable to fully participate due to internet connections. Host provided update: Regional quarterly report, APLC website houses all annual and quarterly reports; discussed success and opportunities – excellent attendance numbers; challenges for some accessing supply teachers or professional learning funding.
Feb 4	Central Alberta Regional Consortia (CARC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	M. Parisian	<p>Did not attend – connected with Director of Learning after for update. Attended by representatives from ASCA, Red Deer Polytechnic, and APLC. Participants engaged in discussions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Overview of provincial rebranding for The Consortium, advisory of upcoming regional consortia rebranding to be completed by July 1, 2025 *Focus of The Consortium has been on resource development for new curriculum implementation and updates to current curriculum *Reviewed CARC Strategic Plan *Preliminary discussions occurring at Red Deer Polytechnic regarding the potential for offering additional training and certification programs for EAs, including an inclusion certificate that could be laddered with the EA certificate currently offered.
Feb 5	Meeting Request and Letter to Minister Nicolaides	K. Glazebrook	<p>President Glazebrook requested an opportunity to meet with Minister Nicolaides, specifically to discuss ASCA Advocacy Policies 24-04, 24-01, 24-03, 24-07, and 22-03. A letter was also sent to Minister Nicolaides bringing attention to concerns related to the Support Worker’s strikes, cyber-attacks on School Divisions, and increases in digital threats to children.</p> <p>https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/the-parent-voice/advocacy-updates</p>
Feb 12	Indigenous Education Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	K. Glazebrook	<p>Attended by representatives from ATA, CASS, ASBA, Rupertsland, Deans of Education, ARPDC, and ASCA, and Alberta Education FNMI Division. Topics discussed highlighted Indigenous education resources and education partners intentional efforts to advance reconciliation through education and their respective organizations.</p>
Feb 12	Alberta NDP Caucus Education Budget Round Table	K. Glazebrook	<p>By “invite only” attendees participated in confidential discussions sharing their perspectives on and concerns with many aspects of education funding in Alberta, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class size and complexity 2. Increased funding for Assessments of Learning Disabilities 3. Increased funding in Support staff and resources (net new) 4. Increased funding for mental health resources in schools (net new) 5. Air quality 6. Equity in play ground funding for aging facilities 7. Preserving safe spaces for students and staff 8. Weighted average funding is not working 9. First generation Canadians with limited to no English 10. Behavioral issues, not being identified 11. Average operational expenditures



Feb 18	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw for S. Bugbee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pieter de Vos has some ideas about how to facilitate the event; is looking for physical records of what is happening available for participants (big notes on wall); Barron will work on an annotated script; de Vos will be the MC. • MoE is confirmed for March 2 with CASS President Dr. Clint Moroziuk to facilitate the <i>fireside</i> chat. • 212 Registrants; a mix of Early Bird, Regular and Committee (free); logistics is going well, almost all in place (close registration on February 26); • Working on confirming an elder? • Program is set; looking forward to Dr. Debbie Pushor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.albertaruraleducation.ca/speakers • Panels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forging Careers Pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carla Johnson - MoE ADM, • Dr. Donna Feledichuk - Portage College, • Stephan Rutkowski - Careers • Paula Anderson - Fortis • Trustee Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holly Bilton - Chinook's Edge, • Scott MacPherson - Prairie Land, • Dennis MacNeil - Aspen View / PSBAA, • Daryl Scott - Wild Rose
Feb 19	Alberta Professional Learning Consortium (APLC) Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)	W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives from CASS, TAAPCS, ASBA, APLC, Rupertsland Institute, Tsuut'sina Nation Education Department, and ASCA. Participants were given a summary of the Provincial Consortium successes and areas for growth, reviewed the results of the Consortium assurance survey, and were reminded of the Provincial Consortium's priorities. The Terms of Reference discussion considered moving to 2 meetings per year, timed so that topics on the agenda allow for discussion and advising, rather than reviewing what is already decided.</p>
Feb 19	Calgary Herald interview	K. Glazebrook	<p>President Glazebrook was interviewed by a reporter for the Calgary Herald for comments pertaining to the {custodial/maintenance} labour disruptions anticipated for Monday in CBE and CSSD. One focus of the interview was that anyone working in our education system deserves to be compensated fairly, acknowledging that the provincial education budget and current WMA funding model is not adequate in far too many school divisions.</p>
Feb 20	Learning Network Education Services (LNEs) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	W. Keiver	<p>Did not attend. Participants were given a summary of the Provincial Consortium successes and areas for growth, reviewed the results of the Consortium assurance survey, and were reminded of the Provincial Consortium's priorities. LNEs will be undergoing a branding change soon, becoming the North East Office of the Consortium, and will be reviewing the Regional Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as well.</p>
Feb 25	Northwest Regional Learning Consortium	W. Keiver	<p>Did not attend. Attendees discussed strategies to enhance the Quality Engagement Priority of the Strategic Plan, and review</p>



	(NRLC) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)		the Director's report along with the Winter CASS Quarterly Report and the Consortium 2023-2024 Annual Report . There is a FREE Parent Learning session planned for May 5 (virtual): MathImagine - Parents Helping their Children with Math Development (K-6) Also shared information related to a new self-guided parent workshop: Raising Digitally Resilient Kids .
Feb 26	Red Deer Catholic School Council Engagement Session	S. Bugbee M. Parisian S. Odishaw	Attended by RDCSD School Council parents, trustees, and RDCSD Superintendent, an ASCA Instructor provided a custom session focused on key aspects of engaging parents in schools in the work of School Councils and the Board.
Feb 27	Alberta Education Post-Budget Stakeholder Presentation (webinar)	K. Glazebrook	Attended by presidents and ED/CEOs of Alberta's Education Stakeholders. Staff from Alberta Education provided a breakdown of the \$9.3 billion budget for education, highlighting increased or new (i.e.: IT security) funding. Budget 2025 acknowledges some challenges, as heard from most education stakeholders, with the current Weighted Moving Average Funding Formula, and shifts to 2-year, rather than a 3-year calculation. The Ministry noted the Funding Manual will be available in April 2025.
March 2-4	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Bugbee S. Odishaw	The 2.5-day event, attended by Trustees, superintendents, and educators from the majority of Alberta's rural school division, focused on Ensuring Equitable Outcomes for Rural Students. The symposium afforded several opportunities for networking and explored critical facets of governance and leadership within the context of rural education in Alberta, with several notable speakers: Minister of Education, Dr. Joel Westheimer, Dr. Carla Johnson, Dr. Debbie Pushor, and others. ARES Planning Committee member, ASCA Director Bugbee, assisted with logistics, networked with rural education partners, and participated in invaluable professional development, gaining knowledge that will benefit their role within ASCA.
March 11	ASBA Honouring Indigenous Spirit Student Award Selection Committee	K. Glazebrook	Attended by representatives of ASCA, ASCA, ATA, Award sponsor Keyera Corp., and ASBA Indigenous Advisory Committee Members. The Selection Committee reviewed and discussed the merits of 56 of the 304 Nomination Packages received, and chose 12 Award recipients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 from Kindergarten to Grade 3, 1 each in Northern, Central and Southern Alberta • 3 from Grade 4 to Grade 6, 1 each in Northern, Central and Southern Alberta • 3 from Grade 7 to Grade 9, 1 each in Northern, Central and Southern Alberta • 3 from Grade 10 to Grade 12, 1 each in Northern, Central and Southern Alberta The Awards will be presented in person to each recipient at a prestigious ceremony held in April.



ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Board of Directors opted to pause the ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) for this year. Discussions will take place with the new ASCA Board as to the viability and value of the SCETF in the 2025-2026 school year.

ASCA Board 2025-2026 Committees

To strengthen ASCA's governance and operations, the Board streamlined its eight standing committees into three functional committees: Internal, External, and Fund Development. This restructuring has enhanced our ability to be more agile, focused, and effective. With this foundation in place, we continue working to ensure that ASCA remains a strong, sustainable organization dedicated to serving school councils across Alberta.

Terms of Reference for each Committee were approved by the Board. Directors appointed as Committee Leads provided regular activity reports and updates to the Board. Committees worked to accomplish their assigned responsibilities, bringing recommendations for actions or decisions as needed to the Board of Directors for approval. The ASCA President and Executive Director are deemed to be ex-officio members of all Committees of the Board, unless otherwise noted.

The ASCA Board Committees on which the 2024-2025 ASCA Board of Directors served were:

External Committee

Directors: Stephanie Bugbee, Meagan Parisian, Edward Tse

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

Following the 2024 AGM and the establishment of the new External Committee, the new members updated the current Terms of Reference (ToR).

The 2024-2025 External Committee was responsible for:

- * Reviewing/Revising the ASCA Candidates Information Package and Nominations Form.
- * Assessing existing ASCA Advocacy Policies approaching their tenth anniversary for continued relevance, recommending to the membership whether to archive, amend/revise, or maintain them.
- * Reviewing incoming Proposed Advocacy Resolutions (PARs), ensuring they aligned with ASCA's foundational documents. The Committee applauds Member School Councils for submitting PARs for debate at the Annual General Meeting.
- * Reviewing ASCA's Recognition Awards criteria and nominations, selecting successful candidates, arranging for Award deliveries to local school communities.

Despite their efforts, the committee was unable to complete all tasks, as a result, they pass on the task of restructuring the School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) for better information gathering to the 2025/2026 Committee.

Fund Development Committee (FDC)

Directors: Edward Tse, Meagan Parisian

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

This year, the Fund Development Committee focused on one urgent goal: **to make it easier for school councils to get more value from their Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) grant** and to ensure ASCA has **predictable and sustainable long-term funding** to support School Councils across Alberta.

We started by asking School Councils how things were going with the ASCE Grant. The results of our province-wide survey were honest—and deeply revealing. Many councils said the grant was hard to use. They didn't know



what was eligible. They couldn't find affordable speakers. Some didn't even know the grant existed. Even when sessions were planned, attendance was often low and impact felt uncertain. New council chairs in particular asked for help navigating what to do.

Quantitative responses from School Councils across Alberta reinforced the qualitative results:

22% were unaware of the ASCE grant entirely

Only 62% had used their ASCE grant in previous years

Many councils described the grant as confusing, overly restricted, or burdensome to manage

Councils specifically asked for vetted speaker lists, clearer planning tools, and more ideas on how to use the grant effectively

In response, we created the **ASCA Access Pass**, launching September 2025.

The **ASCA Access Pass** is a program that allows school councils to **use their existing ASCE Grant** to register for a full year of:

Monthly live learning sessions with expert speakers

Breakout discussions that allow parents to connect across Alberta

Recorded sessions accessible to every parent in the school

Topics chosen twice a year *by school councils themselves*

It's still your ASCE grant—but the ASCA Access Pass removes the guesswork.

We reviewed every ASCE Grant requirement and created:

A **grant application email template** to send to school boards

A **year-end reporting template** with sample language

Guidance on ASCE Grant eligibility

While school councils still need to apply for and report on their own grants, the ASCA Access Pass significantly reduces the time and effort needed—especially for new or busy councils.

To ensure ASCA can continue delivering this support year after year, we developed **sponsorship programs** for companies and speakers that directly benefit member school councils. New sponsors help cover the cost of delivering the ASCA Access Pass—**keeping it fully grant-funded for councils**. This new revenue stream helps protect ASCA from funding uncertainty and allows us to keep investing in high-quality parent learning, tools, and advocacy.

Every part of this year's work came from what school councils told us they needed:

- ✓ Easier access to quality learning
- ✓ Less time spent chasing speakers or filling forms
- ✓ More ways to bring value to their school communities
- ✓ A stronger ASCA to advocate on their behalf

The ASCA Access Pass was built to make it easier for School Councils to get more value from the ASCE grant so that ASCA can continue to be the strongest collective voice for parents in Alberta.

Internal Committee

Directors: Greta Gerstner, Stephanie Bugbee, Meagan Parisian

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Internal Committee was responsible for the Governance Policy Manual, Internal Finance and Legacy. At our June meeting we recommended the Board approve our Terms of Reference.



This year for the Governance Policy Manual, the Committee updated and recommended the Board approve amendments or revisions of the following Governance Policies:

- GP-2 – the Role of the Board
- GP-3 – the Role of the Director
- GP-8 – Board Committees
- GP-12 – Role of the Executive Director
- Related appendices for GP-2, GP-3, GP-8 and GP-12

At the direction of the Board, the Committee also created GP-3-App 3E – ASCA Social Media Presence, Management and ASCA Brand Stewardship which received Board approval.

The Committee also recommended deleting GP7-App 7D – Care and Use of Director’s Technology Equipment Agreement as it was no longer relevant.

The responsibilities for Internal Finance included ensuring the following:

- The Trustee/Non-Trustee Accident Policy which covers the Board, Instructors and the Executive Director was renewed on September 1.
- The D&O, Cyber, Commercial Insurance policy renewed on November 1.
- The Society Annual Return was submitted on April 30, 2024, and the Proof of Filing was received.
- A Change of Directors was submitted on September 30, 2024, removing Directors Haggarty and Bruce and President Bodell. Proof of Filing for the Change of Directors was received.
- The Annual Return (T3010) was submitted to CRA by our auditor. The Confirmation/Notice of Receipt was received from Canada Revenue Agency.

Activities that were undertaken related to Legacy were:

- Former President Bodell, Past President Rai, Executive Director Keiver and the Committee Lead met at the ASCA office to go through all the boxes that contained ASCA related materials. We separated the materials into boxes for AGM Minutes and past Advocacy Policies. There is also a box of items that could be used for future Legacy displays.
- The Committee Lead has uploaded in Teams, under Internal Committee, 2024-2025 Board Meetings, a folder labelled “Advocacy Policies 1960-1994” as a start of scanning all the advocacy policies that are not currently housed in the archived section at the back of our Advocacy Policy Manual that were found in the boxes. There were several dates missing for this time frame in the documents that were scanned and uploaded from the one box. There are currently 3 boxes of documents that still need to be scanned in.

The Committee was not able to review our Bylaws and Governance Policy Manual to consider the expectations, accountability, and consequences of ASCA Member conduct and develop related guidelines and processes as our capacity was limited.

We also were not able to create the ASCA Origin Story so that the history of ASCA and how our organization has evolved over the years could be documented in an easy-to-read story.
