

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?

During the last two years, I have gained a larger understanding of the vital role that parents play in the area of decision making in regards to the direction of education within the province. Issues and concerns can only be addressed when parents have a visible voice that is seen and heard by Alberta Education and the GoA. I wish to continue as a Director with ASCA to ensure that current issues of parents and teachers of our children are heard and answered.

2. What is your school council experience?

I have spent numerous years as Chair, Co-Chair and an engaging member of Prescott Learning Centers School Council. I have also been the Chair of Parkland School Division's Council of School Councils for 1 term. I believe this valuable work is what led me previously to take up the role of director within ASCA.

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

I am not only a parent to two young children but also the husband to a teacher, who teaches in my children's school. I am exposed to issues on both fronts and I am a strong advocate for supports for both students and teachers. We cannot have safe and caring schools without strong foundations.

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

I see the top priority for parents in the province as the availability of supports for children when required. As a person who deals with PTSD and Anxiety on a daily basis and a father to my son who needs regular support to deal with anxiety. I am aware of the lack of professional help and school counsellor support within the school system. This is even a greater issue in rural schools due to location. As parents these are the issues that require effort in order to effect positive change within the learning environment.

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

I am a strong supporter of LGBTQ movement. I support the need for safe spaces within schools for GSA meetings. This is a strong issue that has divided some communities within this province. I have had numerous conversations with parents who are both for and against this subject. A solution is vital for the success of children within the school and in the future, within our communities.

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 am aware of the time commitment that is placed on a director and will ensure that what is asked of me will be conducted in a professional manner.

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

It has been a pleasure over the last 2 years to be director. We all have had issues that we have had to overcome. It is vital that this organization continue into the future staffed with parents who are concerned about their children's learning opportunities.

Additional CANDIDATES QUESTIONS for Previous or Current Board Members

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

During the last 2 years, during COVID, the board came together to summit the issues that arose. It was vital that all members issues were heard, and opinions supported. With board work load at a high level and a decrease in staff availability there was a requirement for myself and others to step up and support ASCA's mission.

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

Preparation prior to any meeting is vital. Having a strong understanding of the current political & funding situation in Alberta is critical. Being informed and able to participate in current and ongoing discussions to develop and support implementations that effect schools councils is vital.

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

I have learned that the board is made up concerned and caring parents, from all levels and education backgrounds. We may differ in our opinions on certain issues but at the end of the day we are here to support each other and the students within Alberta Schools.

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).