



Alberta
School Councils' Association
Promoting parent engagement in public education

Advocacy and Action Updates

for the period ending March 2022

[Annual Highlights](#)

[Advisory Committee List](#)

[Advocacy and Representation Opportunities and Events](#)

[School Council Engagement Task Force \(SCETF\) 2021-2022 Summary](#)

[ASCA Internal Board Committees](#)



Highlights 2021 - 2022

Members and Clients:

1244 Member School Councils representing public, catholic and charter school communities as of March 17, 2022.

93 Learning Opportunities provided to school councils, school divisions, and fundraising associations as of March 17, 2022.

Provincial Representation/Advocacy

- On request, advised Minister of Education and Alberta Education staff respecting parent perceptions of current or emerging education issues/trends;
- President Rai provided several media interviews throughout the year, primarily focused on draft K-6 curriculum and/or covid-related matters;
- President Rai participated in two rallies focused on the draft K-6 curriculum;
- Endorsed the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Stand for Education campaign;
- Ongoing outreach to parents and school councils through social-media, e-News and bulletins;
- ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) continued for an eighth term;
- Board/staff members attended or participated in the provincial level opportunities listed in detail on the following page.

Local School Council, COSC and Division Empowerment

- Provided ASCA learning opportunities delivered by ASCA Instructors and staff requested by school councils, school divisions and division-sponsored learning events for school councils;
- Provided ASCA province-wide online webinar learning opportunities delivered by ASCA Instructors and staff to school councils, school divisions and division-sponsored learning events for school councils;
- Consulted and worked with school authority administrator teams on parent engagement/school council/council of school council relationships;
- Consulted and worked with school community parents building positive relationships with principals; central office personnel and trustees;
- Provided direction and information with respect to effective school councils and the distinction from school fundraising associations;
- Provided direction and information with respect to appropriate use of the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant;
- Continued to provide workshops to support school fundraising societies;
- Customized learning opportunities and offerings to reflect school council and/or district experience and desired outcomes as required;
- Customized learning opportunities to include stronger emphasis on school councils' role within the Assurance Framework, and their understanding of Professional Practice Standards.



External Advisory Committee List

Each year ASCA is invited to represent the advocacy positions established by the membership at provincial level committees. From April 2021 – March 2022 ASCA has been represented at, or participated on, the following:

Alberta Education

- Minister’s Stakeholder/Partner Re-Launch and Re-Entry Advisory
- Alberta Research Network
- Deputy Minister’s Technical Briefing – Bill 15 (Teacher Discipline, Conduct, Competency)

Regional Prof. Development Consortium

- Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) Provincial Advisory Committee (CASS)
- Edmonton (ERLC)
- Southern Alberta (SAPDC)
- Central Alberta (CARC)
- East Central/Learning Network (LNES)
- Calgary (CRC)
- Northwest (NRLC)

Education Partner Joint Initiatives and Learning Opportunities

- ASBA, ASBOA, ASCA, CASS Four Partners
- Tobacco and Youth Vaping Stakeholder Engagement
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI 123) (ARC Foundation) Advisory
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI 123) (ARC Foundation) Summit
- Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Advisory Circle
- Rural Education Symposium Advisory and Planning
- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Spring and Fall General Meetings
- Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA) Conference
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Conferences & FNMI Gathering
- Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBAA) General Meetings
- Rural Education Symposium
- Honouring Indigenous Spirit Award Selection Committee
- Child and Youth Well-Being Panel – Education Stakeholder Round Table Discussions
- Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF) Cross-Country Check-in

Advocacy and Representation Opportunities and Events

DATE	Committee	ASCA Rep.	Updates and Notes
April 9	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	AADE (Deans of Education), AISCA, ARPDC, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, CASS, Rupertsland, FNMI Directorate ADM and key staff. Topics: Draft K-6 Curriculum: circle members perspectives; feedback opportunities Anti-Racism: update on circle members organizational efforts Presentations: ATA – Walking Together: Dismantling Anti-



			<p>Indigenous Racism; AADE – National organization statement committing to ending racism and systematically moving to action. High-level anti-racism and unconscious bias training; also prioritizing the hiring of black, coloured and Indigenous staff. CASS: Shared plans to lead education for reconciliation, including FNMI Education Action Committee, guide to Relationships and Learning with the Indigenous Peoples of Alberta)</p>
April 12	Minister & Stakeholders Relaunch	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>ASBA, ASCA, ASBOA, ATA, CASS, AISCA, TAAPCS, Dept. Minister, Minister & key staff.</p> <p>Major discussion points: Prioritizing vaccines for school staff; Variants of Concern and increasing positivity rates in schools and communities; monitoring of positivity rates with a lens of increased protocols/restrictions if needed; funding concerns for ongoing pandemic protocols; expansion of rapid testing pilot in Alberta’s schools; high levels of anxiety ongoing; some contact tracing concerns; learning losses; pandemic fatigue and citizens ‘pushing back’ on protocols, lack of patience and tolerance rising.</p>
May 6	Minister & Stakeholders Relaunch	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>ASBA, ASCA, ASBOA, ATA, CASS, AISCA, TAAPCS, Dept. Minister, Minister & key staff.</p> <p>Major discussion points: Appreciation for vaccines for school staff and all Albertans 12+; short-notice shift to provincial online learning (circuit breaker); exemptions for students and/or communities for whom online learning is difficult/problematic (Hutterite, Mennonite); Minister vs division authority to transition to online – disparity of messaging; still high levels of concern re: learning losses, and the additional funds that will be needed to address; still some contact tracing concerns; mutual concerns regarding Fall 2021 procedures/protocols requiring additional funds.</p>
May 6	ERLC Regional Stakeholder Advisory	B. Rai	<p>Stakeholders met and reviewed our year. Discussed what individual stakeholders thought would be beneficial opportunities for ERLC to offer to educators and parents next school year</p>
May 6	Tobacco and Youth Vaping Stakeholder Engagement	S. Odishaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Heart & Stroke results out today - will attach report to email <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22% of youth who start vaping move on to cigarettes - 80 youth will start smoking for every 1 person who stops smoking • Regulation recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For immediate proclamation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor restrictions / standard setback • Signage for carding under 25 • Tobacco-like section • Using a phased approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flavour restrictions - align with flavoured tobacco products • Exemption for flavoured tobacco products as a smoking cessation tool • Enforcement and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New enforcement body within AHS



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory training for retail • Items to repeal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price signage • Designated smoking rooms • Allowing minors to sell products • Flavoured pipe tobacco • Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted publicity • MLA updates • Release of new youth vaping survey • News conference on <i>World No Tobacco Day</i> - May 31 • Mobilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect youth from flavoured vaping products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign online petition • Quick message to MLA • E-blasts • Social Media • Government Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated GR firm • Targeting key MLAs • Informal caucus of supporters • Meetings with Minister and AHS • Next steps - Big push through May / June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive traffic to ProtectAlbertaKids.ca • Letters to MLAs • Raise issues in any meetings • Support publicity efforts • Keep them informed <p>Notes of important issues discussed at the meeting and how they do/could impact ASCA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media to share information about ProtectAlbertaKids.ca <p>Assistance/Information required from staff in order for work to move forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media to share information about ProtectAlbertaKids.ca
May 7	Central Alberta Regional Consortium Advisory Working Group (CARC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Patrick (CARC ED) - Supports are available at any time. There will be 2 consultants for next year dealing with curriculum, Cathy Coers and Chris Zarski (seconded from Star Catholic). Booking days can take place knowing these dates and topics are flexible based on what officially will be in place regarding curriculum. Currently no official tasks from Alberta Education on implementation.</p> <p>Julia (Post-Secondary – RDC) - 3 of 6 Zone 4 Edwin Parr nominees were from the RDC Middle Years program! Fall return to campus face to face. RDC is an official polytech institute. First degree</p>



			<p>approved, BScience. 4 others waiting approval including BEd. Reviewed and improved Early Learning/Child Care program. CAPSLE conference attended.</p> <p>Chris (CASS – Star Catholic) - Zone 4 many boards reviewed the draft curriculum, deep review and surface reviews. All boards in Zone 4 are not piloting. Teachers and groups of teachers in all grades and subject areas were brought together. Frustration in which version of curriculum is the comparison.</p> <p>Cynthia (ASBA RDCRS) - All 7 boards in Zone 4 have said no to Piloting the NEW Draft Curriculum. Boards have got input from their stakeholders prior to decisions. May 31 next meeting for trustees to Celebrate Edwin Parr awards. Very proud of our teachers in the current dynamics. Happy teachers are being vaccinated.</p> <p>Shelley (ASCA) - Conference and AGM took place. ARPDC provided the online environment with no glitches. AGM was a full day 8am-9pm. Both were a wonderful success. ARPDC - Sessions for parents to provide an understanding of the new curriculum, changes, and how to support their children.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>All of the stakeholders share concerns about the curriculum, the pandemic and what the future holds.</p>
<p>May 11</p>	<p>Northwest Regional Learning Consortium Advisory Working Group (NRLC)</p>	<p>S. Odishaw</p>	<p>Sandra (NRLC) - ED Report attached ; Parent Sessions held, considering holding them again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation - Year in Review and Forward Planning <p>Cora (CASS) - Curriculum, NRLC ED Review</p> <p>Wendy (ASBA) - Lots of PD with ASBA (Mental health of students - need to focus on relationships next year, not learning),</p> <p>John (AISCA) - Some interest in piloting curriculum in bits (math/science), all schools are independent. Trying to figure out what next year will look like regarding online/in school learning.</p> <p>Pearl (KTCEA) - Information on curriculum assessment will be shared for Treaty 8. Developing Cree as second language courses, moving to having Cree be incorporated into all of the other courses. Need a way to assess knowledge loss - to look at the big picture going forward.</p> <p>Jaime (Rupertsland) - Sent a curriculum letter to the Minster and posted online. They stand behind Elder Betty Letendre’s stand to not support the draft. Need to connect with students on a different level than curriculum, many kids are struggling and DONE.</p> <p>Jodi (GPRC TEN) - Graduated 40 new teachers (YAY!). Completed interviews for admissions for third year, another 40 students coming in. So far the TEN program has not been affected by cuts.</p> <p>Shelley (ASCA) - Conference and AGM took place in April. Thanked the ARPDC for their support in ensuring that the event was an</p>



			<p>amazing success.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>All stakeholders share concerns about the curriculum, the pandemic and what the future holds.</p> <p>NRLC commented that they are willing to help with funds, resources, et cetera as committee members plan for the future.</p> <p>Discussions about curriculum will affect SCs in Zone 1; schools have chosen to NOT pilot.</p>
May 14	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	ARES 2022 will be a go – March 6-8, looking at a combo in-person / virtual meeting. There will be a sub-committee for program planning (including Shelley Odishaw).
May 14	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)	B. Rai	Touchpoint meeting to see how this year has been going for SOGI 123 in Alberta and for partners. SOGI was successful in procuring funding through a regional grant in the Edmonton area. Partners present will continue to support SOGI and share messaging through their networks.
May 27	Minister & Stakeholders Relaunch	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	ASBA, ASCA, ASBOA, ATA, CASS, AISCA, TAAPCS, Dept. Minister, Minister & key staff. Minister provided comments on numerous topics, most of which had been recently published in media articles. Deputy supported with additional ‘operational’ information as appropriate. No opportunity was given to stakeholders to ask questions or contribute perspectives. Minister implied this would be the final meeting of this group, presumably related to ‘relaunch’. No indication of future similar meetings.
June 1	ARPDC Provincial Advisory Committee	B. Rai	Stakeholders met and reviewed the year. Additionally looked at curriculum implementation window and what the system would need, especially how ARPDC could be of service.
June 2	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Curriculum update with Ashley Bodnar</p> <p>Anti-Racism Update (MIIG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breakdown of Funding amount, Eligible organizations, Project Types, and Important dates. <p>Who we are Fact Sheet (IERC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes: What we do, Current work, Focus, and Membership. <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Krystal Abrahamwicz, ARPDC ▪ Shelley Odishaw, ASCA <p>ASCA presentation focused on Destination 4 of the Board’s Vision Path: <i>Alberta’s School Councils will advance reconciliation by promoting and encouraging knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, knowledge, worldview, ways of knowing, being and doing in education.</i></p>



			<p>Partnering with Roots of Resilience on a grant application through the MIIG program. Roots of Resilience is applying for the grant to create and deliver <i>Starting From Home</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A series of virtual learning opportunities to increase awareness about racism and the various forms it takes that significantly and negatively impact the participation of Indigenous children and families in the education system. ▪ To accompany this learning, 8 printable resources will be co-designed, which will be available to all ASCA Member School Councils and their communities. ▪ In addition, 4 unique, co-developed workshops for ASCA's province wide meetings and conferences, reaching parents, teachers, education leaders and community members across the province will be created. ▪ This project will create safe spaces to confront stereotypes and prejudice and instead recognize the contributions and ways of being of Indigenous peoples in an interactive and supported learning environment. We believe that the result will be increasing numbers of Indigenous parents joining school councils. <p>Throughout the implementation of <i>Starting From Home</i>, but specifically in the last 3 months, Roots of Resilience will provide training for ASCA staff to be able to continue to facilitate learning beyond the duration of the project.</p>
June 3/4	Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Spring General Assembly	B. Rai W. Keiver	<p>Zoom meeting format allowed for attendee participation and interaction. PSBAA encouraged its Member Boards to invite SC parents to this event as well; several attended (exact number unknown)</p> <p>Presentations included a review of K-12 Education Funding, Recognition and Long Service Awards, Arrival of the Inevitable, Wild Rose SD Symphonic Band, Prairie Land PSD Agriculture program, Prairie Rose SD Aviation program, Northland SD Online development, and Honorable Chief Willie Littlechild.</p>
June 8	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Spring General Meeting – PD Sessions only	B. Rai W. Keiver	<p>Zoom webinar format prevented attendee participation and interaction for the majority of sessions. Topics included: System Alignment for Deep Learning...Even in These Times; Learning Education: Transformation in Post-Pandemic Times; Supporting the Mental Health of Students and School Staff; Best Practices for Trustees; Virtual book release: Five Paths of Student Engagement; Leaning into the Rebound</p> <p>https://www.asba.ab.ca/about/events-academies/spring-general-meeting-2021/speakers/</p>
June 15	Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC)	S. Hobday	<p>The meeting was attended by representatives of ASBA, AHS, U of C, TAAPS, AISCA and ASCA. Topic discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes with consolidation with ARPDC • Plans for 2021-22: From Disruption to Direction



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas around how to strengthen and increase the reach of the CRC Missing members from the table – at this point we don't have representation from Calgary Board of Education or Calgary Catholic School Division.
June 18	Alberta Research Network (ARN) Indigenous Parent Involvement in Education and Indigenous Student Success	W. Keiver	<p>Findings of joint research with EPSB and MacEwan University, presented by Dr. Emily Milne, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, MacEwan University.</p> <p>Two reports provided: Indigenous Student Success; Indigenous Parent Involvement.</p> <p>Key take-aways: "success" in education should be defined differently than current understanding; building genuine relationships is critical to engaging Indigenous parents; not being physically present at/in the school doesn't mean not engaged.</p>
June 11 and June 18	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>June 11: Sub-committee Program Planning (P.Barron, S.Cooper, S.Deloof, C.McKeague, and S.Odishaw)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed the possibilities of the symposium, prepared two scenarios for the meeting on June 18. <p>June 18: (Prairieland, Wild Rose, Franco Sud, Grand Prairie Catholic SD, High Prairie SD, CARC, ATA, Wetaskewin SD, Chinook's Edge SD, ASCA, ABEd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 program the focus Discussed a hybrid model for the event
June 24	Child and Youth Well-Being Panel Education Stakeholder Round Table Discussion	B. Rai W. Keiver	<p>Hosted by MLA Matt Jones. Attendees discussed mental health supports in schools. Covid has widened gaps for families and staff; important to recognize those cracks were always there. Consensus that a whole student approach with systems working together in healthcare and education is ideal. Updates:</p> <p>https://www.alberta.ca/child-and-youth-well-being-review.aspx</p>
Sept. 8	Four Partners	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA and CASS. The discussions focused on school re-entry challenges and successes from a local, division, and system perspective. ASCA also shared aspects of the new business plan, Members Only section of website, and Partner Sponsoring Program information.</p>
Sept. 8	Minister & Stakeholders School Re-Entry	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of ATA, ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA, AISCA, CASS and TAAPCS along with the Minister, Deputy Minister, one ADM and staff. The discussions focused on school re-entry challenges and successes from a local, division, and system perspective. Stakeholders briefly shared what their organizations were hearing/experiencing.</p>
Sept. 10	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, ASBA, ASBOA, CARC, ATA, rural SDs and ABEd. Discussion related to moving the Symposium from a 'conference' type of format to a multiple day workshop; looking more into appreciative inquiry. Set a date in early October for discussions and decisions related to the covid pandemic situation in Alberta, and what that means for ARES 2022.</p>
Sept. 14	Indigenous Education and	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, AISCA, ASBA, ATA, and Rupertsland (CASS and Deans of Education sent regrets), along with</p>



	Reconciliation Circle (IERC)		ADM Nicole Callihoo and FNMI Education Directorate staff. The circle confirmed member organizations representatives, then set meeting dates/time for the next several months. The discussion then focused on each organization sharing their resources, events, and activities to recognize the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Sept. 30, as well as ongoing work. Of particular concern is the crisis-trauma staff have experienced with each new finding of victims of residential schools. GOA has recognized this, and is actively putting supports and resources into place, to help any staff person in need. ASCA will act as the conduit to school councils for any resources etc. shared by other organizations through our website , e-news and SM. The group then looked at the draft documents for IERC: Fact Sheet, Annual Report and Strategic Plan. Suggestions for edits/improvements were provided, along with agreement that more work needs to be done on all. This will be a focus of upcoming meetings.
Oct. 1	Southern Alberta Professional Learning Consortia (SAPDC)	H. Tarasewich S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives of ASCA, CASS, U of L, Medicine Hat College, Westwind School Division, and SAPDC staff. Issues discussed: Covid and the move to virtual and hybrid meeting models; Curriculum and the differing perspectives on PD; Assessments of Gr 1 & 2 students for learning loss mitigation grant funding; Free math conference this year; Municipal elections and new trustees; Wellness: mental and physical.
Oct. 4	Northwest Regional Learning Consortia (NRLC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Sandra - Reviewed the September report with members. Reviewed the 2021-21 ARPDC Annual Report with members. Reviewed the NRLC Annual Report with members.</p> <p>Cora - Noted CASS' concerns about teacher representation in contributing to the new curriculum feedback. Also concerned about the financial implications supporting the implementation of the new curriculum.</p> <p>Wendy - ASBA execs met virtually on Sept. 22, 6 nominees for "Edwin Parr" and 5 nominees for "Friends of Education".</p> <p>John - Association curriculum and leadership events scheduled for fall will all be done virtually. There has been an emphasis on mental health and suicide prevention, developing strategies to address these issues in their schools as well as a need for data highlighting government support in these areas.</p> <p>Pearl - At home learning is on-going in KTCEA schools due to rising covid rates in First Nation communities. The school authority continues to offer support to staff and parents with PD opportunities. KTCEA has hired a Cree language specialist and is working on the possibility of Cree being incorporated as the first language of instruction in their schools. Mental health has been a focus with emphasis on ensuring resources are available to staff, students, and families. Noted that the First Nations School Authorities leaders will now be non-regulated associate members of CASS.</p> <p>Melanie - Offering professional development opportunities to Educators at no cost, encouraging educators to become presenters (presenter training offered at no cost to Métis Educators). NRLC will be featuring some presentations from Rupertsland Institute in</p>



			<p>the Fall PD schedule.</p> <p>Jodi - Expressed gratitude to the NRLC for supporting the GPRC TEN Students Call Back professional development day as well as the Indigenous and Beginning Teachers' sessions.</p> <p>Shelley - from report - advocating for better covid protocols, pause in standardized testing; call for advocacy resolutions for 2022 AGM has gone out; new Alberta School Council Engagement Grant.</p> <p>All members continue to be concerned about covid, mental health supports, and the curriculum.</p> <p>Attached - NRLC 2021-22 Annual Plan, 2020-21 NRLC Annual Report</p>
Oct. 5	Four Partners	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives of ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA and CASS. The discussions focused on vaccination mandate an 'in-person' meeting/event policies, advocacy for enhanced health protocols in schools, and the draft K-6 curriculum.</p>
Oct. 5	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	<p>Postponed by host</p>
Oct. 7	Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC)	S. Hobday	<p>Attended by representatives from ASBA, AHS, University of Calgary, TAAPS, AISCA, ASCA</p> <p>Discussion around inviting new partners. Currently no representation from the ATA nor metro boards. CASS rep will reach out to ATA, no further action at this time for specific representation from the metro Boards.</p> <p>Review of 2020-2021 Annual highlights: 31% increase in learning opportunities, 233% increase in learning participants and 92% of learning opportunities were free of cost to participants.</p> <p>Plans for 2021-22: From Disruption to Direction. Focus will be On Demand Learning as well as looking at other partners this year including parents, EAs and pre-service teachers.</p> <p>Consistent message from those around the table that there is strong concern about the Draft Curriculum.</p>
Oct. 8	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives from Prairieland, Wild Rose, FrancoSud, Grande Prairie Catholic, and Wetaskiwin SDs, as well as ATA, CARC and ASCA.</p> <p>The program looks wonderful – workshop on appreciative inquiry – the importance of the narrative. Discussed having a deadline of 75 days out for a final decision surrounding Covid and if the symposium goes forward.</p>
Oct. 13	ARPDC Provincial Advisory Committee	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, AISCA, CASS, ASBA, TAAPCS, First Nations, Post Secondary institutions, Rupertsland Institute, Alberta Education, and ARPDC. The Consortia 2020-21 Annual report was reviewed as well as the CASS Report and Recommendations. The Consortia Report was then discussed in breakout rooms, as well as next steps, before working as a committee to discuss challenges, successes, and opportunities.</p>
Oct. 14	Sexual Orientation	B. Rai	<p>Attendees from various education stakeholders met to receive</p>



	and Gender Identity (SOGI)		updates from ARC, relay education partner updates, and discuss SOGI Priorities for 2021-22. The themes identified from May's meeting related to mental health, integrated youth services and growing connections with First Nation communities were still priorities believed to be paramount.
Oct. 18	Minister & Stakeholders School Re-Entry	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ATA, ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA, AISCA, CASS and TAAPCS along with the Minister, Deputy Minister, one ADM and staff. Attendees asked questions related to the new guidelines documents released on October 15 as well as voiced any concerns or advocacy positions related to education during Covid. ASCA supported diploma and PAT exams being optional in another year of interrupted learning. ASCA also sought clarification related to lack of a provincial mandate for vaccinations of educational staff since boards are now undertaking that work and potential liability discussions. Executive will continue to review guidance documents and protocols and send any additional questions.
Oct. 18	Alberta Research Network (ARN)	B. Rai	Call for Presentations. The Steering Committee met to discuss the almost finalized draft version of the agenda for the event in November.
Nov. 2	Central Alberta Regional Consortium Advisory Working Group (CARC)	S. Odishaw	Patrick - PD Days have good numbers, other sessions are running with minimal numbers - easier to do virtually. Costs are down with sessions being virtual and in person expenses non-existent. Looking at ways to best do curriculum PD in the spring. Julia - Some projects paused. Concern about curriculum and how to teach it to education students. Education Degree is still in limbo. Cynthia - FGM coming up, Zone 4 Exec chosen. Concerned about covid and mandates. Hoping to delay curriculum implementation. Shelley - Partnership with the ATA and the Stand For Education campaign. New membership only section of the website, virtual meetings starting this month, call for 2022 resolutions. No conference, yes AGM and engagement opportunities. Summary: All stakeholders share concerns about the curriculum, the pandemic and what the future holds.
Nov. 4	Four Partners	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Postponed by host to December's date.
Nov. 13	Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) Fall General Meeting (FGM)	B. Rai W. Keiver	Letter received informing that fully virtual event is not open to guests this year.
Nov. 14-16	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting (FGM)	B. Rai W. Keiver	Invitation for virtual attendance for Awards, gala, and professional development sessions. ASCA attended as many portions of the event as possible, networking with other attendees when feasible.
Nov. 17	Learning Network Educational Services (LNES/Consortia)	W. Keiver	First meeting of this newly structured group, attended by LNES outgoing ED, Acting ED, and reps from surrounding school divisions. Informal discussion re: identified information and support needs.
Nov. 17-	Public School	B. Rai	Invitation for in person or virtual attendance for Lois Hole dinner,



19	Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Fall General Meeting (FGM)	W. Keiver	professional development sessions, and FGM. ASCA virtually attended as many portions of the event as possible, networking with other attendees when feasible.
Nov. 18	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASCA, AISCA, ASBA, ATA, CASS, Deans of Education (AADE) and Rupertsland, along with Acting ADM Lori Bell and FNMI Education Directorate staff. The Circle reviewed and discussed edits on IERC documents (Fact Sheet, Annual Report, Draft Work Plan 2020-2023). The Directorate is not sure about its budget for the year but is confident it will know soon. It has several grants (for disbursement) that are concluding and is looking for suggestions for new/different ones to offer in the future. ASCA was asked to provide accomplishments related to the strategic vision of the Circle for inclusion in the Annual Report.
Nov. 19	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	Attended by representatives from Prairieland, Wild Rose, FrancoSud, Grande Prairie Catholic, and Wetaskiwin SDs, as well as ATA, CARC and ASCA. The symposium topic has been set, and the registration website is targeted to be live on November 22. All messaging will be electronic this year. Early bird registration will close January 31, 2022. The Rural Development Network is helping to promote the event, and sponsorships are coming in.
Nov. 20	Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF) Cross-Country Check-in	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Virtual event to connect similar provincial organizations across Canada. More details in next report
Dec. 16	Southern Alberta Professional Learning Consortia (SAPDC)	H. Tarasewich	Did not attend.
Dec. 17	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ASCA, AISCA, ASBA, ATA, CASS, Deans of Education (AADE) and Rupertsland, along with Acting ADM Lori Bell and FNMI Education Directorate staff. The Circle reviewed and discussed edits on IERC document Draft Work Plan 2020-2023.
Jan. 11	Alberta Education	B. Rai S. Odishaw W. Keiver	Alberta Education attendees: Deputy Minister Andre Tremblay, Chief of Staff Nicole Williams. ASCA expressed perspectives relating to the K-6 Curriculum Implementation, Learning Loss Mitigation for Grade 4 – 12 students, and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs). ED followed up with email summary, reiterating ASCA's request to provide representation on the Curriculum Implementation Advisory Group.
Jan. 13	Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC)	S. Hobday	Could not attend; several members absent. Attended by representatives from ASBA, AISCA, CASS, U of C, Siksika Ed. Authority, CRC. Primary discussions focused on the learning opportunities each organization has accessed in addition to identifying future needs. Through an online tool, CRC is gathering input from all members, and will share this once it is complete. CRC



			reports that the collaboration between regional consortia has increased, largely due to virtual learning being accessible province wide.
Jan. 14	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives from Prairieland, Wild Rose, FrancoSud, Grande Prairie Catholic, and Wetaskiwin SDs, as well as ATA, CARC and ASCA.</p> <p>Budget is good; Program topic set; no virtual option unless health restrictions indicate need.</p> <p>Communications - social media posting will be ramping up</p> <p>Sponsorships are coming along, looking better than the 2020 event.</p>
Jan. 19	Learning Network Educational Services (LNES/Consortia)	W. Keiver	<p>Attended by representatives from: Lakeland College, Lakeland Catholic SD; Northern Lights SD, ASCA, LNES</p> <p>ASCA shared that the ASCA Annual Conference and AGM will go ahead April 22/23 at the Delta Edmonton South. ASCA currently has no representation on their board from our region. If you have active school councils with a member that may be able to take this on, please visit: https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting/board-election-information</p> <p>Lakeland College shared information regarding the upcoming Envirothon to be hosted in Vermillion. This is a great LOCAL opportunity for high school students. The event will be mapped to the CTS credits so it may be possible for students to pick up some credits while participating.</p> <p>Conversations from school authorities centered around some common themes -- human resources shortages (ie subs, no one to hire for intervention supports, etc); ongoing work/ challenges with literacy and numeracy interventions, effective use of data to inform our work, and new curriculum implementation planning in the midst of the unknown (to name a few). LNES is happy to host and support collaborative conversations amongst our regional school authorities to brainstorm solutions or connect resources. If there is a challenge that you are facing, please let us know because we are here to help!</p> <p>ARPDC has recently launched some resources for numeracy intervention. They are sorted into teacher-led and EA-led interventions to further support different needs throughout the province. Literacy, specifically phonological awareness as the first focus area, is under development and will be shared once it is ready. If there is an area of intervention that you need resources or support with, please reach out. Guided Math might be a helpful structure for teachers who are wondering how to do the intervention and teach the curriculum at the same time.</p>
Jan. 25	ARPDC Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)	B. Rai	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, AISCA, CASS, ASBA, TAAPCS, First Nations, Post-Secondary institutions, Rupertsland Institute, Alberta Education, and ARPDC. The group discussed what “high leverage adult learning” meant to each representative’s organization. PAC reviewed the ARPDC Annual Learning Plan 2021-</p>



			2022 as well as listened to the mid-year report presentation. PAC also discussed and gave feedback related to both of those.
Feb. 1	Central Alberta Regional Consortium Advisory Working Group (CARC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, CARC, RDP, ASBA</p> <p>Patrick (CARC) Planning for new curriculum PD, session attendance is double from this time last year, projections are high for teachers retiring or changing professions. Support staff conference February 24. ARES March 6-8.</p> <p>Julia (RDP) Students at Red Deer Polytechnic will be online until the end of February, practicums look to be able to proceed, waiting for BEd approval - still.</p> <p>Cynthia (ASBA) New trustees inducted, discussions on curriculum concerns, difficulties with a lack of substitute teachers through the Omicron wave, Edwin Parr process starting.</p> <p>Shelley (ASCA) Funding concerns continue, conference / AGM virtual, advocating against curriculum, ASCE Grant possibilities. Looking for opportunities to collaborate with ARPDC on sessions for parents i.e.: curriculum implementation</p>
Feb. 7	Northwest Regional Learning Consortia (NRLC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, NRLC, AISCA, CASS, ASBA and KTCEA</p> <p>Sandra (NRLC) 2020/2021 NRLC Strategic Plan and Mid-Year Report(s) reviewed; changed reporting from by conference to by session, thus the increase in numbers.</p> <p>Andre (ASBA) Concerns about loss of government funding; concerns about the curriculum implementation in September</p> <p>John (AISCA) Conference will be online and in person - having sessions in Edmonton / Calgary, looking at how to add in person sessions in Lethbridge.</p> <p>Cora (CASS) Working closely with the ARPDC to continue PD and Indigenous and Métis issues.</p> <p>Pearl (KTCEA) Online due to the number of cases in Northern Alberta, looking to increase access to high-speed internet. Looking for mental health sessions to help maintain student attendance and reduce staff burnout. Started developing a Treaty 8 curriculum - have learned from the current systems what they need to do. Declined participation on the CIAG.</p> <p>Shelley (ASCA) Commiserated on the loss of funding and concerns around curriculum implementation. Shared information about Conference / AGM as well as ASCE Grant funding.</p> <p>Summary: All attendees shared a concern for mental wellbeing of students, staff, and parents through covid and an even deeper concern regarding the implementation of the draft K-6 curriculum in the fall. There is a lack of funding, a lack of resources and an even larger lack of preparedness coming from Alberta Education.</p>
Feb. 18	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, ASBA, ATA, CASS, Deans of Education (AADE) and Rupertsland Institute (RLI), along with Acting ADM Nicole Callihoo and FNMI Education Directorate staff. The Circle discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edits on IERC documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact Sheet - done



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Work Plan (2020-2023) • A potential gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small gathering for later in spring • Large gathering for later in fall or early 2023 • More discussion at the next meeting • Hiring practices of member organizations regarding diversity • Resisting Symbolic Violence - led by L. Cruickshank - article provided.
Mar. 2	Honouring Indigenous Spirit Award Selection Committee	B. Rai	Very honoured to participate in this process and to see the many ways that students are carrying forward their culture in their communities as well as the many ways students positively impact their school communities.
Mar. 6-8	Alberta Rural Education Symposium (ARES)	K. Bodell	Event attended by: MLAs, Ministers, Trustees, Superintendents, Town Councils, Out of Province attendees (Arlene Morell – President, Canadian Home and School Federation, Ontario). Event focused on “Flourishing Rural School Communities: Learning and Leading Through Appreciative Inquiry.” Speaker Scott Morrison, Superintendent Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools spoke on the Power of Narrative, turning challenges into opportunities, citing parents are a school division’s best advocates.
Mar. 14-16	CASS First Nations, Métis, Inuit Education Gathering	A. Romito	Event attended by: Alberta School Superintendents, Trustees, Indigenous Program Advisors, School Administrators, Indigenous community members including Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Ministers of Education and Indigenous Relations, Adriana LaGrange and Rick Wilson also attended the first evening. Speakers and sessions attended focused on the importance of land acknowledgments, parent and community engagement, and maintaining relationships with Indigenous community members.
Mar. 18	Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle (IERC)	S. Odishaw	<p>Attended by representatives of ASCA, ASBA, ATA, CASS, Deans of Education (AADE) and Rupertsland Institute (RLI), along with Acting ADM Nicole Callihoo and FNMI Education Directorate staff. The Circle discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Sharepoint Site for the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information will be added, access will be given to all group members • IERC Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 planning • Regularly schedule evaluations • A potential gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small gathering for the May IERC meeting, perhaps extended 9-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focused committee meeting with presenters - <i>Racism in Education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive teams from partners • Large gathering for later in fall or early 2023



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Languages presentation - Pamela M. Cunningham, Director
Mar. 22	ARPDC Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)	B. Rai	Unable to attend.
Mar. 23	Learning Network Educational Services (LNES/Consortia)	W. Keiver	Unable to attend – provided written request to promote online learning opportunities, conference, AGM, Board elections, etc.
Mar. 31	Deputy Minister Technical Briefing – Bill 15 (Teacher Discipline, Conduct & Competency)	B. Rai W. Keiver	Attended by representatives of ATA, ASBOA, ASBA, ASCA, AISCA, CASS and TAAPCS along with Alberta Education middle management staff. Presentation delivered by Alberta Education staff member related to the changes this new legislation will bring for ATA and CASS members. Short Q & A followed.

ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF) 2020-2021

In 2021-2022, the eighth year of the program, 36 Member School Councils opted in to participate on the ASCA Board of Directors School Council Engagement Task Force.

The Board consulted these ASCA Member School Councils three times during the 2021-2022 school year, with a final consultation being considered for May and June. Feedback gathered via email using a survey mechanism with the identified parent liaisons from these 36 ASCA Member School Councils on education related topics of interest relevant to the work of the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. The consolidated responses received for each topic are available on the [“What We Heard”](#) page of the ASCA website.

The ASCA Board of Directors is greatly appreciative of the participation of these 36 SCETF Councils.

Schools/Divisions:

School Name	Division
Archbishop Jordan High School	EICS
Banff Elementary School	CRSD
Bashaw School	BRSD
Bertha Kennedy Catholic School	GSAC
Dr. Martha Cohen School	CBE
Dunstable School	PHSD
Eastview Middle School	RDSD
Ecole Dr Bernard Brosseau School	LCSD
Ecole Holy Cross School	ECSD
Ecole McTavish High School	FMSD
Ecole Notre Dame Elementary School	LCSD
Fultonvale Elementary/Jr High School	EISD
Gateway Christian School	RDPSD
Good Shepherd School	FMCS
Grand Trunk High School	GYSD
J. C. Charyk Hanna School	PLSD
Jessie Duncan Elementary School	CESD
Joseph M. Demko School	STASD
Mount View School	CBE
Neerlandia Public Christian School	PHSD



Normandeau School	RDSD
Ochre Park School	STSD
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	EICS
Penhold Elementary School	CESD
Pine Street Elementary school	EISD
Queen Elizabeth School	WSD
Ramsay School	CBE
Robert Rundle Elementary School	STASD
Sam Livingston School	CBE
St. Timothy Catholic Elementary School	ECSD
Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary School	EISD
Talmud Torah Elementary School	EPSB
Tuscany School	CBE
Vincent J. Maloney School	GSAC
Westwind Alternate School	WWSD
Whispering Ridge School	PWSD

ASCA Board 2021-2022 Internal Committees

Terms of Reference for each Committee were approved by the Board. Directors appointed as Lead for their Committee provided regular activity reports and updates to the Board. Committees accomplished their assigned responsibilities, bringing recommendations for actions or decisions as needed to the Board of Directors for approval. The ASCA President and Executive Director are deemed to be ex-officio members of all Committees of the Board, unless otherwise noted.

The Internal Committees on which the 2021-2022 ASCA Board of Directors served were:

Advocacy Committee

Directors: Shelley Odishaw, Rich Haggerty, Krista Li, Kerry Bodell, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Advocacy Committee was responsible for putting together the themes and questions for the School Council Engagement Task Force. The responses to these surveys contribute to the information used by ASCA to advocate on behalf of School Councils and parent voice.

The Advocacy Committee was also responsible for updating the election package for the 2021 municipal elections. These documents were used by many Member School Councils to plan forums, write letters to candidates, and create parent engagement.

The Advocacy Committee also reviewed current ASCA Advocacy Policies that have reached the tenth anniversary date for continued relevancy and recommended to the membership that policy *12-2 High Risk Bus Stop Awareness and Signage* be amended at the 2022 AGM.

Assessing incoming Proposed Advocacy Resolutions (PARs) and assisting member school councils to ensure that intent of the PARs fall within the parameters of ASCA's foundational documents, was an important responsibility of the Advocacy Committee this year. The committee is proud of the Member School Councils who submitted PARs for the Members to consider and discuss at the Annual General Meeting.

A lack of capacity among Advocacy Committee members this year left it unable to complete all designated tasks. The Advocacy Committee leaves the following task for the 2022 - 2023 committee:



* A member education package regarding information on writing and submitting Proposed Advocacy Resolutions.

Director Reports (Ad Hoc)

Directors: Sheila Hobday, Rich Haggerty, Melissa Smith, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

This Ad Hoc committee was formed after the November 27-28, 2021, Board meeting to consider the Director Reports that are used and compiled to create the Board Self-Evaluation Progress Report. The committee met once with input from the Executive Director and Vice President. A test google form was created to automate the collection and reporting of Board activities and was shared with the Board. Feedback was received over three (3) Board meetings. Direction has been finalized and a new electronic form will need to be created and shared with the incoming 2022-23 Board of Directors.

Governance Committee

Directors: Hollie Tarasewich, Shelley Odishaw, Greta Gerstner, Andi Romito, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Governance Committee was responsible for completing a number of amendments to the Governance Policy Manual including the implementation of a Whistleblower policy, the amendment of GP 4 - Director Code of Conduct, and GP3 App3C - Social Media Policy. This Committee was also responsible for assessing the results of the Member School Council survey regarding Bylaw Article 4. The results of the survey were conclusive in that the intent of all sections of Bylaw 4 were clear.

The Governance Committee was unable to complete their task list due to a lack of capacity among committee members. The Committee leaves the following tasks for the 2022/2023 committee:

* further Governance Policy updates, a Foundational Statement review, and a review of Bylaw Articles 5 and 6.

Internal Financial Committee (IFC)

Directors: Sheila Hobday, Jacque Surgenor, Kerry Bodell, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Internal Finance Committee (IFC) met twice to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. The initial ToR was set in June 2021. Minor adjustments were made to the ToR in February 2022. A new addition to the IFC ToR this year was to have the IFC lead a SWOT Analysis of the organization. This took place over 2 board meetings at the end of August.

Financial updates were presented by management at each board meeting in the form of an Income Statement and Balance Sheet. Information included Budget, Year to Date Actuals and an estimated Year End Forecast. Considerable time was dedicated at each board meeting to discussing the Forecast and financial situation. Revised budgets were presented at four (4) Board meetings. Minor changes were made to reporting format and detail. All this work and reporting required extensive time from the Executive Director.

Legacy Committee

Directors: Shelley Odishaw, Krista Li, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

**Summary:**

The Legacy Committee was unable to complete the tasks set out due to capacity of committee members, lack of proper technology, and Covid.

The committee leaves the following tasks for the 2022/2023 committee:

- * Microfiche data recovery
- * Creation of a data system that is available to all the Board and staff.

The committee is looking forward to the 95th anniversary of ASCA in 2024.

Member Engagement Committee (MEC)

Directors: Jacquie Surgenor, Krista Scott, Melissa Smith, Andi Romito, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Member Engagement reviewed the Member Engagement Framework and considered the work of the board and the association through the lens of stakeholder information, consultation, involvement, collaboration, and empowerment. The committee was satisfied with the ongoing work of the Association to engage our membership and did not identify a need for or direct additional resources to Member Engagement.

Nominations Committee

Directors: Jacquie Surgenor, Krista Scott, Greta Gerstner, Hollie Tarasewich

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Nominations Committee was formed for the 2021-2022 ASCA year and is not a standing committee. The Nominations Committee met to review and revise existing nominations processes for the purposes of improvement, enhancement, and member engagement. In addition, the committee identified challenges to the nominations processes for future consideration.

Recognition Awards Committee (RAC)

Directors: Rich Haggerty, Sheila Hobday, Melissa Smith, Brandi Rai

Staff Support: Executive Director

Summary:

The Recognition Awards Committee has been a standing committee that chooses recipients for awards recognizing the contributions of Member School Council, Parents, Learning Partners, Districts and other ASCA supporters.

We met once to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee. The initial ToR was approved at the June 2021 Board meeting. In November, after hearing back from the Minister of Education that we did not receive our grant, a decision was made at the November 27-28, 2021, Board meeting that we did not have capacity to continue the work of the Recognition Awards Committee. All work related to this committee was immediately suspended indefinitely.

The 2022-23 Board of Directors needs to consider if there are resources to resume the work of this committee.