



Slide 1

# School Councils Purpose

District: Foundation: 90 minutes



Progressive Learning Program



Alberta School Councils' Association

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Slide 2


# Introductions


➤ **Presenter**

➤ A bit about me

➤ **Participants**


➤ A bit about you





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Slide 3

# What Does ASCA Do?

➤ Representation

➤ Consultation


➤ Online Engagement


➤ Resources

➤ Events

➤ Communication


➤ **Site Services**





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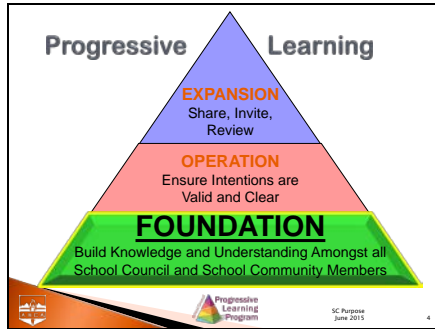
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# Today's Objectives:

To Understand:

- How a School Council may fulfill it's **legislated purpose** to the principal, community and the board
- On what items, and in which areas, School Councils may **make decisions**



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# School Council is...

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



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# Legislated to...



## Advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school.





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**Advise the principal and the board**  
respecting matters relating to the  
school.



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# Clarification...

School Council	Parent/Fundraising Association/Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b><i>School Act</i></b> <i>(Education Act)</i></li><li>➤ <b>support and enhance student learning</b></li><li>➤ <b>advisory only</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b><i>Societies Act</i></b></li><li>➤ <b>recreational, cultural, scientific, or charitable interest</b></li><li>➤ <b>legal authority, ability and liability</b></li></ul>

No **school council** shall incorporate under the *Societies Act* or Part 9 of the *Companies Act*. Alberta Regulation 113/2007 School Councils Regulation



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**School Council**

➤ **School Act**  
(Education Act)

➤ **School Act**  
(*Education Act*)

- **support and enhance student learning**

➤ **advisory only**

Parent/Fundraising Association/Society

➤ **Societies Act**

- **recreational, cultural, scientific, or charitable interest**

- legal authority, ability and liability

No **school council** shall incorporate under the *Societies Act* or Part 9 of the *Companies Act*. Alberta Regulation 113/2007 School Councils Regulation



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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 113/2007



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

➤Teacher

➤ Student (if senior high)

- Parents of children enrolled in the school must be the majority

- Others as decided

✦ School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 113/2007




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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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# “Shall”, “Must” and “May”

## ...is there a Difference?

- **Shall:** *2b* — used in laws, regulations, or directives to express what is **mandatory** <it *shall* be unlawful to carry firearms>
- **Must:** *3b* — be required by *law*, custom, or moral conscience to <we *must* obey the rules>
- **May:** *3* —...expressing **purpose** or **expectation** ...or **choice** <the angler *may* catch them with a dip net, or he *may* cast a large, bare treble hook...>

Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>






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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) including a financial statement** relating to money handled by the school council in the previous school year, if any, and how the funds were used.

• School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 113/2007




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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**.




School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 113/2007



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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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### How Decisions are Made

(sometimes)


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





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## A School Council May Also:

(Again, 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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# What School Councils are NOT:

- **School governance bodies** ..... (School Board)
- **Employers** ..... (School Board)
- **System Managers** ..... (Superintendent)
- **School managers** ..... (Principal)
- **Primarily fundraisers** ..... (Fundraising Society)
- **Primarily lobbyists** ..... (Trustee, Muni Coun. or MLA)
- **Complaint sessions**.... (Spouse, Dr., Spiritual Advisor)

**CAUTION**

*Alberta School Council Resource Manual, Page 10*

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# A School Board Must...

(No "ifs, ands or buts")

**13(1) Provide the School Council** with an opportunity to provide **advice** on the development of the school's

- (a) mission, vision and philosophy,
- (b) policies,
- (c) annual education plan,
- (d) annual results report, and
- (e) budget.



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# School Councils Have Two Options:

- **Advise**
  - The School Council provides input, but does not make the decision.
- **Make the decision** – the School Council makes the decision,



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# What Can School Councils Decide?

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



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[illegible]

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## Quiz Time!


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



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


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# Conclusions

## School Councils

- Have a **legislated purpose** which involves the principal, parents, community and the board
- How a CoSC might **support** its **member School Councils**, and its **Board** in their legislated purposes



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# Evaluations and More Info!

- 1.800.661.3470
- Twitter @Abschoolcouncil
- [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca)
- Facebook /pages/Alberta-School-Councils-Association



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