

**DATE:** November 9, 2021

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee, Trustees Estabrooks, Hancock, Ip

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation on Voting in Advance of the ASBA Fall General Meeting

**ORIGINATOR:** Trustee Estabrooks, ASBA Director for EPSB

**REFERENCE:** [Trustees' Handbook](#), Section 6.2 ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee

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### ISSUE

Each year, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) holds general meetings in the fall and spring. Annually, prior to the ASBA Fall General Meeting (FGM), the ASBA Issues and Resolution Committee brings forward a recommendation with regard to disposition of motions. This year's FGM is being held November 14-16.

### BACKGROUND

There is one omnibus amendment which proposes a number of changes to ASBA bylaws. These are largely housekeeping items, in keeping with a governance review conducted at ASBA's request.

There are recommendations for two position statements on which the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee are seeking approval from the Board of Trustees and one position statement approved by the previous Board of Trustees which requires no decision from the current Board.

### **1. Proposed Omnibus Amendment – Bylaws 1.1.8, 2.3-2.4, 3.3, 14.3, 15.8-15.10, 16.1, Schedule A6.3b, and Editorial Amendments - Sponsored by ASBA Board of Directors**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, a new clause be added as section 1.1.8 to the ASBA Bylaws as follows and all subsequent section numbers throughout 1 be amended accordingly:

1. 1.1.8 "Fraternal Organizations" means The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, section 2.3 of the ASBA Bylaws be struck in its entirety and replaced with amendments and the addition of 2.4, as follows:

2. 2.3 Full Members or Associate Members are expected to pay fees in a timely manner.
- 2.4 Full members or Associate Members are required to provide notice of membership withdrawal prior to membership fee invoice date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, section 3.3 of the ASBA Bylaws be struck in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, section 14.3 of the ASBA Bylaws be amended accordingly:

3. 14.3 At least thirty days Written Notice of any Bylaw amendment shall be provided to each Full Member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, sections 15.8-15.10 of the ASBA Bylaws be struck in its entirety and replaced as follows:

4. 15.8 Fraternal Organizations

15.8.1 The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities) shall be known as the ASBA's Fraternal Organizations.

15.8.2 Fraternal Organizations may attend non-confidential aspects of Board of Directors meetings as non-voting observers and at the expense of their respective organization.

15.8.3 The President, Vice-President, and Appointed representatives of any ASBA Fraternal Organization are not eligible to concurrently hold the position of ASBA President, Vice-President, Director, or Alternate Director.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, section 16.1 of the ASBA Bylaws be amended accordingly:

5. 16.1 A public reporting process of placing expense reports online is applicable to the ASBA President, Vice-President, Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, section A6.3b of the ASBA Bylaws be amended accordingly:

6. b. The President or Vice-President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Public School Boards Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, sections of the ASBA Bylaws be updated to accommodate editorial amendments reflecting the change in title from "Executive Director" to "Chief Executive Officer."

*Background:*

Over the spring of 2021, the Association engaged in a Governance Review process completed by MNP. Upon conclusion of MNP's review of the Association's Bylaws and Governance Policies, final deliverables were provided to the Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) for review and recommendation. At the September 9, 2021 meeting of the ASBA Board of Directors, these deliverables were recommended by the Board of Directors for consideration by the Membership at the 2021 Fall General Meeting.

It should further be noted that fee payment deadline components removed from Bylaw 2.3 were moved to Governance Policy 16, "Full and Associate Members Fees", as a result of the Governance Review.

**2. Position Statement - Accumulated Surplus. Sponsored by Evergreen Catholic Schools, seconded by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division.**

BE IT RESOLVED, the assembly adopt the position that the Alberta Government remove the requirement of ministerial approval for the transfer of accumulated surplus funds so as to support School Board Trustees in their local decision-making autonomy.

*Background:*

In the *Education Act*, remove Section 143.1, or amend to allow boards to accumulate surplus funds that are not capital reserve funds without need for approval of the Minister.

The requirement of Minister approval to transfer funds from accumulated surplus was introduced in March 2020 when *Bill 5 Fiscal Measures and Taxation Act, 2020*, which amended the *Education Act* to add in this approval, received Royal Assent. By removing the approval needed for the transfer of surplus funds, school boards will gain access to their funds in a timelier manner. Boards can make use of any reserves when unforeseen circumstances arise. This will assist in limiting the need for reserves to accumulate at high amounts and satisfying Treasury. This will also permit the school boards to govern the affairs of the school authority accordingly and meet the needs of their communities as they were elected to do so.

In the, “United Conservatives Alberta Strong & Free Getting Alberta Back to Work”, the UCP committed to:

- Maintain or increase education funding while seeking greater efficiency by reducing administrative overhead and pushing resources to front line teachers
- Reduce paperwork burdens on teachers, principals, and other school staff, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens throughout the system
- The Red Tape Reduction Action Plan will cut red tape by one-third to reduce costs and speed up approvals, freeing job creators to get more Albertans back to work
- Cut red tape within government to allow the public sector to focus on serving Albertans
- Move from a process to outcome-based regulatory approach

Removing the Minister’s approval would support the UCP platform introduced in 2019. It would also be in place for any other government that comes into power to reinforce locally elected School Board autonomy.

### **3. Position Statement - Environmental Education. Sponsored by St. Albert Public Schools, seconded by Fort McMurray Public Schools**

BE IT RESOLVED, the assembly adopt the position that the Alberta School Board Association support and advocate to the Minister of Education that environmental literacy and competencies be integrated, across all grades and subjects, into the Alberta K-12 curriculum.

#### ***Background:***

As governors it is our job to ensure that Alberta’s children receive the education that they deserve and require. We ask on behalf of all students, that the government strengthen the K-12 curriculum by incorporating environmental literacy and competencies throughout the K-12 curriculum. As part of this call, support and funding for relevant professional learning for practice and pre-service teachers will be required. To strengthen all learning, help school boards implement more cost-saving energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions – and link these to student learning.

The full background for this position is included in Attachment I.

**RELATED FACTS**

- In addition to these position statements, the former Board of Trustees of Edmonton Public Schools approved the following position statement for this FGM:  
BE IT RESOLVED, the assembly adopt the position that internet access is essential to Alberta students, staff, and families for participation not only in public education, but also in society, and should be accessible and affordable for all; furthermore, that ASBA advocate to the federal and provincial governments on behalf of all Alberta school divisions for immediate initiatives to increase accessibility and quality and to reduce costs of internet for students, staff, and families.  
  
No discussion or vote is required on this matter as it was already approved.
- The emergent motion concerning diploma exams and provincial assessment tests included in the ASBA Bylaws and Bulletins package has been withdrawn.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That the following recommendations be approved as the voting direction for the Edmonton Public School Board at the ASBA 2021 FGM:**

- 1. Approve the proposed omnibus bylaw amendments**
- 2. Support the proposed position statement on accumulated surplus**
- 3. Support the proposed position statement on environmental education**

**OPTIONS**

1. Approve the recommendations.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendations for approval.

**NEXT STEPS**

EPSB Trustees present at the ASBA Fall General Meeting will vote according to the decisions made on the aforementioned recommendations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I ASBA 2021 Bylaws and Bulletins package

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## **Bylaw and Policies Bulletin Fall General Meeting 2021**

Please refer to this bulletin during the business session of the ASBA Fall General Meeting on November 15, 2021. An electronic copy of this Bulletin is available on the ASBA website.

This Bulletin was prepared by the 2020-21 ASBA Policy Development Advisory Committee:

Trina Boymook, ASBA Vice-President, Chair  
Lorrie Jess, ASBA President  
Cheryl Dumont, Zone 2/3 Director  
Daryl Scott, Zone 4 Director  
Trina Hurdman, Calgary Board of Education Director

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## Executive Summary

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The Bulletin outlines the information required for the Business Session of the ASBA Fall General Meeting on November 15, 2021.

There are three types of motions that may take place during the Business Session: procedural, substantive, and emergent or extraordinary.

### **Procedural Motions**

Procedural motions require a simple majority of voting Full Member Boards to pass (i.e. >50%). These motions address how the business meeting will be conducted (Rules of Procedure); appoint the balloting committee; set the Order Paper; and approve the draft minutes.

Secret Ballot: Elections for the President and Vice-President shall be conducted by secret ballot on the basis of one vote per Full Member Board in attendance (Bylaw 5.3.3). The candidate receiving a simple majority of votes (i.e. >50%) will be the successful candidate (Bylaw 5.3.4).

- *The Executive Elections are time specific, other business will be recessed at 2:30 pm and will reconvene after the announcement of the successful candidate for Vice-President.*

### **Substantive Motions**

Substantive motions require a double majority of voting members to pass. A double majority requires sixty per cent (60%) or more of Full Member Boards who are in attendance, who cast a vote, and who vote in affirmative; and Full Member Boards who are in attendance, who cast a vote, and who vote in affirmative and represent sixty per cent (60%) or more of the students registered for the most recently reported period. Proposed Position Statements and Bylaw amendments are examples of Substantive Motions.

### **Emergent and Extraordinary Motions**

Emergent and Extraordinary motions require a two-thirds majority of voting Full Member Boards to pass. They are required solely to allow new business to be put before the assembly. At General Meetings, this may occur through two scenarios:

- 1) If a Full Member Board would like the assembly to consider an emergent position statement, which has either been rejected as emergent by PDAC or was not provided to PDAC in advance of the General Meeting; or
- 2) If a Full Member Board would like the assembly to consider a position that arose out of the business of the General Meeting.

If an Emergent or Extraordinary motion is passed, it is put before the assembly for consideration. If approved for consideration by the assembly, it becomes a substantive motion and requires a double majority for approval.



## ASBA Fall General Meeting

### **DRAFT** ORDER PAPER

November 15, 2021, 9:00 am

Location: Hybrid Meeting; Delta Hotel South and Zoom

Agenda Item	Time
Orientation for Voting Delegates	7:30 am
Opening Remarks from the Honourable Minister Adriana LaGrange	8:00 am
1.0 Call to Order	9:00 am
2.0 ASBA Message	
3.0 <a href="#">Approval of Rules of Procedure</a>	
4.0 <a href="#">Appointment of the Balloting Committee</a>	
5.0 Consideration of Emergent Issues from PDAC	
6.0 Consideration of Emergent Issues from Members	
7.0 Adoption of Order Paper	
8.0 <a href="#">Approval of Minutes: SGM 2021</a>	
9.0 Business Arising from SGM 2021 Minutes	
10.0 Bylaw Amendments	
10.1 <a href="#">Omnibus Amendment (Bylaws 1.1.8, 2.3-2.4, 3.3, 14.3, 15.8-15.10, 16.1, Schedule A6.3b, and Editorial Amendments)</a>	

- 11.0 Executive Nominations and Speeches 10:30 am
- 11.1 Nominations for President – First, Second, and Third Calls
  - 11.2 Nominations for Vice President – First and Second Calls
  - 11.3 Nominators’ Speeches (3 minutes per nominator)
  - 11.4 Presidential Candidates’ Speeches (3 minutes per candidate)
  - 11.5 Vice President Candidates’ Speeches (3 minutes per candidate)
  - 11.6 Candidates’ Question and Answer
- 12.0 Position Statements Sponsored by ASBA Board of Directors
- 13.0 Position Statements Sponsored by Boards/Zones
- 13.1 [Internet for All – Edmonton Public \(Zone 2/3\)](#)
  - 13.2 [Ministerial Approval for transfers from Accumulated Surplus – Evergreen Catholic \(Zone 2/3\)](#)
  - 13.3 [Environmental Education – St. Albert Public & Fort McMurray Public \(Zone 2/3\)](#)
- 14.0 Executive Elections 2:30 pm
- 14.1 Balloting for President
  - 14.2 Announcement of Successful Candidate for President
  - 14.3 Nominations for Vice-President – third call (only candidates for President who were not the declared winner are eligible in the third call)
  - 14.4 Balloting for Vice President
  - 14.5 Announcement of Successful Candidate for Vice President
- 15.0 Emergent Issues added to the Order Paper by PDAC or Full-Members
- 16.0 Emergent Position Statements Sponsored by Full-Member Boards
- 16.1 [Diploma Exams and Provincial Assessment Tests – Calgary Catholic School District](#)
- 17.0 Adjournment

**\*The Chair will call a break for lunch as close to 12:00 pm as debate allows; should debate carry to the evening, a dinner break close to 5:00 pm may be called as debate allows**

## Rules of Procedure

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In order to expedite the debate at general meetings, it is necessary to approve certain rules of procedure. Some of these may be specific parliamentary procedures, as in *Robert's Rules of Order*, while others are less formal and reside with each individual in the interests of courtesy, cooperation, and respect for all concerned as well as for the business at hand.

## Procedural Steps

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1. The proposed motion shall be read by the Chair who will immediately ask for a mover and a seconder.
2. As soon as the proposed motion has been moved and seconded, the Chair shall call upon the mover to speak to the motion. The mover shall have up to three minutes to speak.
3. The Chair shall ask if any delegate wishes to speak for or against the proposed motion. If no delegate so wishes, the Chair will stand the meeting at ease so that Voting Members may connect with their delegates. Upon returning, the Chair will immediately call the question.
4. If there is evidence of opposition or support, debate shall subsequently continue until the question is called in the usual manner. The mover will have the right to be the final speaker in the debate and shall have up to three minutes to close.
5. A delegate wishing to speak to a motion shall first obtain recognition by the Chair and clearly announce his/her name and school jurisdiction represented.
6. A delegate wishing to speak to a motion shall limit remarks to a maximum of two minutes.
7. Any delegate speaking to a motion shall be allowed to speak as often as the Chair, in his or her discretion, will permit.
8. The Chair shall have the discretion to extend speaking times if technology creates any barriers to communication.

## Amendments

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9. A delegate may, at any time during the debate on a motion, move an amendment to the motion, providing it is relevant to, and deals with, the same subject matter as the

original motion. A motion to amend must be seconded. The mover shall have up to three minutes to introduce the amendment.

10. An amendment of a substantive nature to a motion shall be submitted in writing along with the resolution it is proposed to amend, the motion as it will read when amended, the mover and seconder name, and their respective school jurisdiction.

## Voting

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11. Eligibility for voting shall be in accordance with Bylaw 12.3.1:

*12.3.1. The Chair of each Full Member Board has the power to cast the vote to which each Full Member is entitled, unless another Trustee for that Board is designated, in writing, to the Executive Director, prior to the General Meeting, or in an emergency situation, by the Full Member Board at the General Meeting.*

12. Voting on Substantive Motions shall be conducted according to the Alberta School Boards Association Bylaw 12.3.2 – 12.3.4:

*12.3.2. Unless otherwise required by these Bylaws or the approved rules of procedure governing disposal of resolutions, all Substantive Motions will be determined under the double majority voting method, as follows:*

*12.3.2.1. Sixty percent or more of Full Member Boards who are in attendance, who cast a vote, and who vote in the affirmative, based upon one vote per Full Member Board; and*

*12.3.2.2. Full Member Boards who are in attendance, who cast a vote, and who vote in the affirmative, represent 60 percent or more of the Students registered for the most recently reported period with Full Member Boards who voted in the affirmative.*

*12.3.3. For the purposes of Section 12.3.2.2, the percentage of Students enrolled in a Full Member Board shall be determined by:*

*12.3.3.1. Utilizing the total student enrollment figures for the most recent reporting period, as published by Alberta Education; and*

*12.3.3.2. Dividing the number of students enrolled in each Full Member Board by the total number of students enrolled in all Full Member Boards in attendance, who cast a vote, resulting in a percentage (rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent).*

*12.3.4. Results of the voting on Substantive Motions shall indicate how each Board cast its ballot.*

13. Voting on Procedural Motions shall be conducted by a Majority Vote according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> Edition*, as follows:

*S44.1 majority... means more than half of the votes cast by persons entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at a regularly or properly called meeting.*

## Executive Elections

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14. President and Vice-President elections shall be governed by Bylaw 5.3:

- 5.3.1 Election of the President and the Vice-President shall take place at a General Meeting of the Association, normally at the Fall General Meeting immediately following a General Election, and two years following (i.e. November of odd-numbered years).*
- 5.3.2 Nominations shall be made from the floor and shall require a seconder.*
- 5.3.3 Voting shall be by secret ballot on the basis of one vote per Full Member Board in attendance.*
- 5.3.4 The candidate receiving a simple majority of votes will be the successful candidate. Announcement of results shall be limited to identifying the successful candidate.*
- 5.3.5 The President and Vice-President shall take office at the conclusion of the General Meeting at which they are elected.*
- 5.3.6 Notwithstanding Bylaw 5.1.1 and 5.1.2, in the year of a General Election, if the President and/or Vice-President does not run for the office of trustee or is defeated in the General Election, the President and/or Vice-President may complete his/her term of office through to the election of the new President and/or Vice-President at the General Meeting.*

## Emergent and Extraordinary Resolutions

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15. Adoption of emergent or extraordinary resolutions shall be governed by Governance Policy 10:

- 10.4.7 If the criteria defining an emergent position statement, as outlined in 10.4.1, are not met, the matter may still be considered by the assembly at a General Meeting if:*
  - 10.4.7.1 Consideration of the proposed position is supported by a two-thirds majority of voting Full Member Boards, and*
  - 10.4.7.2 The mover makes available the wording of the position statement to all delegates.*
- 10.5 A position shall be accepted for consideration as an Extraordinary Position if:*
  - 10.5.1 The position arises out of the business of the General Meeting;*
  - 10.5.2 Consideration of the position is supported by a two-thirds majority of voting full member Boards, and*

*10.5.3 The mover makes available the wording of the position to all delegates.*

## Disposition of Outstanding Policy Positions

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16. Disposition of outstanding policy positions shall be as outlined in Board of Directors'

Governance Policy 10.6:

*10.6.1. Resolutions for proposed position statements not addressed by the scheduled time of adjournment of the business session of a General Meeting shall be referred automatically to the Board of Directors for such action as the Board is at liberty to take in accordance with Bylaw 8.2.7.*

*10.6.2. These outstanding items must be included on the order paper of the business session of the next General Meeting.*

## Other Motion Proceedings

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17. Other motion proceedings will be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order* and the Alberta School Boards Association Bylaws and Governance Policies.

## Appointment of Balloting Committee

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### Proposed Resolution

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Balloting Committee for the 2021 Fall General Meeting be appointed as: Jan Olson, ASBA Chief Advisor, Chair; James Tapankov, ASBA Learning Specialist; and Maryanne King, ASBA Manager of Governance.

### Background

In order to ensure equitable access to measures concerning the counting of ballots from Full Members, a balloting committee shall be appointed at the outset of the 2021 Fall General Meeting.

This Balloting Committee shall be composed of the ASBA staff that are tasked with the capacity of stewarding ballots throughout the General Meeting. Should a member have an inquiry or concern related to the processing or receipt of ballots through the electronic voting system throughout the duration of the Meeting, the member shall contact Jan Olson, ASBA Chief Advisor at their earliest convenience. The Balloting Committee shall then examine and rectify the concern or question raised.

### Attachments

N/A



## ASBA Spring General Meeting

June 7, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### **DRAFT** MINUTES

#### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

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President Jess welcomed attendees to the 2021 Spring General Meeting, acknowledged the gathering as on ancestral and traditional territory, and invited Vice-President T. Boymook to Chair the business session. The 2021 Spring General Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

The head table was introduced:

- Lorrie Jess, ASBA President
- Cheryl Dumont, Director for Zone 2/3, member of PDAC
- Daryl Scott, Director for Zone 4, member of PDAC
- Trina Hurdman, Calgary Board of Education Director
- Dr. Vivian Abboud, CEO
- Becky Kallal, Parliamentarian
- Michael Solowan, Legal Counsel

#### **2.0 IN-CAMERA MEETING**

##### **MOTION 1/SGM2021**

**Moved** by B. Toone, Director and **Seconded** by D. Scott, Director

**THAT**, The meeting move in camera at 9:25 a.m.

**CARRIED** by unanimous consent (Y: 100.0%)

##### **MOTION 2/SGM2021**

**Moved** by P. Rath and **Seconded** by C. Dumont, Director

**THAT**, The meeting move out of camera at 10:28 a.m.

**CARRIED** by unanimous consent (Y: 100.0%)

#### **3.0 APPROVAL OF RULES OF PROCEDURE**

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##### **MOTION 3/SGM2021 (Procedural)**

**Moved** by D. Engel, Director and **Seconded** by D. Scott, Director

**THAT**, The Rules of Procedure be adopted as presented in the SGM 2021 Budget Bulletin.

**CARRIED** by unanimous consent (Y: 100.0%)

## 4.0 APPROVAL OF THE BALLOTING COMMITTEE

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The Chair introduced the Ballot Counting Committee:

- Jan Olson, Chair
- James Tapankov
- Chelsea McNaughton

### **MOTION 4/SGM2021 (Procedural)**

**Moved** by D. Engel, Director and **Seconded** by D. Scott, Director

**THAT**, The Balloting Committee be appointed as read.

**CARRIED** by unanimous consent (Y: 100.0%)

## 5.0 CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENT ISSUES FROM PDAC

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PDAC received a total of six proposed emergent positions. These were assessed in accordance with Governance Policy 10.4 and they did not meet the definition of emergent issues. Two of the proposed emergent positions were related to a curriculum delay and this item will be discussed under 12.1.

## 6.0 CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENT ISSUES FROM MEMBERS

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The following emergent and extra ordinary motions were brought forward by the assembly for consideration to be added to the Order Paper. These will require a 2/3 majority to pass:

### **MOTION 5/SGM2021**

**Moved** by St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools

**RESOLVED THAT**, the emergent Mental Health Funding resolution from STAR Catholic School Division be added to the 2021 Spring General meeting Order Paper.

**CARRIED** (Y: 70.5%)

### **MOTION 6/SGM2021**

**Moved** by St Albert Public School Division

**THAT**, the emergent Environmental Literacy resolution from St. Albert Public Schools be added to the 2021 Spring General meeting Order Paper.

**DEFEATED** (N: 41.7%)

### **MOTION 7/SGM2021**

**Moved** by Pembina Hills School Division

**THAT**, the extraordinary "Alberta Education Grant" motion from Pembina Hills School Division be added to the 2021 Spring General meeting Order Paper.

**CARRIED** (Y: 73.3%)

## 7.0 ADOPTION OF ORDER PAPER

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### **MOTION 8/SGM2021** (Procedural)

**Moved** by D. Scott, Director and **Seconded** by C. Dumont, Director

**THAT**, The Order Paper for the 2021 Spring General Meeting be adopted as circulated in the SGM 2021 Bylaw and Policies Bulletin.

**CARRIED** by unanimous consent (Y: 100.0%)

## 8.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 16, 2020 FALL GENERAL MEETING

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### **MOTION 9/SGM2021** (Procedural)

**Moved** by C. Dumont, Director and **Seconded** by D. Scott, Director

**THAT**, The minutes of the 2020 ASBA Fall General Meeting be approved as circulated in the SGM 2021 Bylaw and Policies Bulletin.

**CARRIED** by unanimous consent (Y: 100.0%)

## 9.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

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No business from the 2020 Fall General Meeting Minutes rose.

## 10.0 APPROVAL OF 2021/2022 BUDGET

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### **MOTION 10/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by L. Jess, President and **Seconded** by B. Toone, Director

**THAT**, The Alberta School Boards Association budget for the period September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED** (77.0% of Boards; 83.89% of Students)

## 11.0 BYLAW AMENDMENTS

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### 11.1 Omnibus Amendment (Bylaw 5.2.2, 5.2.3 & 15.2.1 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.4, and 15.2.5

#### **MOTION 11/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by C. Dumont, Director and **Seconded** by A. Hrynyk, Director

**THAT**, ASBA Bylaws 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 15.2.1, 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.4, and 15.2.5 be amended to change Lakeland Catholic Schools to Lakeland Roman Catholic Separate School Division.

**CARRIED** (100.0% of Boards; 100.0% of Students)

### 11.1.2 Omnibus Amendment (Bylaw 5.2.2, 5.2.3 & 15.2.1 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.4, and 15.2.5

#### **MOTION 12/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by C. Dumont, Director and **Seconded** by A. Hrynyk, Director

**THAT**, ASBA Bylaws 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 15.2.1, 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.4, and 15.2.5 be amended to update the names of Full Members as circulated in the Budget and Bylaws Bulletin.

**CARRIED** (100.0% of Boards; 100.0% of Students)

### 11.2 Omnibus Amendment (Bylaw 15.1, 15.4 & Schedule A)

#### **MOTION 13/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by D. Scott, Director and **Seconded** by D. Engel, Director

That ASBA Bylaws 15.1, 15.4, and Schedule A be amended as circulated in the Budget and Bylaws Bulletin.

**CARRIED** (98.4% of Boards; 98.37% Students)

### 11.3 Omnibus Amendment (Bylaw 1)

#### **MOTION 14/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by C. Dumont, Director and **Seconded** by P. Rath, Director

**THAT**, sections of Bylaw 1 be amended to comply with changes to legislation, as circulated in the Budget and Bylaws Bulletin.

**CARRIED** (100.0% of Boards; 100.0% of Students)

### 11.4 Bylaw Amendment – Quorum at General Meetings

#### **MOTION 15/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by Calgary Catholic School Division and **Seconded** by Edmonton Public Schools

**THAT**, ASBA Bylaw 10 be amended to include a new section 10.5, as follows: A quorum for any General Meeting shall consist of a majority of the Full Member Boards. The business of a General Meeting will not proceed if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting.

**CARRIED** (100.0% of Boards; 100.0% of Students)

### 11.5 Bylaw 14.1 Amendment – Amendment to Bylaws

#### **MOTION 16/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by Calgary Catholic School Division and **Seconded** by Edmonton Public Schools

**THAT**, ASBA Bylaw 14.1, be amended as follows: Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made at a General Meeting, preferably at the Spring General Meeting.

**CARRIED** (100.0% of Boards; 100.0% of Students)

## **12.0 POLICY POSITIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### 12.1 Trustee Elections

#### **MOTION 17/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by S. Baziuk, Director and **Seconded** by D. Engel, Director

That, The ASBA work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and local municipalities, to ensure that Trustee nominees on the ballot and that the process and eligibility of voting for Public, Separate, and Francophone Trustees are clearly identified.

**CARRIED** (98.3% of Boards; 99.63% of Students)

## 13.0 EMERGENT ISSUES ADDED TO THE ORDER PAPER BY PDAC OR MEMBERS

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### 13.1 Mental Health Funding

#### **MOTION 18/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools

**THAT**, Alberta School Boards Association advocate to the Alberta government that dedicated support and funding for accredited mental health and family counseling professionals and facilities be made available to school boards to address the significant, increased mental health and social need impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; in order to allow for timely and accessible mitigation of long-term psychosocial impact effects of the pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this resolution will repeal and replace existing position statements 7.18 and 22.8.

**DEFEATED** (43.3% of Boards; 26.88% of students)

## 14.0 EMERGENT POSITION STATEMENTS SPONSORED BY FULL MEMBER BOARDS

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### 14.1 K-6 Curriculum Delay

#### **MOTION 19/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by Evergreen Catholic Schools and Edmonton Public Schools and **Seconded** by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

**THAT**, the ASBA shall formally and actively lobby the provincial government to delay the proposed K-6 curriculum to allow for further review to address the shortfalls that have been identified:

1. Having sufficient and meaningful consultation with primary stakeholder groups.
2. For the government to work with school boards and educational partners to create a first class curriculum with suitable implementation dates for students and teachers.

#### **MOTION 20/SGM2021 – SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION** (Procedural)

**Moved** by Rocky View School Division and **Seconded** by Calgary Catholic School Division

**THAT**, The ASBA continues to formally and actively lobby the provincial government to work with school boards and education partners to create a first-class curriculum with reasonable implementation dates for students and teachers, through sufficient and meaningful consultation with primary stakeholder groups.

**DEFEATED** (28.8%)

#### **MOTION 21/SGM2021 - AMENDMENT** (Procedural)

**Moved** by Rocky View School Division and **Seconded** by St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools

**THAT**, the ASBA shall formally and actively lobby the provincial government ~~on to delay~~ the proposed K-6 curriculum to allow for further review and a rewrite to address the shortfalls that have been identified:

1. Having sufficient and meaningful consultation with primary stakeholder groups.

2. For the government to work with school boards and educational partners to create a first class curriculum with suitable implementation dates for students and teachers.

**MOTION 22/SGM2021 – CALLING QUESTION ON AMENDMENT** (Procedural)

**Moved** by Red Deer Public Schools and **Seconded** by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

**THAT**, the Assembly call the question on the amendment to item 15.1.

**CARRIED** (94.9%)

**AMENDMENT DEFEATED** (41.4%)

**MOTION 23/SGM2021 - AMENDMENT** (Procedural)

**Moved** by Grasslands Public Schools and **Seconded** by Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division

**THAT**, the ASBA shall formally and actively lobby the provincial government to delay the proposed K-6 curriculum to allow for further review ~~and a rewrite~~ to address the ~~shortfalls~~ **concerns** that have been identified:

1. Having sufficient and meaningful consultation with primary stakeholder groups.
2. For the government to work with school boards and educational partners to create a first class curriculum with suitable implementation dates for students and teachers.

**CARRIED** (54.2%)

**MOTION 24/SGM2021 - AMENDMENT** (Procedural)

**Moved** by Chinook's Edge School Division and **Seconded** by Living Waters Catholic Separate School Division

**THAT**, the ASBA shall formally and actively lobby the provincial government to delay the proposed K-6 curriculum to allow for further review to address the **concerns** that have been identified ~~and~~:

1. Having sufficient and meaningful consultation with primary stakeholder groups.
2. For the government to work with school boards and educational partners to create a first class curriculum with ~~staggered-suitable~~ implementation ~~of subjects and grades~~ **dates** for students and teachers.

**CARRIED** (79.3%)

**MOTION 25/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by Evergreen Catholic Schools and Edmonton Public Schools and **Seconded** by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

**THAT**, the ASBA shall formally and actively lobby the provincial government to delay the proposed K-6 curriculum to allow for further review to address the concerns that have been identified:

1. Having sufficient and meaningful consultation with primary stakeholder groups.
2. For the government to work with school boards and educational partners to create a first class curriculum with staggered implementation of subjects and grades for students and teachers

**CARRIED** (89.8% of Boards; 80.62% of Students)

## 15.0 EXTRAORDINARY MOTIONS SPONSORED BY FULL MEMBER BOARDS

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### 15.1 Alberta Education Grant (Substantive)

#### **MOTION 26/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by Pembina Hills School Division

**THAT**, a as the majority of school boards do not support the draft K-6 curriculum that the ASBA should not take the \$75,000 engagement grant being offered by Alberta Education.

#### **MOTION 27/SGM2021 – SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION** (Procedural)

**Moved** by Chinook's Edge School Division and **Seconded** by Calgary Catholic School Division

**THAT**, a decision on the acceptance of the \$75,000 curriculum engagement grant funding be made following a Board Chairs and Special Meeting of the ASBA Membership.

**CARRIED** (57.6%)

#### **MOTION 28/SGM2021** (Substantive)

**Moved** by Pembina Hills School Division

**THAT**, a decision on the acceptance of the \$75,000 curriculum engagement grant funding be made following a Board Chairs and Special Meeting of the ASBA Membership.

**DEFEATED** (15.8% of Boards; 21.36% of Students)

## 16.0 ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

## **Omnibus Amendment – Bylaws 1.1.8, 2.3-2.4, 3.3, 14.3, 15.8-15.10, 16.1, Schedule A6.3b, and Editorial Amendments**

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Sponsored by ASBA Board of Directors

### **Proposed Resolution**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, a new clause be added as section 1.1.8 to the ASBA Bylaws as follows and all subsequent section numbers throughout 1 be amended accordingly:

1. 1.1.8 “Fraternal Organizations” means The Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association, the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l’Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, section 2.3 of the ASBA Bylaws be struck in its entirety and replaced with amendments and the addition of 2.4, as follows:

2. 2.3 Full Members or Associate Members are expected to pay fees in a timely manner.  
2.4 Full members or Associate Members are required to provide notice of membership withdrawal prior to membership fee invoice date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, section 3.3 of the ASBA Bylaws be struck in its entirety.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, section 14.3 of the ASBA Bylaws be amended accordingly:

3. 14.3 At least thirty days Written Notice of any Bylaw amendment shall be provided to each Full Member.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, sections 15.8-15.10 of the ASBA Bylaws be struck in its entirety and replaced as follows:

4. 15.8 Fraternal Organizations
  - 15.8.1 The Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association, the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l’Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities) shall be known as the ASBA’s Fraternal Organizations.
  - 15.8.2 Fraternal Organizations may attend non-confidential aspects of Board of Directors meetings as non-voting observers and at the expense of their respective organization.
  - 15.8.3 The President, Vice-President, and Appointed representatives of any ASBA Fraternal Organization are not eligible to concurrently hold the position of ASBA President, Vice-President, Director, or Alternate Director.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** section 16.1 of the ASBA Bylaws be amended accordingly:

5. 16.1 A public reporting process of placing expense reports online is applicable to the ASBA President, Vice-President, Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** section A6.3b of the ASBA Bylaws be amended accordingly:

6. b. The President or Vice-President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association , the Public School Boards Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** sections of the ASBA Bylaws be updated to accommodate editorial amendments reflecting the change in title from "Executive Director" to "Chief Executive Officer."

### **Background**

Over the spring of 2021, the Association engaged in a Governance Review process completed by MNP. Upon conclusion of MNP's review of the Association's Bylaws and Governance Policies, final deliverables were provided to PDAC for review and recommendation. At the September 9, 2021 meeting of the ASBA Board of Directors, these deliverables were recommended by the Board of Directors for consideration by the Membership at the 2021 Fall General Meeting.

It should further be noted that fee payment deadline components removed from Bylaw 2.3 were moved to Governance Policy 16, "Full and Associate Members Fees", as a result of the Governance Review.

### **Attachments**

- 1) ASBA Bylaws – Track Changes Enabled ([Attachment A](#))



# ASBA BYLAWS

Revised September ~~June~~ 2021

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## Bylaw 1: Definitions and Interpretation

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### 1. Definitions and Interpretation

#### 1.1. In these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1.1.1. “Alternate Director” means a representative of a Zone or Metro Board who shall fill the position of Director in the event of the Director’s absence or inability to act.
- 1.1.2. “Associate Member” of the Association means:
  - 1.1.2.1. Elected First Nations boards of education under the auspices of band councils; or
  - 1.1.2.2. Métis boards of education that operate school buildings, in respect of whom the Association has received the membership fee as invoiced for the current membership year or received evidence of intention to pay satisfactory to the Board of Directors.
- 1.1.3. “Association” or “The Association” means the Alberta School Boards Association.
- 1.1.4. “Board” means the board of trustees of a school division, the regional authority of a Francophone education region, or an official trustee as defined in the Education Act.
- 1.1.5. “Board of Directors” means the Board of Directors of the Association, established pursuant to the provisions of these Bylaws.
- 1.1.6. “Director” means a member of the Association’s Board of Directors who represents a Zone or Metro Board.
- 1.1.7. “Education Act” means the Education Act being Chapter E-0.3 of the Statutes of Alberta, 2012 as amended from time to time or any successor legislation hereinafter enacted.
- 1.1.7.1.1.8. “Fraternal Organizations” means The Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association, the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l’Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities).
- 1.1.8.1.1.9. “Full Member” of the Association means:
  - 1.1.8.1.1.9.1. A board of trustees of a school division, or the regional authority of a Francophone education region that has publicly elected members according to the Local Authorities Election Act or in the case of Lloydminster the Local Government Election Act, and that is an operating board as defined in the Alberta School Boards Association Act; or

~~1.1.8.2.1.1.9.2.~~ 1.1.9.2. A board of trustees of a publicly supported school system in the City of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, in respect of whom the Association has received the membership fee as invoiced for the current membership year or received evidence of intention to pay satisfactory to the Board of Directors.

~~1.1.9.1.1.10.~~ 1.1.10. “General Election” means an election held for all Boards in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.

~~1.1.10.1.1.11.~~ 1.1.11. “General Meeting” means one of the Association’s biannual meetings; either the Spring General Meeting or the Fall General Meeting.

~~1.1.11.1.1.12.~~ 1.1.12. “Metro Board” means any one of the four public or separate school boards in the cities of Calgary or Edmonton with Full Member status.

~~1.1.12.1.1.13.~~ 1.1.13. “Minister of Education” means the Minister of Education for the Province of Alberta.

~~1.1.13.1.1.14.~~ 1.1.14. “President” means President of the Association and Chair of the Board of Directors.

~~1.1.14.1.1.15.~~ 1.1.15. “Special General Meeting” means a meeting of the Association called by the Board of Directors, or by the President, pursuant to the provisions of these Bylaws. Unless the context otherwise requires, provisions in these Bylaws that apply to a General Meeting also apply to a Special General Meeting.

~~1.1.15.1.1.16.~~ 1.1.16. “Student” means any person enrolled in a Full Member jurisdiction as reported by Alberta Education.

~~1.1.16.1.1.17.~~ 1.1.17. “Substantive Motion” means a motion before the membership at a General Meeting, and includes motions relating to the Association budget, Bylaws, and policy positions.

~~1.1.17.1.1.18.~~ 1.1.18. “Trustee” means a member of a Board with Full Member status, or an official trustee as defined in the Education Act.

~~1.1.18.1.1.19.~~ 1.1.19. “Vice-President” means Vice-President of the Association and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors.

~~1.1.19.1.1.20.~~ 1.1.20. “Written Notice” means notice of a meeting that:

~~1.1.19.1.1.20.1.~~ 1.1.20.1. Specifies the purpose, date, time and place of the meetings, and

~~1.1.19.2.1.1.20.2.~~ 1.1.20.2. Is delivered by any electronic means or post, meeting required timelines, exclusive of the day on which the notice is sent or mailed and exclusive of the day for which notice is given.

~~1.1.20.1.1.21.~~ 1.1.21. “Zone” means a subset of all Boards established on a geographical or other basis pursuant to the provisions of these Bylaws.

- 1.2. In these Bylaws the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

## Bylaw 2: Entitlement of Full and Associate Members

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### 2. Entitlement of Full and Associate Members

#### 2.1. Full Members are entitled to:

- 2.1.1. Association communications materials except those designated as confidential to specific audiences;
- 2.1.2. Direct services from Association personnel at fees established annually by the Association;
- 2.1.3. Access to Association conferences and workshops at a conference rate established by the Association; and
- 2.1.4. Unrestricted participation in the business affairs of the Association.

#### 2.2. Associate Members are entitled to:

- 2.2.1. Association communication materials except those designated as confidential to specific audiences;
- 2.2.2. Direct services from Association personnel at fees established annually by the Association;
- 2.2.3. Access to Association conferences and workshops at a conference rate established by the Association; and
- 2.2.4. Attendance as guests at General Meetings at the General Meeting rate established for Full Members.

~~2.3. In the case of either Full Members or Associate Members are expected to pay fees in a timely manner, if within ninety (90) days of the membership fee invoice date, neither of the following has been received by the Association:~~

~~2.3.2.4. Full members or Associate Members are required to provide notice of membership withdrawal prior to membership fee invoice date.~~

~~2.3.1. Payment of the membership fee; nor~~

~~2.3.2. Evidence of intention to pay satisfactory to the Board of Directors, the member ceases to be a Full Member in good standing or Associate Member in good standing, and shall not be entitled to any entitlement of a Full Member or Associate Member noted in these Bylaws until the member has been brought into good standing and reinstated by the Board of Directors.~~

## Bylaw 3: Board of Directors and Executive Committee Composition

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### 3. Board of Directors and Executive Committee Composition

#### 3.1. The Association's Board of Directors shall consist of:

- 3.1.1. The President;
- 3.1.2. The Vice-President;
- 3.1.3. One Director representing each geographic Zone, excepting where any such Zone is made up of more than 20 Boards, then that Zone shall be represented by two Directors; and
- 3.1.4. One Director from each Metro Board.
- 3.2. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall consist of the:
  - 3.2.1. President;
  - 3.2.2. Vice President; and
  - 3.2.3. Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~ (non-voting).
- ~~3.3. One representative from each of the following organizations may attend non-confidential aspects of Board of Directors meetings as non-voting observers and at the expense of their respective organization:~~
  - ~~3.3.1. Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (Zone 7);~~
  - ~~3.3.2. Public School Boards Association of Alberta (Zone 8); and,~~
  - ~~3.3.3. Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities) (Zone 9).~~

## Bylaw 4: Honourary President

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### 4. Honourary President

- 4.1. The Minister of Education shall be the honorary president of the Association.

## Bylaw 5: Board of Directors Members

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### 5. Board of Directors Members

#### 5.1. Eligibility

- 5.1.1. Every candidate for or occupant of the office of President, Vice- President, Director or Alternate Director shall be a Trustee of a Full Member Board.
- 5.1.2. Any member of the Board of Directors ceasing to be a Trustee shall vacate his/her office, which shall be filled in accordance with provisions in these Bylaws.
- 5.1.3. An individual in receipt of the nomination for a publicly elected provincial or federal office, or who currently occupies a publicly elected provincial or federal office shall not be eligible to concurrently hold the position of President, Vice-President, Director or Alternate Director.

5.1.4. An individual occupying any of the following positions shall not be eligible to concurrently hold the position of President, Vice-President, Director, or Alternate Director:

- Zone Chair/Vice-Chair;
- Appointed representatives of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (Zone 7), the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (Zone 8), and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities – Zone 9) who attend Board of Directors meetings as observers; or
- The President or Vice-President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (Zone 7), the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (Zone 8), and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities – Zone 9).

## 5.2. Term

5.2.1. The President, Vice-President, and Directors shall be elected for a two year term and shall be eligible for re-election for one successive term of two years. The President, Vice-President, and Directors may be elected to a previously held position for more than two terms provided such re-election occurs at least one term following conclusion of the first two terms.

5.2.2. Director terms shall commence every November of even-numbered years for one Director and one Alternate Director for:

- Calgary Catholic School Division;
- Edmonton Public School Board;
- Zone 2/3;
- Zone 4; and
- Zone 6.

5.2.3. Director terms shall commence every November of odd-numbered years for one Director and one Alternate Director for:

- Calgary Board of Education;
- Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division;
- Zone 1;
- Zone 2/3; and
- Zone 5.

## 5.3. President and Vice President Elections

- 5.3.1. Election of the President and the Vice-President shall take place at a General Meeting of the Association, normally at the Fall General Meeting immediately following a General Election, and two years following (i.e. November of odd-numbered years).
- 5.3.2. Nominations shall be made from the floor and shall require a seconder.
- 5.3.3. Voting shall be by secret ballot on the basis of one vote per Full Member Board in attendance.
- 5.3.4. The candidate receiving a simple majority of votes will be the successful candidate. Announcement of results shall be limited to identifying the successful candidate.
- 5.3.5. The President and Vice-President shall take office at the conclusion of the General Meeting at which they are elected.
- 5.3.6. Notwithstanding Bylaw 5.1.1 and 5.1.2, in the year of a General Election, if the President and/or Vice-President does not run for the office of trustee or is defeated in the General Election, the President and/or Vice-President may complete his/her term of office through to the election of the new President and/or Vice-President at the General Meeting.
- 5.4. Director Elections
  - 5.4.1. Election of the Directors shall be completed and confirmed in writing to the Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~ of the Association before the opening of the General Meeting specified in these Bylaws. Members so elected shall take office at the conclusion of the General Meeting.
  - 5.4.2. If a member of the Board of Directors is subsequently elected President or Vice-President, then his/her office as a member of the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Alternate Director, until such time as a new Director is elected.
- 5.5. Leaves of Absence
  - 5.5.1. Any member of the Board of Directors seeking a publicly elected provincial or federal office, including the nomination for, shall take a leave of absence from the Board of Directors.
  - 5.5.2. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to grant leaves of absence to its members, including determination of conditions and length, subject to provisions contained in these Bylaws.
- 5.6. Vacancy
  - 5.6.1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, it shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President.
  - 5.6.2. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President, notwithstanding any provisions in these Bylaws governing the election of a Vice-President, the

Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy from among its members until a by-election can be held at a General Meeting.

- 5.6.3. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Directors, the Metro Board or Zone shall arrange to fill the vacancy.
- 5.6.4. If a Metro Board or Zone fails to appoint a Director to the Board of Directors in accordance with the requirements of these Bylaws, then the Board of Directors may arrange to fill the vacancy.
- 5.6.5. In the event a Director fails to attend three consecutive meetings without giving due and timely notice as to the cause of non-attendance, the Board of Directors may declare the seat vacant and may arrange to fill the vacancy.
- 5.6.6. Any Trustee who fills a vacancy in the office of President, Vice-President, or Director shall be deemed to have completed a term if they served in that capacity for more than twelve months.

## **Bylaw 6: Representation and Voting at Board of Directors Meetings and at Executive Committee Meetings**

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### **6. Representation and Voting at Board of Directors Meetings and at Executive Committee Meetings**

- 6.1. At Board of Directors meetings:
  - 6.1.1. The President, Vice-President, and all Directors each carry one vote.
  - 6.1.2. Quorum is seven voting members of the Board of Directors.
  - 6.1.3. A majority vote of the members present, including the Chair, shall decide all questions unless otherwise required by these Bylaws.
  - 6.1.4. In the event of a tie vote, the question is lost.
  - 6.1.5. Each Director's vote shall be recorded when a recorded vote is requested by any Director prior to the vote being taken.
- 6.2. An Alternate Director who attends a Board of Directors meeting in the place of a Director shall be entitled to vote.
- 6.3. In the event that both the Director and the Alternate Director are unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, the chair of the Zone or Metro Board that the Director represents may attend that meeting of the Board of Directors and shall be entitled to vote.
- 6.4. At Executive Committee meetings where consensus is not possible, the President shall determine the course of action to be taken.

## **Bylaw 7: Executive Duties**

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## 7. Executive Duties

- 7.1. The President shall:
  - 7.1.1. Provide leadership to the Association, Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
  - 7.1.2. Be accountable to the Board of Directors and to the membership.
  - 7.1.3. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.
  - 7.1.4. Open and preside at all conferences or General Meetings of the Association.
  - 7.1.5. Act as the primary spokesperson for the Association.
  - 7.1.6. Submit or cause to be submitted to each General Meeting a report of the Board of Directors as to financial standing and general business of the Association.
- 7.2. The President is (*ex officio*) a member of all committees.
- 7.3. The Vice-President shall take the place of the President in the event of the President's absence or inability to preside.

## Bylaw 8: Board of Directors Powers and Duties

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### 8. Board of Directors Powers and Duties

- 8.1. The business and affairs of the Association shall be under the direction and control of the Board of Directors, which may exercise all the powers of the Association which are not required by the Alberta School Boards Association Act, or by these Bylaws, to be exercised by the Association in a General Meeting.
- 8.2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board of Directors:
  - 8.2.1. Shall appoint a ~~n-Executive Director as~~ Chief Executive Officer of the Association, establish terms of employment and salary, prescribe duties, and monitor and evaluate performance;
  - 8.2.2. May delegate any or all of its powers to the ~~Executive Director~~ Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Committee established pursuant to these Bylaws, or a committee appointed by it;
  - 8.2.3. May appoint either from its own members or others such special committees as it may from time to time deem advisable and prescribe their duties and functions;
  - 8.2.4. Shall pay the reasonable expenses of its members and others;
  - 8.2.5. Shall pay a per diem allowance, as determined by the Association's budget, to its members and others;

- 8.2.6. Shall make provision for the payment of honoraria, as determined by the Association's budget, to Board of Directors members;
- 8.2.7. May adopt policy positions on matters which arise between General Meetings and shall submit these for ratification at the next General Meeting;
- 8.2.8. Shall designate a newly-created board to belong to a Zone, on an interim basis. Final designation to which Zone such Board shall belong shall occur at the next General Meeting following the date of creation of such Board;
- 8.2.9. Shall engage in strategic planning activities which establish and review short- and long-range plans to guide the Association's business and affairs;
- 8.2.10. Shall communicate and support the Association's position on issues, policies, and practices to appropriate internal and external publics;
- 8.2.11. Shall have the authority to grant honorary life memberships in the Association, which shall not entail the payment of fees by the recipient;
- 8.2.12. Shall delegate to the Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~ responsibility for the establishment of fair salaries and reasonable working conditions for Association staff and contractors.

## Bylaw 9: Board of Directors Meetings

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### 9. Board of Directors Meetings

- 9.1. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as may be set by resolution of the Board of Directors.
- 9.2. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by providing a written statement to the Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~ detailing the business in respect of which the meeting is desired by:
  - 9.2.1. The Executive Committee; or
  - 9.2.2. A majority of voting members of the Board of Directors.
- 9.3. Upon request for a special meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~ shall call such meeting by providing:
  - 9.3.1. Eight days Written Notice to each voting member of the Board of Directors; or
  - 9.3.2. Oral or fewer than eight days Written Notice following receipt of written consent or waiver from each voting member of the Board of Directors.
- 9.4. Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to Full Members of the Association unless a majority of voting members of the Board of Directors elect to hold part of the meeting in camera.

## **Bylaw 10: General Meetings**

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### **10. General Meetings**

- 10.1. Two General Meetings of the Association shall be held each year.
- 10.2. Unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors:
  - 10.2.1. The Spring General Meeting shall be held during the first full week of June; and
  - 10.2.2. The Fall General Meeting shall be held during the third full week in November.
- 10.3. The location of the General Meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 10.4. At least thirty days Written Notice of any General Meeting shall be provided to each Full Member and Associate Member.
- 10.5. A quorum for any General Meeting shall consist of a majority of the Full Member Boards. The business of a General Meeting will not proceed if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting.

## **Bylaw 11: Special General Meetings**

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### **11. Special General Meetings**

- 11.1. Special General Meetings of the Association to deal with high priority or emergent issues that require urgent direction/action and which have significant implications for Boards shall be held:
  - 11.1.1. Following an affirmative vote of seven voting members of the Board of Directors at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors; or
  - 11.1.2. At the call of the President, either on their own determination of such a need, or as the result of the President being notified of by a group of Members representing not less than 40 percent of the current number of non-Metro Full Member Boards and not less than 40 percent of the current number of Full Member Metro Boards. This Special General Meeting to be called in accordance with the time frame indicated by the requesting Boards while remaining in compliance with Bylaw 11.2 below.
- 11.2. At least three business days Written Notice of any Special General Meeting shall be provided to each Full Member. Such notice shall provide background detail to enable Boards to prepare for the Special General Meeting.

## **Bylaw 12: Representation and Voting at General Meetings**

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### **12. Representation and Voting at General Meetings**

12.1. The Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~ shall, subject to direction from the Board of Directors, make all necessary arrangements for registration of delegates and for voting as may be necessary.

12.2. Attendance

12.2.1. Any Trustee, upon completion of registration, shall be entitled to attend a General Meeting.

12.2.2. It is the duty of all delegates, including members of the Board of Directors, to register prior to attending a General Meeting.

12.3. Voting

12.3.1. The Chair of each Full Member Board has the power to cast the vote to which each Full Member is entitled, unless another Trustee for that Board is designated, in writing, to the Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~, prior to the General Meeting, or in an emergency situation, by the Full Member Board at the General Meeting.

12.3.2. Unless otherwise required by these Bylaws or the approved rules of procedure governing disposal of resolutions, all Substantive Motions will be determined under the double majority voting method, as follows:

12.3.2.1. Sixty percent or more of Full Member Boards who are in attendance, who cast a vote, and who vote in the affirmative, based upon one vote per Full Member Board; and

12.3.2.2. Full Member Boards who are in attendance, who cast a vote, and who vote in the affirmative, represent 60 percent or more of the Students registered for the most recently reported period with Full Member Boards who voted in the affirmative.

12.3.3. For the purposes of Section 12.3.2.2, the percentage of Students enrolled in a Full Member Board shall be determined by:

12.3.3.1. Utilizing the total student enrollment figures for the most recent reporting period, as published by Alberta Education; and

12.3.3.2. Dividing the number of students enrolled in each Full Member Board by the total number of students enrolled in all Full Member Boards in attendance, who cast a vote, resulting in a percentage (rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent).

12.3.4. Results of the voting on Substantive Motions shall indicate how each Board cast its ballot.

12.3.5. Parliamentary motions and amendments to motions will be determined on the basis of one vote per Full Member Board and by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise required by Robert's Rules of Order or the approved rules of procedure governing disposal of resolutions.

- 12.4. A balloting committee shall be appointed at the opening of every General Meeting. It is the duty of the balloting committee to conduct the ballot voting.

## **Bylaw 13: Association Budget and Membership Fees**

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### **13. Association Budget and Membership Fees**

- 13.1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be September 1 to August 31.
- 13.2. The Association budget shall be adopted at the Spring General Meeting of the year prior to the fiscal year for which it is established.
- 13.3. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in these Bylaws, or in the approved rules of procedure governing disposal of resolutions, the budget shall be open to amendment until adopted.
- 13.4. The Association budget, including analysis and fees assessed to Member Boards shall be presented in writing to Full Member Boards at least sixty days prior to the day the Spring General Meeting is to commence.
- 13.5. The fees assessment included in the budget shall be comprised of the:
  - 13.5.1. Formula for determining the annual fees including the basic fee and the weight rate per student enrolment;
  - 13.5.2. Total annual fees payable by each Full Member Board;
  - 13.5.3. Number of students used in the calculation of fees payable by a Board which shall be the total student enrollment reported to Alberta Education in the most recent reporting period;
  - 13.5.4. Annual fees payable for any Full Member Board which shall not exceed ten percent of the total annual Full Member membership fees; and
  - 13.5.5. Annual fees payable for each Associate Member which shall be \$500 less than the basic membership fee for Full Member Boards.

## Bylaw 14: Amendments to the Bylaws

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### 14. Amendments to the Bylaws

- 14.1. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made at a General Meeting, preferably at the Spring General Meeting.
- 14.2. An amendment to these Bylaws shall take effect on the day following the conclusion of the Spring General Meeting at which such amendment is made, unless an effective date other than the close of the Spring General Meeting is specified in the resolution.
- 14.3. At least ~~thirtysixty~~ days Written Notice of any Bylaw amendment shall be provided to each Full Member.

## Bylaw 15: Zones of the Association

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### 15. Zones of the Association

- 15.1. The President or their designate is an ex-officio non-voting member of all geographic Zones.
- 15.2. All Full Member Boards shall belong to a Zone of the Association.
- 15.3. Subject to the provisions of these Bylaws, for the purpose of the formation of geographic Zones of the Association, the Province shall be divided as follows and each geographic Zone shall consist of designated Boards as follows.
  - 15.3.1. Zone 1
    - Fort Vermilion School Division
    - Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools
    - Grande Prairie Public School Division
    - High Prairie School Division
    - Holy Family Catholic Regional Division
    - Northland School Division
    - Peace River School Division
    - Peace Wapiti Public School Division
    - Conseil Scolaire du Nord-Ouest
  - 15.3.2. Zone 2/3
    - Aspen View Public Schools
    - Black Gold School Division
    - Buffalo Trail Public Schools
    - East Central Alberta Catholic School Division
    - East Central Francophone
    - Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division
    - Edmonton Public School Board
    - Elk Island Catholic Schools
    - Elk Island Public Schools

- Evergreen Catholic Separate School Division
- Fort McMurray Public School Division
- Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School Division
- Grande Yellowhead Public School Division
- Consiel Scolaire Centre Nord
- Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division
- Lakeland Roman Catholic Separate School Division
- Living Waters Catholic Separate School Division
- Lloydminster Public School Division No. 99
- Lloydminster Catholic School Division
- Northern Gateway Public Schools
- Northern Lights Public Schools
- Parkland School Division
- Pembina Hills School Division
- St. Albert Public Schools
- St. Paul School Division
- St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate School Division
- Sturgeon Public Schools
- Yellowknife Education District No. 1
- Yellowknife Catholic Schools

15.3.3. Zone 4

- Battle River School Division
- Chinook's Edge School Division
- Clearview Public Schools
- Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
- Red Deer Public Schools
- Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
- Wild Rose School Division
- Wolf Creek Public Schools

15.3.4. Zone 5

- Calgary Catholic School Division
- Calgary Board of Education
- Canadian Rockies School Division
- Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division
- Foothills School Division
- Golden Hills School Division
- Prairie Land Public School Division
- Rocky View School Division
- Conseil FrancoSud

15.3.5. Zone 6

- Grasslands Public Schools

- Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate School Division
- Horizon School Division
- Lethbridge School Division
- Livingstone Range School Division
- The Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
- Medicine Hat Public School Division
- Palliser School Division
- Prairie Rose Public Schools
- Westwind School Division

15.4. Each geographic Zone numbered 1, 2/3, 4, 5, or 6 shall be governed by these Bylaws and Schedule A of the Alberta School Boards Association Bylaws, together with such other Bylaws established by the Zone which are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Association.

15.5. The objects of the geographic Zones shall be to:

15.5.1. Provide a forum for Members to network, share information, generate solutions, advise ASBA Board of Directors and Alberta Education Representatives, grow as a trustee or as a board and support good governance;

15.5.2. Inform and support ASBA's mission, vision and strategic direction through application and consultation at the Zone level;

15.5.3. Work in partnership for the mutual benefit of Members;

15.5.4. Serve as a conduit on issues and concerns of Members between General Meetings;

15.5.5. Support a harmonized approach to advocacy and communication efforts through the development of ASBA advocacy initiatives informed by Zone contexts and/or coordinated at the Zone level where applicable; and

15.5.6. Aid in building mutual understanding of and ensuring consideration of Zone contexts throughout education priorities and issues.

15.6. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors will meet annually with Zone Chairs to assist each other in communication of advocacy at the zone and provincial level and to promote the mission and strategic plan of the provincial organization.

15.7. The Board of Directors will collaborate with Zone Chairs annually to support a policy process for bringing policy proposals forward to the provincial level.

#### 15.8. Fraternal Organizations

15.8.1. The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities) shall be known as the ASBA's Fraternal Organizations.

15.8.2. Fraternal Organizations may attend non-confidential aspects of Board of Directors meetings as non-voting observers and at the expense of their respective organization.

15.8.3. The President, Vice-President, and Appointed representatives of any ASBA Fraternal Organization are not eligible to concurrently hold the position of ASBA President, Vice-President, Director, or Alternate Director.

#### ~~15.7. Zone 7~~

~~15.7.1. Zone 7 of the Alberta School Boards Association shall be open to all Roman Catholic boards in the Province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories of Canada.~~

~~15.7.2. Zone 7 shall be known as the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association.~~

#### ~~15.8. Zone 8~~

~~15.8.1. Zone 8 of the Alberta School Boards Association shall be open to all public boards, other than Roman Catholics, in the Province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories of Canada.~~

~~15.8.2. Zone 8 shall be known as the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.~~

#### ~~15.9. Zone 9~~

~~15.9.1. Zone 9 of the Alberta School Boards Association shall be open to all Francophone authorities in the Province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories of Canada.~~

~~15.9.2. Zone 9 shall be known as the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities).~~

## Bylaw 16: Expense Disclosure

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### 16. Expense Disclosure

- 16.1. A public reporting process of placing expense reports online is applicable to~~will take effect January 1, 2016, for~~ the ASBA President, Vice-President, Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer~~Executive Director~~.

## Bylaw 17: Meetings by Electronic Means

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### 17. Meetings by Electronic Means

- 17.1. The Board of Directors may determine that a meeting be held entirely by electronic means including, without limitation, a teleconference or video conference that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

- 17.2. For the purpose of this Bylaw, a “meeting” includes a General Meeting, a Special General Meeting, a meeting of the Board of Directors, a meeting of the Executive Committee and a meeting of any other committee of the Board of Directors.
- 17.3. If the Board of Directors determine a meeting will be held by electronic means the Written Notice of that meeting must state the electronic means by which the meeting is to be held.

## **SCHEDULE A: FORMING BYLAWS FOR ZONES 1, 2/3, 4, 5 AND 6**

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(As referred to in Bylaw 15.3)

### **Bylaw A1: Membership**

- A1.1 Membership in Zones shall be determined by Bylaw 15 of the Alberta School Boards Association.

### **Bylaw A2: Finance**

- A2.1 Each Zone may set membership fees and vary same from time to time; the same to be in such sum as is necessary to cover operating expenses and such projects as may be undertaken by the Zone.

### **Bylaw A3: Meetings**

- A3.1 Each Zone shall hold an annual meeting:
  - a. During a 30-day period preceding the Fall General Meeting of the Alberta School Boards Association, such period ending eight clear days prior to the opening date of the Fall General Meeting;
  - b. In case of exceptional circumstances, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors may arrange with a Zone to hold its annual meeting on a date falling outside the 30-day period.
- A3.2 Zones shall hold a meeting during the 30-day period immediately preceding the relevant General Meeting to elect the Zone Director(s) to the Board of Directors in accordance with Bylaw 5.2.
- A3.3 Other meetings of the Zones may be held in accordance with provisions hereinafter set out in Bylaw A7.
- A3.4 Any Trustee of a member board of the Zone may attend the annual or other meeting of the Zone and take part in the business of the meeting.

### **Bylaw A4: Voting**

- A4.1 Voting for the election of the Zone Director(s) and alternate(s) to the Board of Directors of the Alberta School Boards Association shall be by secret ballot on the basis of one vote per Full Member Board. The boards of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary shall be excluded from voting for Zone Directors and the Zone Director's Alternate to the Board of Directors of the Alberta School Boards Association.

- A4.2 Voting on ordinary business or motions at annual Zone meetings shall be based upon one vote per Full Member Board in attendance, unless otherwise provided for in the Zone Bylaws.
- A4.3 Voting for Zone Chair or Vice-Chair shall be by secret ballot on the basis of one vote per Full Member Board. The election for Chair shall take place before the election for Vice-Chair.

Bylaw A5: Alberta School Boards Association Board of Directors

- A5.1 Each Zone shall elect its Director(s) and Alternate Director(s) to the Board of Directors of the Alberta School Boards Association at such time and for such terms as the Bylaws of the Association may provide.
- A5.2 The Alternate Director shall attend, participate and vote only when the Director is absent.
- A5.3 A Trustee elected to the Board of Directors of the Alberta School Boards Association shall be a trustee of a member board of the Zone other than the boards of the cities of Calgary and Edmonton.

Bylaw A6: Zone Executive

- A6.1 A member of the Zone Executive shall be a trustee of a Full Member Board of the Zone.
- A6.2 The Zone Executive shall consist of:
  - a. A Chair and Vice-Chair to be elected at large at an annual meeting, either annually or biennially;
  - b. One board representative to Zone to be elected annually by each board in the Zone; and
  - c. The Zone Director(s) or Alternate(s) representing the Zone.
- A6.3 The position of Zone Chair or Vice-Chair shall not be held by:
  - a. The ASBA President, Vice-President, Zone or Metro Director, or alternate; or
  - b. The President or Vice-President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association ~~(Zone 7)~~, the Public School Boards Association of Alberta ~~(Zone 8)~~, and the Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Federation of Francophone School Authorities—~~Zone 9~~).

- A6.4 A majority of the members of the Zone Executive shall constitute a quorum.
- A6.5 Any Zone Director ceasing to be a trustee shall vacate his/her office, which shall be filled in accordance with provisions hereinafter set out in these Bylaws.
- A6.6 If the office of Chair becomes vacant, it shall be automatically filled by the Vice- Chair.
- A6.7 If a vacancy occurs among the Directors the board or boards represented may elect a new director to fill the vacancy.

**Bylaw A7: Duties and Powers of the Zone Executive**

- A7.1 The business and affairs of the Zone shall be managed by and be under the direction of the Zone Executive.
- A7.2 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Zone Executive shall:
  - a. Appoint a Secretary-Treasurer who shall hold office until his/her successor is appointed;
  - b. Appoint such standing committees as it may deem necessary;
  - c. Appoint such delegates as may be required to represent the Zone;
  - d. Appoint, either from its own members or others, such special committees as it may from time to time deem advisable and prescribe their duties and functions;
  - e. Meet when necessary as determined by the Chair or by a majority of the members;
  - f. Forward minutes of all meetings to member boards of the Zone and to the Alberta School Boards Association;
  - g. Arrange such other meetings of the Zone as are deemed necessary to fulfill its objectives; and
  - h. Arrange to fill by election from the Zone membership a vacancy occurring during the unexpired term of office of Vice-Chair at a meeting of the Zone providing the membership of the Zone is given ten clear days' notice of the intent.

**Bylaw A8: Bylaws**

- A8.1 The Zone may establish such other Bylaws for the conduct of its affairs not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Alberta School Boards Association

**Bylaw A9: Communications**

- A9.1 The President or their designate is the official spokesperson for the Association, including geographic Zones 1, 2/3, 4, 5, and 6.
- A9.2 Any document prepared by geographic Zones that contains ASBA's name or logo and/or Zone name that is intended for public release shall require prior approval by ASBA.

# Position Statement – Internet for All

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Sponsored by Edmonton Public Schools

## Proposed Resolution

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the assembly adopt the position that internet access is essential to Alberta students, staff, and families for participation not only in public education, but also in society, and should be accessible and affordable for all; furthermore, that ASBA advocate to the federal and provincial governments on behalf of all Alberta school divisions for immediate initiatives to increase accessibility and quality and to reduce costs of internet for students, staff, and families.

## Background

Access to the internet is now a necessity. The high cost of service affects participation in school, opportunities in the job market, health care, and many other aspects of daily life for our students, staff, and families. The pandemic has highlighted how vital internet connectivity is.

Rural students have also been struggling with lack of access to reliable, affordable internet for an extended length of time. This lack of access limits their opportunity to participate in programming that they cannot obtain in their home community, which in turn limits their future options.

This motion directs ASBA to advocate to other orders of government and regulators (such as the CRTC), for immediate initiatives to increase accessibility, quality and reduce the cost of internet for students, staff, and families.

This position statement should be considered emergent given the ongoing pandemic and the importance of internet connectivity for learning.

## Attachments

N/A

## Position Statement – Accumulated Surplus

Sponsored by Evergreen Catholic Schools, seconded by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

### Proposed Resolution

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the assembly adopt the position that the Alberta Government remove the requirement of ministerial approval for the transfer of accumulated surplus funds so as to support School Board Trustees in their local decision-making autonomy.

### Background

In the Education Act, remove Section 143.1, or amend to allow boards to accumulate surplus funds that are not capital reserve funds without need for approval of the Minister.

The requirement of Minister approval to transfer funds from accumulated surplus was introduced in March 2020 when Bill 5 Fiscal Measures and Taxation Act, 2020, which amended the Education Act to add in this approval, received Royal Assent. By removing the approval needed for the transfer of surplus funds, school boards will gain access to their funds in a timelier manner. Boards can make use of any reserves when unforeseen circumstances arise. This will assist in limiting the need for reserves to accumulate at high amounts and satisfying treasury. This will also permit the school boards to govern the affairs of the school authority accordingly and meet the needs of their communities as they were elected to do so.

In the, “[United Conservatives Alberta Strong & Free Getting Alberta Back to Work](#)”, the UCP committed to:

- “Maintain or increase education funding while seeking greater efficiency by reducing administrative overhead and pushing resources to front line teachers” (page 57)
- “Reduce paperwork burdens on teachers, principals, and other school staff, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens throughout the system” (page 60)
- “The Red Tape Reduction Action Plan will cut red tape by one-third to reduce costs and speed up approvals, freeing job creators to get more Albertans back to work” (page 15)
- “Cut red tape within government to allow the public sector to focus on serving Albertans” (page 25)
- “Move from a process to outcome-based regulatory approach” (page 25)

Removing the Minister’s approval would support the UCP platform introduced in 2019. It would also be in place for any other government that comes into power to reinforce locally elected School Board autonomy.

## Attachments

- A) Legislation Resources ([Attachment A](#))

## Accumulated Surplus – Legislation Resources

Sponsored by Evergreen Catholic Schools, seconded by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Section 143.1

EDUCATION ACT

2012  
Chapter E-0.3

to use money referred to in subsection (1) or (2) for a particular capital expenditure or a particular capital project or for any other expenditure or project whether or not the expenditure or project is one for which the money was accumulated or acquired.

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), a board may effect a temporary transfer of capital funds for a period of not more than 365 days to an account for operating expenses and, on the transfer of the capital funds, the funds may be applied during that period toward operating expenses.

### **Accumulated surplus fund**

**143.1(1)** A board that establishes an accumulated surplus fund that is not a capital reserve fund or an endowment fund may make a payment, or transfer money, from the fund only with the prior approval of the Minister.

(2) The Minister may, on any conditions that the Minister prescribes, permit or require a board to make a payment, or transfer money, from an accumulated surplus fund referred to in subsection (1).

(3) This section is repealed on September 1, 2022.

2020 c3 s1

## **BILL 5**

2020

### **FISCAL MEASURES AND TAXATION ACT, 2020**

*(Assented to , 2020)*

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

#### **Education Act**

**Amends SA 2012 cE-0.3**

**1(1) The *Education Act* is amended by this section.**

**(2) The following is added after section 143:**

##### **Accumulated surplus fund**

**143.1(1)** A board that establishes an accumulated surplus fund that is not a capital reserve fund or an endowment fund may make a payment, or transfer money, from the fund only with the prior approval of the Minister.

**(2)** The Minister may, on any conditions that the Minister prescribes, permit or require a board to make a payment, or transfer money, from an accumulated surplus fund referred to in subsection (1).

**(3)** This section is repealed on September 1, 2022.

**(3) This section has effect on September 1, 2020.**

## Position Statement – Environmental Education

Sponsored by St. Albert Public Schools and Fort McMurray Public Schools

### Proposed Resolution

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the assembly adopt the position that the Alberta School Board Association support and advocate to the Minister of Education that environmental literacy and competencies be integrated, across all grades and subjects, into the Alberta K-12 curriculum.

### Background

#### The Call to Action from Alberta Students, as heard in January of 2021:

**“There is a gap we need to close and we need your help!”**

We heard from students in January of 2021 that they feel despair and hopelessness that they are not being taught the skills and knowledge that they require: **“young people lack environmental and energy, literacy, knowledge about climate—and hope for the future. Our students are asking for education that closes this gap”**.

*From: Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE).*

**This resolution is supported by the Alberta Council for Environmental Education. Their draft K-6 curriculum report (September 2021), to the Minister of Education, can be accessed through the link below.**

<https://www.abcee.org/curriculumresponse>

#### **From the Executive Summary:**

*In the review of the draft K-6 curriculum for the subjects of science, social studies, and physical education and wellness, some content regarding environmental stewardship, energy and climate change was added; **however, we found that there is much to be improved with this content and many important aspects of environmental, energy and climate change education that have not been included.** It is imperative that the new curriculum addresses environment, energy and climate change education to help students **cope with the increases in eco-anxiety that we are witnessing among youth** (as revealed in the image on Pg. 11) and to **prepare students for their future; a future which will require them to understand complex and challenging issues and to help make decisions both locally and globally.** Environmental education is well-suited to provide the meaningful and relevant context to help students make sense of their learning, to help build skills to make meaningful contributions to their communities and to give them hope for their future*

*In this report, we’ve outlined **why environmental, energy and climate change education is needed in curriculum and how this also supports the outcomes for learning as outlined in the Ministerial Order for Student Learning.** We’ve also provided additional information on the need*

*for curriculum to include these topics as Alberta, Canada and the international community address the many challenges faced by the world today. **All of this demonstrates that the curriculum needs to provide more environmental, energy and climate change education, which Alberta's new curriculum must address if we are to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need for their future.***

### **Environmental Literacy**

Environmental literacy crosses over many competencies that are needed for students to become engaged citizens in a complex and pluralistic society.

Environmental literacy is achieved through a process of *interdisciplinary environmental education*. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE, 2010) uses a broad definition of environmental literacy that incorporates literacy and competency, specifically recognizing:

- Knowledge of Environmental Processes;
- Questioning, Analysis and Interpretive Skills;
- Skills for Understanding and Addressing Environmental Issues; and
- Personal and Civic Responsibility

A review of the literature confirms that environmental literacy incorporates scientific, technological, political, economic, social and cultural principles and value systems, as well as the aesthetic, moral, ethical and spiritual understanding. We would argue that environmental literacy aligns with the awareness and work that needs to be done in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and is equally as important as digital literacy and financial literacy as we aim to prepare all students for their future.

**“When you realize that earth and heart are spelled with the same letters it all makes sense.”**  
..... anonymous

### **Competencies**

Definition: Competencies are combinations of knowledge, skills, and characteristics that students develop and apply for successful learning, living, and working.

They emphasize aspects of learning that apply within and across all subjects. Competencies enhance the foundational building blocks of literacy and numeracy and work together with subject-area learning outcomes to ensure Alberta students are knowledge rich and well-prepared to live successful and fulfilling lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities and the world.

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Collaboration
- Research and Managing Information
- Citizenship
- Creativity
- Innovation

- Personal Growth and Well-being

From: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/f3fb3059-fdec-4c62-89b7-a34eb9d33c3c/resource/0a51ffa3-76bf-4f8b-a31c-7481eb2fba5c/download/edc-guiding-framework-curriculum-development-2020.pdf>

<https://www.abcee.org/sites/default/files/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Alberta-Environmental-Education-Framework-Sept-9.pdf>

The current K to 12 curricula does not effectively address the environmental literacy and competency needs of our children and youth. The new draft K-6 curriculum does not deal with environmental literacy and competencies until grade six science and then only briefly. Experts tell us this is too little too late. Our students deserve to understand the world they live in and to be part of the environmental solutions now and into the future.

#### *Student Voices:*

In 2020, ACEE polled 500 Alberta youth and led focus groups with 172 Alberta students.

[View the Polling Report](#)

[View the Focus Groups and Narratives report](#)

**Video of students talking about the importance of environmental education.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ9WdvIElsh4vmDEAkZxsNQ>

**Environmental awareness and stewardship must be promoted.**

#### **Why integrate opportunities for environmental literacy and competencies in the curriculum/program of studies?**

Children's natural affinity with nature is an organic and natural connection to learning. Students who experience the wonder, enjoyment and beauty of the natural world experience improvement to their overall wellbeing that extend exponentially to multiple areas of growth and development.

Research unequivocally provides evidence that holistic engagement in environmental education benefits individual's physical health and mental health. Environmental education pedagogy results in increases to academic achievement, attendance, self-regulation, connection to First Nations Métis and Inuit cultural foundations, community engagement, personal confidence and critical thinking.

## What is holistic environmental education?

- Interdependence - understanding the interconnections and interdependence between ecological and social systems and the impact on personal and collective wellbeing
- Diversity - valuing the significance of biological and cultural diversity as well as diverse perspectives.
- Responsibility and citizenship - furthering society by investigation, evaluating, designing, creating and implementing ideas for a sustainable future.

Taken from: [Microsoft Word - Case for EE DRAFT V7.docx \(abcee.org\)](#)

### Benefits of Environmental Literacy:

Together, we can solve this problem. Alberta students require and deserve education in environmental literacy and competencies; helping to prepare them for the future that they will inhabit, the jobs they will create, and the society they will build. By empowering students to become active and engaged citizens, environmental literacy and competencies gives them a sense of efficacy and hope for the future.

<a href="#">For Our Students</a>	<a href="#">For Our Divisions</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better mental wellness</li><li>• Improved academic performance</li><li>• Constructive Active Learning</li><li>• Increased physical well-being</li><li>• Healthy childhood development</li><li>• Connection of students to community</li><li>• Real world learning applications</li><li>• Increased student engagement</li><li>• Encourages healthy lifestyle and a lifelong relationship with nature</li><li>• Development of core skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Savings on energy costs</li><li>• Possible grant funding opportunities</li><li>• Improved school attendance</li><li>• Working together with community on environmental issues</li><li>• Meeting expectations of students</li><li>• Partnerships with local businesses to provide environmental education</li><li>• Meeting the Indigenous calls for land based learning and stewardship.</li></ul>

### Further Research

#### There is clear evidence that environmental education programs provide benefits.

Among other things, environmental education improves:

- Knowledge in science, mathematics, reading, writing, and more
- Emotional and social skills, such as self-esteem, character development, team work, and leadership skills
- Environmentally friendly behavior, such as reducing water use, increasing recycling, and participating in community cleanups

- Academic skills (21<sup>st</sup> Century skills), such as critical thinking, oral communication, analytical skills, problem solving, and higher-order thinking
- Motivation to learn, including enthusiasm for and interest in school
- Civic interest and engagement, including feelings of civic responsibility, feelings of empowerment, and ability to take action
- A two-year study of high school students in Florida found that, students who participated in environmental education programs scored significantly higher on measures of critical thinking skills and demonstrated significantly more likeliness to apply those skills in the future.”

### **Why environmental literacy and competencies?**

There are seven research-based benefits of including environmental literacy and competencies in K-12 curriculum, including:

- improved academic performance,
- improved development of core skills,
- connecting students to their community
- real-world applications of their learning,
- increased student engagement/enthusiasm for learning,
- encouraging a healthy lifestyle,
- supports healthy child development and a lifelong relationship with nature.

### **Improving school attendance:**

Can participation in outdoor learning influence attendance for young people with social, emotional and behavioral difficulties? Taking an action research approach, Price documented the effects of environmental education on school attendance for his class of 11-16-year-old students with social, emotional and behavioral challenges. Price describes evidence linking school attendance to academic performance. Implementation of an outdoor learning program with his students led to more consistent and frequent attendance, as well as greater punctuality, enthusiasm, and reduced incidents of disciplinary issues. Students looked forward to the outdoor learning and this contributed to their effort to be there and led to other benefits for these students, including improvements in focus, participation, and sense of well-being.

**“Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can; there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did.” Sarah Caldwell**

### **Grounds for mental and physical health:**

- Research indicates that green schoolyards generally have more holistic health benefits for children than more traditional schoolyards where grassy fields, pavement, and manufactured play equipment dominate. **Green schoolyards promote physical health** in a variety of ways including through the provision of shade, a decrease in crime, and increased diversity of play options, often with a positive influence on motor

development. Green school grounds also offer the opportunity to **promote better nutrition through gardening.**

- Green schoolyards promote social development by providing a diversity of play opportunities which, in turn, fosters social inclusion. Children tend to be more peaceful and cooperative on green schoolyards than on traditional schoolyards, and there are fewer instances of negative and aggressive play.
- The mental health benefits of **green schoolyards are relief from stress, improved attentional functioning, heightened sense of productivity, and improved self-esteem.**
- Spiritual benefits include a greater sense of wonder, a sense of interconnectedness with the wider world, and the development of empathy or caring for other living things.

#### **Effects of environment-based education on students' critical thinking skills and disposition toward critical thinking:**

[\(PDF\) The effects of environment-based education on students' critical thinking skills and disposition toward critical thinking \(researchgate.net\)](#)

This study examined the relationship between environment-based education and high school students' critical thinking skills and disposition toward critical thinking. The results of this study **support the use of environment-based education for improving critical thinking** and can be used to guide future implementation.

By empowering students to become active citizens, environmental literacy and competencies gives them hope for the future.

For over a decade the Alberta Council for Environmental Education has worked with opinion leaders, government officials, and youth on how to solve this problem. On behalf of Alberta's almost 750,000 K-12 students, we call on Alberta Schools Boards to pass this emergent position statement to call for the integration of environmental literacy and competencies into the K-12 curriculum, and to create or enhance policies and plans that give students more environmental education.

#### **Response to our stakeholders:**

As governors it is our job to ensure that Alberta's children receive the education that they deserve and require. We ask on behalf of all students, that the government strengthen the K-12 curriculum by incorporating environmental literacy and competencies throughout the K-12 curriculum. As part of this call, support and funding for relevant professional learning for practice and pre-service teachers will be required. To strengthen all learning, help school boards implement more cost-saving energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions – and link these to student learning.

#### **Attachments**

N/A

# Emergent Position Statement – Diploma Exams and Provincial Assessment Tests

Sponsored by Calgary Catholic School District

## Proposed Resolution

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the assembly adopts the position that mandatory Diploma Exams and Provincial Assessment Tests (PATs) should be suspended by the provincial government in favour of voluntary testing for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Background

As school jurisdictions continue to work through unprecedented times in our schools, the challenge of dealing with COVID 19 in relation to student learning, mental health and authentic assessment remains. With the uncertainty and inconsistency of instruction due to switching between learning modalities of online learning and face to face learning students and staff are facing challenges that they have never had to cope with over and above the regular rigor of robust academic programing in our district.

We recognize the high level of anxiety that COVID 19 has created for our families, staff and most importantly students. The decision to not participate in these assessments aligns with a focus on the priorities of student and staff wellness while also making sure that we focus on student success and learning as we continue to address the learning gaps that have been created during COVID 19.

In continuing to ensure that we advocate for our students, the provincial diploma exam and achievement test assessments need to be looked at with a critical lens.

We propose that advocacy be undertaken by ASBA with respect to the Ministry of Education to encourage making diploma exam participation for students optional for the following reasons:

- Disruptions in learning have occurred over the past 18 months and continues into this year
- Concerns regarding very low readiness level in students as a result of these numerous disruptions
- Diplomas and PATs are blueprinted to match all curricular outcomes
  - Given the disruptions in learning, students and teachers have not been able to learn and teach all required outcomes
  - This has the potential to cause high anxiety and stress for students and teachers
  - Expectation standards for diplomas and PATs have not changed and do not take into account that not all outcomes have been taught/presented

- Anxiety level of students who have to write a high stakes exam and feeling unprepared because their learning has been disrupted
- Last year, most students' final marks were school based resulting in higher average marks on diploma courses
- This year's students who have not had the opportunity to learn all outcomes will be severely disadvantaged when they seek entry into competitive post-secondary programs
- Elementary teachers are anticipating the implementation of a new curriculum and the added stress and anxiety caused by having to prepare students for PATs needs to be kept in mind.

We believe that this is an emergent item. While COVID 19 has been a reality for the last 18 months, the Minister of Education determined that for the 2020-2021 school year, that Diploma Exams and Provincial Achievement Tests would be optional. Only recently has the Minister confirmed that this would not be the case this year, with the exception of the three Alberta jurisdictions that are piloting the draft curriculum.

#### **Attachments**

N/A

## Disposition of Substantive Resolutions

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Agenda Item	Motion Name	Carried (✓)	Defeated (✓)	Other: Amended, postponed, referred, withdrawn, etc.
<a href="#"><u>10.1</u></a>	Omnibus Amendment (Bylaws 1.1.8, 2.3-2.4, 3.3, 14.3, 15.8-15.10, 16.1, Schedule A6.3b, and Editorial Amendments)			
<a href="#"><u>13.1</u></a>	Position Statement – Internet for All			
<a href="#"><u>13.2</u></a>	Position Statement – Ministerial Approval for Transfers from Accumulated Surplus			
<a href="#"><u>13.3</u></a>	Position Statement – Environmental Education			
<a href="#"><u>16.1</u></a>	Emergent Position Statement – Diploma Exams and Provincial Assessment Tests			