

SCHOOL COUNCIL:WHO/WHAT/WHY/HOW

A PRESENTATION TO EPSB SCHOOL COUNCILS, OCT 2025

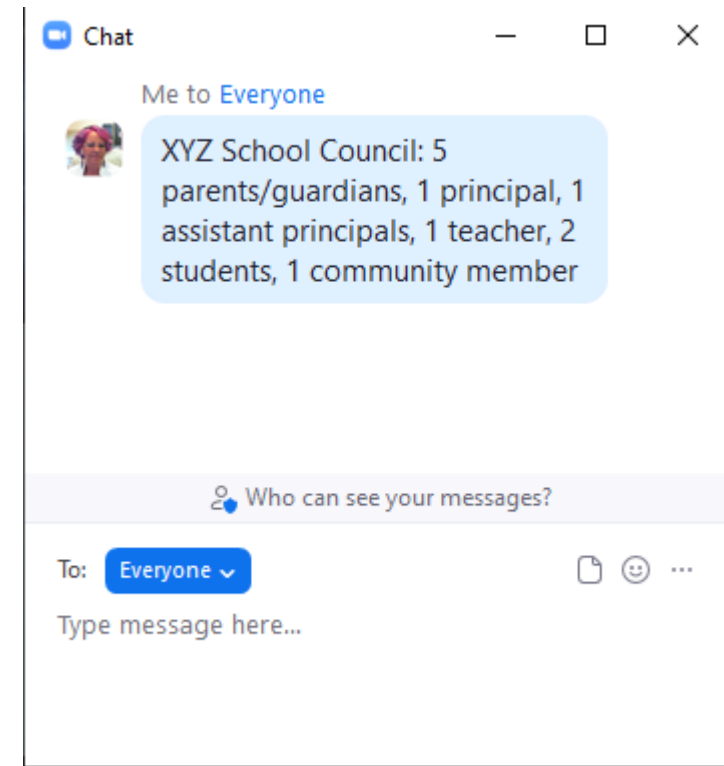


**Alberta
School Councils' Association**
Promoting parent engagement in public education



WELCOME TO SCHOOL COUNCIL PURPOSE

- Please use the Chat feature to 'sign in'
- Your Name
- Your role - parent/guardian, principal/admin, teacher, student, community member, others in attendance.



INTRODUCTIONS

- Land Acknowledgement
- Presenter
 - A bit about me



TODAY'S OBJECTIVES:

To Understand:

- **Who** is School Council and its relationship with the School Community?
- **Why** does School Council exist?
- **What** is the role of School Council
- **How** does School Council fulfill its role?



SCHOOL COUNCIL IS...

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



WHAT'S IN IT FOR OUR STUDENTS?

When parents are **engaged** in education....

- ✓ Higher student achievement
- ✓ Better student attendance
- ✓ Positive student attitudes and behaviours
- ✓ Higher student graduation rates



THE BIG PICTURE: RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

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

LEGISLATION

- Education Act, Section 55
- School Councils Regulation
- School Division Policy & Regulation
- School Council Operating Procedures, Policies & Practices



Province of Alberta

EDUCATION ACT

Statutes of Alberta, 2012
Chapter E-0.3

Current as of April 1, 2023



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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

❖ School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019



A SCHOOL BOARD MUST...

(NO “IFS, ANDS OR BUTS”)

- 12(1) ...provide the School Council** with an opportunity to provide **advice** on the development of the school’s
- (a) foundations statements, if any, respecting the school’s vision, principles and beliefs,
 - (b) policies,
 - (c) annual education plan and annual results report required by the Minister to be reported under section 67 of the Act, and
 - (d) budget required to be reported under section 139 of the Act.



A SCHOOL BOARD MUST ALSO...

(AGAIN, NO “IFS, ANDS OR BUTS”)

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

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



A SCHOOL BOARD SHALL...

(REMEMBER, “SHALL” = “MANDATORY”)

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



WHAT MUST A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

➤ **14(1) The chair of a school council must prepare and provide to the board by September 30 of each year a report**

- ❖ **(a) summarizing** the activities of the school council in the previous school year, and
- ❖ **(b) detailing**, in accordance with the policies referred to in section 13(2), the receipt, handling and use of any money by the school council in the previous school year.

❖ School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019

❖ **Link to EPSB online SC Annual Report form:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSpNkncVUD32mQKItvnbeMclGwkUipyASGJvIKora2dAyYAA/viewform>



WHAT ELSE MUST A SCHOOL COUNCIL DO?

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

❖ School Councils Regulation, Alberta Regulation 94/2019



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

- **Advise the Principal and the Board respecting any matter relating to the school**
- **Perform any duty...delegated to it by the Board...**
- **Decide** operating procedures for itself
- **Carry out** activities related to its advisory role
- **Handle monies**



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

Topics specifically mentioned in the Legislation and related items:

- **Development of School Policies**
- **Annual Results Reports**
- **Development of School Budget: ABED \$ ➡ Division \$ ➡ School \$**
- **Education Plans**
- **Assurance Framework**

ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The 5 Assurance Areas:

- Student Growth and Achievement
- Teaching and Leading
- Learning Supports
- Governance
- **Local and Societal Context**



SOME WAYS SCHOOL COUNCIL CAN SUPPORT THE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK:

- Become familiar with the Assurance Framework and the related school authority planning and reporting requirements
- Review the School Division's education plan and annual education report (posted annually on Division's website by November 30 and May 31, respectively) and those of the School (posted annually on either the school or School Division website)
- Participate in engagement opportunities surrounding the development of School and School Division education plan priorities
- Participate in engagement opportunities respecting results and progress towards meeting the School Division's priorities
- Participate in the development of school education plans, annual education results reports, and budget
- Educate Grade 4, 7 and 10 parents about the Alberta Education Assurance parent survey and encourage them to complete it

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

Other topics current in education:

➤ Professional Practice Standards

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/248949>

➤ Alberta Education Initiatives

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

➤ Respecting Diversity and Promoting Inclusion

➤ Advancing Reconciliation



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WHAT CAN SCHOOL COUNCILS DECIDE?

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

THE WORK OF SCHOOL COUNCIL IS:



- **Advising**
- **Communicating**
- **Listening**
- **Engagement**
- **Representing**
- **Assisting**



THE WORK REQUIRES EFFORT!

To effectively do their work, School Councils need to:

- Realize their true mandate,
- Extend their reach beyond their meetings,
- Inform all parents of topics requiring input,
- Gather multiple opinions, multiple ways
- Represent broad parent perspectives,
- Advise the principal and the board.



HOW MIGHT YOU DO THE WORK?



- **Surveys**
- **Social Media**
- **Committees**
- **School Website**
- **Parent Information Nights**



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

Effective Work Requires A Plan



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



SCHOOL COUNCILS ARE BRIDGES

PARENTS



PRINCIPAL



BOARD

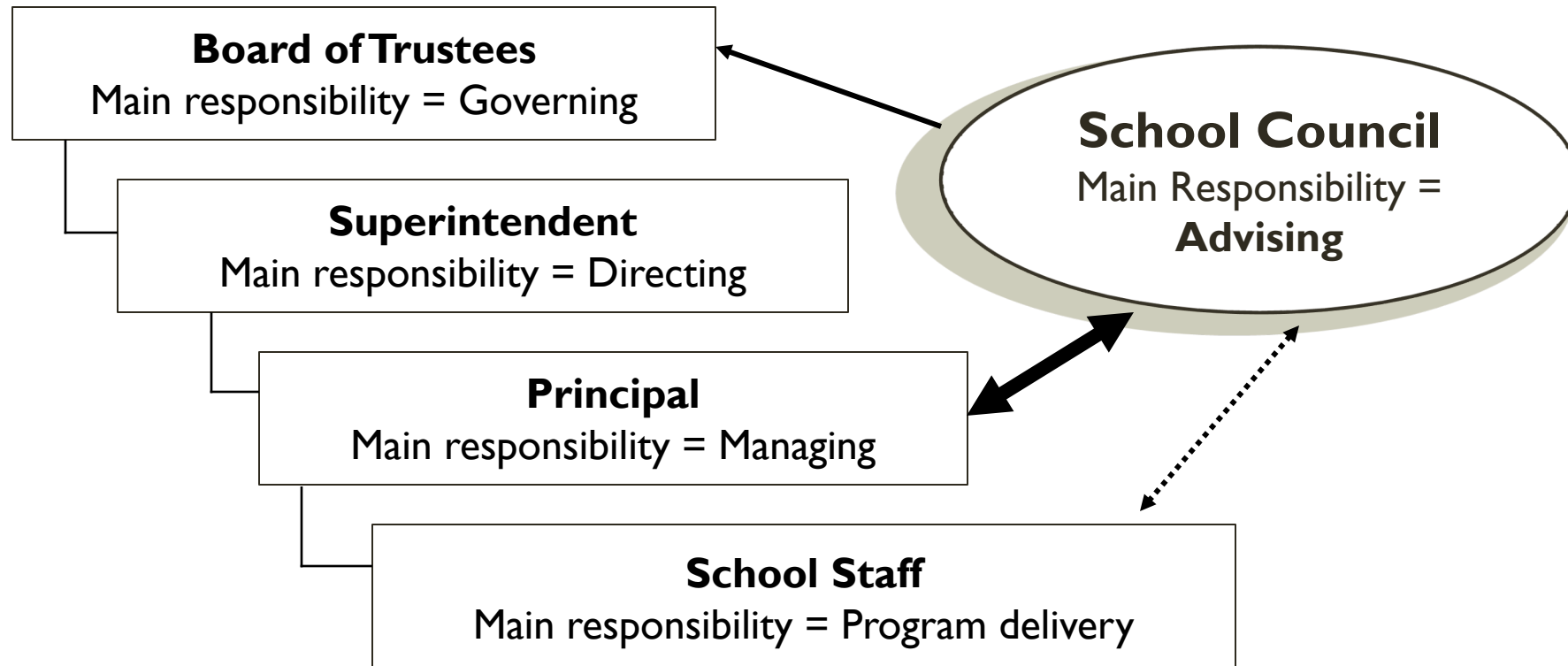


COMMUNITY



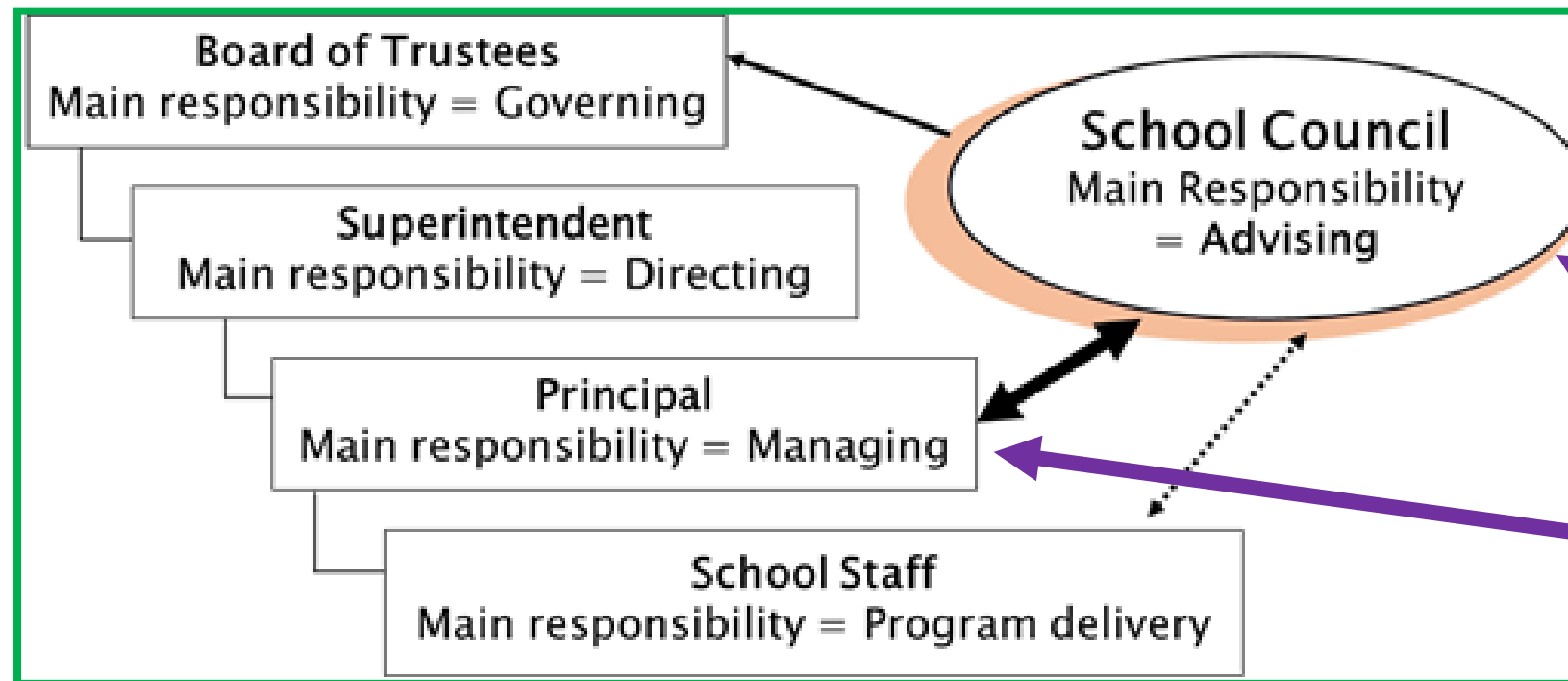
INTERDEPENDENCE: EDUCATION ACT

EDUCATION ACT



INDEPENDENCE: SOCIETIES ACT

EDUCATION ACT



SOCIETIES ACT



Main Responsibility = Fundraising

ALIKE BUT NOT THE SAME...

School Councils

Purpose

As stipulated by Legislation
Advise the Principal and the Board

Structure & Membership

Must have a Chairperson
Majority must be Parents

Decision Making

May have Operating Procedures



Fundraising Associations

Purpose

As stated in Objects of Incorporation

Structure & Membership

Board of Directors
Membership by admission

Decision Making

As stated in Corporate Bylaws



ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

1. **School Council only:** limited fundraising; does not participate in extensive fundraising and purchasing, focuses on advising. **OR**
2. **School Council and Fundraising Association work closely together:** they both fundraise and advise. **OR**
3. **School Council and Fundraising Association work independently:** School Council advises, Fundraising Association raises money – School and School Council ask Fundraising Association for money to support goals.



A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL COUNCIL IS:



Role: to advise the principal and the board...

Purpose: to support and enhance student learning

CONCLUSION

School Councils

- Have a **legislated purpose** which involves the Principal, Parents, the community and the Board
- May **make decisions** related to how they want to fulfill that purpose
- Works collaboratively with the school community



NEXT STEPS

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



CONTACT ASCA

- parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca
- <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/contact>
- <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/workshops>
- 1.780.454.9867 / 1.800.661.3497