

CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE for Prospective Board Members

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

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

I deeply value and respect the importance of parent voice in education through school councils. It is my belief that school councils are vital components of school communities and that students benefit from parent involvement in education locally, and provincially. I have served on the ASCA Board of Directors since 2016, as a Director, then as Vice President, and as President currently. The work that ASCA does to support school councils so that they can fulfill their legislated roles meaningfully is work that I know is so important, I want to continue to give my time and efforts to our Board's endeavors.

2. What is your school council experience?

I have served on multiple school councils, in multiple roles. Whether as an executive or a specific role or as a council member, I have found the work of school councils to be impactful work that genuinely supports the health and wellness of school communities. I am looking forward to the ways that school councils will be walking out their work in the Assurance Framework. I enjoy engaging with parent communities, creating spaces where parents are engaged and consulted consistently.

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

I am people focused, goal oriented, and lean into the variety of perspectives that every team comes to our work with. Being relationship focused is integral to team building so that a board of volunteers from across our province can effectively work together to govern our Association and continue to innovatively serve member school councils. Understanding the importance of relationships is also relevant in assessing the needs of our Board, and in understanding the dynamics of ASCA's members (school councils) in their local work and their provincial voice.

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

Parents being authentically engaged, consulted, and empowered as valuable education partners locally and provincially is a priority. Ensuring that parents understand why decisions are made in local contexts requires coordinated and consistent relationships between school councils and school boards. Engaging with parents on school councils locally and provincially so that they are well informed, meaningfully consulted, and have their perspectives regarding student success and wellness incorporated in provincial policy is also necessary for the overall wellness of our education system and the success of our students.

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

I think that it is important for a variety of perspectives and voices to be part of the discussions needed within education in order for students to be successful. It is that variety of experiences that helps us work together with fresh solutions. I like for discussions to allow for a dive into the topic with all participants contributing and then working together to refine the varied, and differing perspectives into a cohesive decision together. I do not shy away from struggles as I can appreciate that productive friction helps us all work to grow.

6. 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 time commitment and am prepared to continue to balance the work of ASCA with my responsibilities as a parent and local community volunteer with my own well being and capacity.

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

I have grown in my abilities to fulfill this role over the past two years and I will be grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve and grow.

Additional CANDIDATES QUESTIONS for Previous or Current Board Members

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

As I've served in a variety of roles on the Board, I've worked hard in committees to help move our work forward, I've worked diligently to further the Vision Path Destinations, I've started the seeds of a mentorship program within our Board, and I've continued to focus on my growth as a leader so that I can better serve our Members, and my fellow Board members. The last two years I have worked with our Board to build our team, virtually, in a pandemic, and with our education landscape shifting beneath us. I am proud of the work I have done, and I am grateful to have done it with such amazing, compassionate parents working with me.

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

I have thoroughly prepared for our meetings, for our committees, and for representing ASCA externally. I have attended meetings, actively participated, and helped shape the work of our Association for six years. In the past two years, in my role as President, I have worked with our Executive team to ensure that our meetings are efficient, that we execute our Board Work Plan with care and purpose, and that we have made space for the capacity of Directors, as a global pandemic unfolded around us.

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

Almost everything I've learned can be linked to two concepts- relationships and connectivity. It is the relationships between us as Board members, it's the relationships between our Members with each other as well as our Association, and it's the relationships that school council members have in their communities that all need to be inclusive and meaningful. The connectivity of all those relationships with each other and with provincial education partners can serve students and ensure that they have the best education experience possible for them and their needs. Understanding that it is important to support the people who are living the policies has been fundamental in my growth as a leader and I will continue to look for ways to support relationships and connections.

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 14 (10 days prior to the election at the AGM).

