

CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE for Prospective Board Members

Candidate:
Rick Sakundiak

Please note – there is a 100 word limit on all answers.

1. What do you see as the top priority or challenge for parents in the province?

I strongly believe that we need more parental involvement in our education system. We need to make sure that there is more access for parents to be involved. Many parents work and their children have activities after school, so coming to school council meetings can be challenging. Our schools and councils need to provide a wide range of engagement opportunities for parents so that they can be involved in their children's education.

2. Why do you wish to serve on the ASCA Board of Directors?

For the past two years it has been an honor to serve as a Director on the ASCA Board. We have accomplished so much as a Board and I believe in the work that ASCA does for parents and students. I want to keep being part of the work that our ASCA Board does and I want to continue to advocate for changes in education.

3. What is your school council experience?

I have been active with three school councils for the past ten years in Northern Alberta. I have also been active with the Peace Wapiti General School Council meetings. I am the parent of six children and we have had two children graduate from the Catholic school system, and three graduate from the Public school system and I have another child still in school. I believe that it is very important for children to be supported by their parents at home and at school. I also have two grandchildren in grade 3 and grade 1 and as a grandparent I am also active in their education and at their schools.

4. How will your greatest strength help you perform as a board member?

My previous experience from being a municipal councilor for 13 years has helped me fulfill my governance roles on ASCA. I was also a Director for ATCO Electric for 3 years. Those roles helped me to understand governance, especially when it comes to fiduciary responsibilities, maintaining governance functions, and communicating well with others. I have worked to grow my strengths during my past two years on the ASCA Board and I look forward to continue growing my abilities with ASCA. I am great at cooperating with others and listening to leadership as well as leading by example when needed.

5. Have you reviewed the time commitment required and how do you see yourself balancing your professional and personal life to manage the duties as a board member?

I have lived as a dedicated Board member for the past two years. I am working to better myself so that I can maintain the busy schedule of my life, my work, my family and the work of ASCA. I have tried hard to balance my schedules, and while I have missed meetings due to work commitments or family experiences, I have always remained committed to the work of ASCA. I appreciate the support of my Board this year to help me with my work load and I look forward to another two years of serving parents across Alberta.

6. Give an example of how you have dealt with differing perspectives:

During the past two years as an ASCA Director, I have never felt that I could not vote the way I believed was the best way to serve parents in Alberta. Even if I voted in a way that ended up not being in the majority vote, I have always been able to serve the will of the Board and I have never felt that I could not work well with others even if we had a different perspective.

7. Additional information that you would like to provide, that would make you an ideal candidate for the position:

I really believe that it takes a community to support our students. In addition to raising our six children, my family has been a foster family for the past eight years. I have actively volunteered in my hometown as a hockey coach for over 15 years. I have sat on many volunteer boards and I continue to serve my community, daily, in any way I can. I live the example that I hope others can follow. I open my home to others and I serve others in any way I can.

Additional CANDIDATES QUESTIONS for Previous or Current Board Members

How has the ASCA Board been successful because of your work on the Board?

I believe in efficient meeting management and I work hard to model professional behavior at the Board table. I also work to contribute to efficiency in meetings by supporting the work that our President and Vice President do.

How did your preparation and attendance impact your contribution to the Board?

I made a commitment to the ASCA Board and the parents across the province. While I tried to make every meeting, sometimes work and family commitments prevented me from attending. However, any time there was an important agenda item I made sure that I was in attendance to be able to listen to the work, and contribute my voice. I will continue to be dedicated to the work of ASCA if I am reelected.

What have you learned during your time with the Board, and what will you do with that experience moving forward?

I have learned to build stronger positive relationships between school boards, school councils, trustees and parents. I have learned to represent the views of our members, not my personal viewpoints. I have really enjoyed being the Director that represents ASCA on the Northwest Regional Learning Consortium. I want to keep working on ways to build the relationships that parents need in order to have their voices heard in education.

Feel free to include a (jpeg) photo submitted with the questionnaire and nomination form. Candidate information is posted on the ASCA website at three intervals; March 15, April 1, and April 18 (10 days prior to the election at the AGM).