






Tools for Effective School Councils


Foundation

Ice Breaker




- > Who Am I?
 - > Presenter Introduction
- > Who Are You?
 - > Parent, teacher, principal, trustee, admin?
 - > How many kids? How old?
 - > SC Experience?
- > How Will We Interact?
 - > What behaviours will best ensure that we all benefit from our time together today?
- > What Do We Expect From Our Time Together?
 - > What do you hope to learn today?

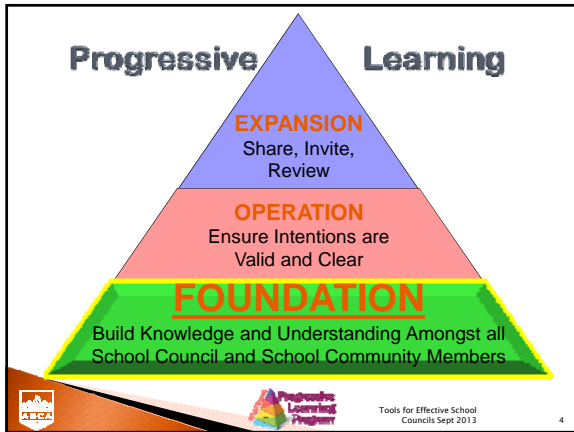
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What Does ASCA Do?

- > Alberta School Council Resource Manual
- > Consultations
- > Site Services
- > Conference
- > Annual General Meeting
- > Advocacy
- > Web Site & Online Education
- > Materials & Resources

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Today's Objectives:

Obtain some Tools for becoming a more Effective School Council with:

- Engagement/Involvement
- Communication
- Meetings
- Attracting Volunteers

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What is a "School Council"

- A means for parents and community members to work together with the school to **support and enhance student learning.**
- A group of people who meet together to advise the board respecting the needs of the school.

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What is a "School Council"

- A group of people who work together with the principal and community members to support and enhance student learning.
- A group of people who work together to **advise the principal and the board** respecting matters relating to the school.



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Clarification

School Council:

- The **School Act** regulates **School Councils** in Alberta.
- A means for parents and community members to work together with the school to **support and enhance student learning**.
- A group of people who work together to **advise the principal and the board** respecting matters relating to the school.

Parent/Fundraising Association/Society:

- The **Societies Act** regulates **Societies** incorporated in Alberta.
- Societies are formed by five or more people who **share a common** recreational, cultural, scientific, or **charitable interest**.
- Incorporation results in **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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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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What Makes You Special?

Consider the unique qualities of your school community:

- > Values
- > Demographics
- > Socioeconomic Factors
- > Religion, Ethnicity, Languages
- > Location
- > Grade Configuration
- > Unique Programming



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The Challenge: #1 Engagement/Involvement



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The Solution: School Landscape Welcome



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**The Solution:
School Landscape**






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**The Solution:
Re-Think Engagement/Involvement**



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**The Challenge:
#2 Communication**



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The Solution: Creative Communication

- Topic Specific Surveys: Written or in Person
- Suggestion Boxes/Newsletters/Contests
- Email Distribution List: Permission to Contact Form or Family Engagement Form
- School Council Web Page: ASCA School Council Group Page
- Raise the profile



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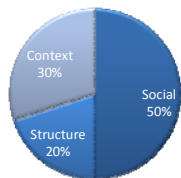
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The Challenge: #3 Meetings



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The Solution: Understanding Meeting Anatomy



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**The Solution:
Meetings: Social Component**

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**The Solution:
Meetings: Contextual Component**

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**The Solution:
Meetings: Structural Component**

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Is This Everything?



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The Challenge:

#4 PEOPLE!!! (A.K.A. Volunteers!!)

- **Definition of VOLUNTEER**
 - 1: a person who *voluntarily* undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service:
- **Definition of VOLUNTARY**
 - 7: acting or done of one's own free will without valuable consideration or legal obligation
- **Examples of VOLUNTEER**
 - *Volunteers* are needed to help with the bake sale.
 - The school was built by *volunteers*.

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



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Why People Do / Do Not Volunteer



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Conclusions

Effective School Councils:

- Understand their purpose
- Respect/Reflect their culture
- Are welcoming
- Encourage diverse involvement
- Communicate well
- Run efficient meetings
- Attract volunteers
- Evaluate their effectiveness



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Evaluations and More Info!

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