

## CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE for Prospective Board Members

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 believe that as parents our top priority is to be an advocate for our child(ren). In the same breath, this can also be the biggest challenge parents face. Knowing how and when to advocate for our children, and teach our children how to be self-advocates is tough! This is why parent councils are so important. We help each other be a collective voice and can teach and educate either other, so no one ever feels alone in their or their children's educational journey.

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

I truly believe as parents we have a voice! For years I have helped be an advocate for my own children and the other students of the school(s) my children attend with the parent councils there. Recently I have also dedicated time to our district-wide council helping to bring knowledge and education to parents on a city-wide level. I feel ready and encouraged by those around me to bring my desire to advocate for all Alberta students.

3. What is your school council experience?

I have held an executive position in my children's schools since 2012. For the last two years, I have also served as Vice Chair on our city (district) wide school council. I have served in positions from secretary to chair and loved every minute of it!

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

My greatest strength is my understanding and empathy. I believe all voices matter, big or small. Whether your local school serves a student body from K-12 or a large high school with a student population in the thousands, everyone deserves to be heard! I have, for a long time, resonated with the words written by Harper Lee, "If you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his [their] point of view." -To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

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 reviewed the commitment to becoming a board member. The most important part of being able to balance this role is the fact that my husband Matthieu is supportive of my desire to serve. I know that he will step up in our household when I am needed for my duties, and likewise, he knows that I will do the same for when he is needed outside of our home. On top of that, I am a highly organized person, which helps me maintain balance in my home, family and professional capacities.

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

The key, in my mind, to understanding differing perspectives is to always listen first. If everyone agreed all the time life would be boring! Seeing life through others is what makes things interesting and helps us to learn and grow. For example, I don't always agree with my colleagues. However, I always make sure to hear their thoughts and feelings before trying to arrive at a decision. Once everyone is heard then we are able to talk about the issue and come to a compromise that usually is able to satisfy everyone's needs and concerns.

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

I grew up in rural Southern Alberta and now live in a larger city. I have a large family of my own, but I come from a family where I was the only one. Matthieu and I have children who currently, excel and find school easy: their parent-teacher interviews are full of praise and compliments. We have other children who struggle both socially and academically. I don't say any of this to evoke pity or praise, but I truly believe that my diverse personal life helps me relate to various people and be compassionate towards their individual and collective needs.

### **Additional CANDIDATES QUESTIONS for Previous or Current Board Members**

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

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

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

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).