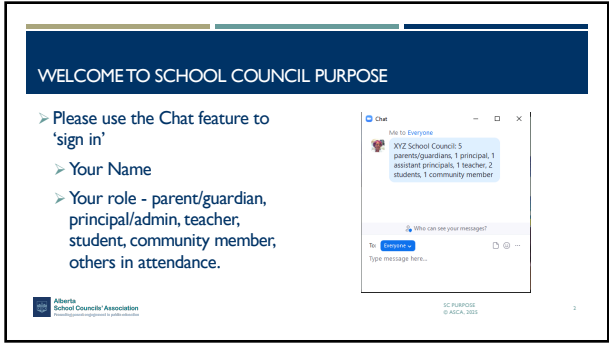
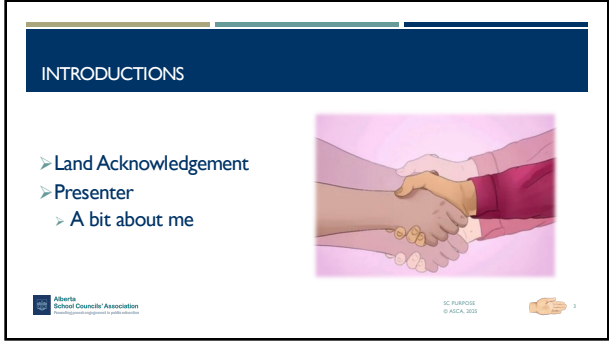


1



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3

TODAY'S OBJECTIVES:

To Understand:

➤How a School Council may fulfill its **legislated purpose** to the Principal, community and the Board

➤On what items, and in which areas, a School Council may **make decisions**




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SCHOOL COUNCIL IS...

A means for parents and community members to work together with the principal and the school community to **support and enhance student learning.**



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SCHOOL COUNCILS ARE BRIDGES


School Community:

➤Principal and Staff

➤Parents

➤Trustees

➤Local Community



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"It takes a village to raise a child."

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THE BIG PICTURE:
RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

- Foster, develop, maintain and reflect the **culture** of the school
- Provide the **opportunity to participate** in the advisory role
- Create the **forum for discussion**
- Seek and represent **school community views**


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SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- Principal
- Teacher
- Student (if senior high)
- Parents of children enrolled in the school must be the majority
- Others as decided

♦ School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019





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"SHALL," "MUST" AND "MAY"
...IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

- **Shall:** (8) — paraphrased as "**has the duty to**". (**mandatory**) "A board *shall* establish a dispute resolution process..."
- **Must:** (1) — imposes a **legal obligation (mandatory)**. **Required by law.** "For each school operated by a board, a school council *must* be established in accordance with the regulations."
- **May:** (4a) — '**permissive**'...something is allowed...or **choice** "A school council *may*, at its discretion, advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school."

♦ Source: <https://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/prp/pr/csj-qjc/legis-redact/legistics>


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A SCHOOL BOARD MUST...
(NO "IFS, ANDS OR BUTS")

12(1) ...provide the School Council with an opportunity to provide **advice** on the development of the school's

- (a) foundations statements, if any, respecting the school's vision, principles and beliefs,
- (b) policies,
- (c) annual education plan and annual results report required by the Minister to be reported under section 67 of the Act, and
- (d) budget required to be reported under section 139 of the Act.

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A SCHOOL BOARD MUST ALSO...
(AGAIN, NO "IFS, ANDS OR BUTS")

12(2) ...provide the school council with

- (a) the **results** for the school **from provincial assessments** and **an interpretation** of these results, and
- (b) the same information that the board disseminates to students, parents or electors under section 67(2) of the Act.

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A SCHOOL BOARD SHALL...
(REMEMBER, "SHALL" = "MANDATORY")

55(8) Establish a dispute resolution process to address disputes between the **principal** and the **school council** with respect to **policies proposed or adopted for a school.**

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LET'S REFRAME THAT QUESTION

What is NOT on the table for discussion?

- Personal
- Personnel
- Legal

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WHAT MUST A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

- **14(1)** The chair of a school council **must** prepare and provide to the board **by September 30** of each year a report
 - ❖ **(a) summarizing** the activities of the school council in the previous school year; and
 - ❖ **(b) detailing**, in accordance with the policies referred to in section 13(2), the receipt, handling and use of any money by the school council in the previous school year.

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WHAT ELSE MUST A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

- **14(2)** A School Council **must** retain at the school a **copy of the minutes** for each meeting of the School Council and make them available to the board or the public on request.
- **14(3)** School Council **must** retain the minutes for each meeting of the School Council for at **least 7 years**.

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A SCHOOL COUNCIL MAY:
(AT ITS DISCRETION...)

➤ Advise the Principal and the Board respecting any matter relating to the school

➤ Perform any duty...delegated to it by the Board...


➤ Decide operating procedures for itself

➤ Carry out activities related to its advisory role

➤ Handle monies

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WHEN SHOULD SCHOOL COUNCILS "LOBBY"?

➤ Reduced Speed Limits


➤ Objection to Marijuana Retail Establishments

➤ Planned Power Lines

Power Lines Recommend
Morality Relationships
Lobbying
Peaceful Demonstration
Conflict Public-Interest
Legislators Professional
Influence Decisions Council
School Council
Account Governance
Agency Ethics
through

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A SCHOOL COUNCIL MAY:
(AT ITS DISCRETION...)

➤ Advise the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school,

➤ Perform any duty...delegated to it by the Board...


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➤ Handle monies

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ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCHOOL, SUCH AS...

➤ Professional Practice Standards

➤ Alberta Education Initiatives

- impact at local, division level
- voice at provincial level through ASCA

➤ Respecting Diversity and Promoting Inclusion

➤ Advancing Reconciliation

➤ Development of School Policies

➤ Annual Results Reports

➤ Development of School Budget:

ABED \$ Division \$ School \$

➤ Education Plans

➤ Assurance Framework

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BUSINESS PLAN 2024 - 2027

MINISTRY OUTCOMES:

➤ Alberta's students are successful

➤ First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in Alberta are successful

➤ Alberta's students have access to a variety of learning opportunities to enhance competitiveness in the modern economy

➤ Alberta's K-12 education system and workforce are well-managed

Budget 2024 – Education Business Plan 2024-27:
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/cpa65c12-a239-4bd9-8275-3ab54d845b33/resource/88289e0a-b814-404b-991e-833008a9b18e/download/education-business-plan-2024-27-english.pdf>

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ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The 5 Assurance Areas:

➤ Student Growth and Achievement

➤ Teaching and Leading

➤ Learning Supports

➤ Governance

➤ Local and Societal Context

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SOMEWAYS SCHOOL COUNCIL CAN SUPPORT THE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK:

➤ Become familiar with the Assurance Framework and the related school authority planning and reporting requirements

➤ Review the School Division's education plan and annual education report (posted annually on Division's website by November 30 and May 31, respectively) and those of the School (posted annually on either the school or School Division website)

➤ Participate in engagement opportunities surrounding the development of School and School Division education plan priorities

➤ Participate in engagement opportunities respecting results and progress towards meeting the School Division's priorities

➤ Participate in the development of school education plans, annual education results reports, and budget

➤ Educate Grade 4, 7 and 10 parents about the Alberta Education Assurance parent survey and encourage them to complete it

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GOOD ADVICE LOOKS LIKE...



Advise the Principal and the Board respecting matters relating to the School.

Education Act, Sec 55 (Sept 2019)

➤ Inquire by "Seeking to Understand"

➤ What does this look like in our school?

➤ How does this help to support student success?

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HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

➤ Principals have to consider many perspectives when making decisions in the **best interest** of the **students** in their school.



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WHAT CAN SCHOOL COUNCILS DECIDE?

- Who** will choose the work of School Council? Executive, all members...
- What** work will be done? Advising, educating, communicating, planning...
- How** will the work be done? Committees, surveys, special events, parent sessions...
- Who** will do the work? Everyone, no one... someone?

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A SCHOOL COUNCIL MAY: CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ITS ADVISORY ROLE



- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Achievable**
- **Realistic**
- **Timely**

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CLARIFICATION

SCHOOL COUNCIL

- **governed by Education Act**
- **mandatory**
- **support and enhance student learning**
- **advisory only**
- **no legal authority**

FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION

- **governed by Societies Act**
- **optional**
- **financially support and enhance student learning through the school and/or school council**
- **legal authority, ability and liability**

No school council shall incorporate under the Societies Act or Part 9 of the Companies Act. Alberta Regulation 94/2019 School Councils Regulation

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QUIZ TIME!

➤ Refer to “School Council – Advise/Decide/Lobby or Reframe?” Handout






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CONCLUSION

School Councils
➤ Have a **legislated purpose** which involves the Principal, Parents, community and the Board
➤ May **make decisions** related to how they want to fulfill that purpose






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NEXT STEPS

1. Implement what you've learned today
2. Schedule/register for your next ASCA Learning Opportunity
3. Invite more people (parents, grandparents, teachers, EAs, students, community members) to learn alongside you, and to support your students' learning success





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CONTACT ASCA

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➤

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/contact>

➤

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/workshops>

➤

1.780.454.9867 / 1.800.661.3497

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Alberta's school council leaders and advocates

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