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September 26, 2016

Open Letter of Invitation to All BTPS School Councils:

As you may be aware, the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools committed to fund the membership of all school councils in BTPS in the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) for the 2016-2017 school year. Membership in this organization will provide access for both school level school councils and individual school council members (this includes any parent of a student in BTPS) to a wide variety of very helpful information. Some of these resources include:

- 1) Access to the ASCA website at <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>
- 2) Access to weekly informational Webinar Wednesdays (schedule attached)
- 3) Access to four Council of School Council (formerly Regional School Council) professional development sessions for school council members. (schedule attached)
- 4) Access to the ASCA 2017 School Councils conference and Annual General Meeting at a reduced registration cost

Your 2016-2017 membership fee has been submitted and you will soon receive communications from the ASCA to both welcome you into the organization and offer assistance to your school council in any way they can.

The BTPS Board of Trustees will be hosting 4 evenings for school council members across BTPS. (schedule attached) These sessions will run from 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. with opportunities for a school tour from 6:30 to 7:00 for those who wish to arrive a bit early.

BTPS Engagement Session #1 - October 25th, 2016 - To accommodate attendance at this first session, the Board has approved two locations simultaneously at Provost Public School and Mannville School. This session will provide attendees with valuable information on the purpose of school councils. The session is meant to be informative and provide opportunity to ask questions about how best school council can support the work of their respective schools and the school jurisdiction to maximize student learning. The Board members present will also take some time in this session to discuss the BTPS Mission and to have a focused conversation on the "safe and caring" aspect, in hopes of gathering perspective from parents on what this looks like for them and for their child in our schools.

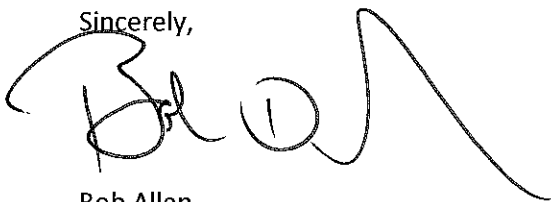
BTPS Engagement Session #2 – November 29th, 2016 – This session will be held at E.H. Walter School in Paradise Valley. This is a new school building that was designed to support collaborative learning and an includes enhancements (larger gym, stage, ancillary space) provided through community fundraising. The session put on by the ASCA is titled “Meeting Management” and will provide attendees with valuable information how best to maximize the effectiveness of their school council meetings. The Board members present will also take some time in this session to discuss the BTPS Mission and to have a focused conversation on the “maximized student learning” aspect, in hopes of gathering perspective from parents on what this looks like for them and for their child in our schools.

BTPS Engagement Session #3 - February 28th, 2017 – This session will be held at Irma School. The Board wants to get input and so the topic for the ASCA portion will be determined through feedback for school council members and in consultation with the ASCA. There are a wide variety of topics available and you can view them on the ASCA website at <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/> . The Board members present will also take some time in this session to discuss the BTPS Mission and to have a focused conversation on the “highly effective team” aspect, in hopes of gathering perspective from parents on what this looks like for them and for their child in our schools.

BTPS Engagement Session #4 – May 2nd, 2017 - This session will be held at Marwayne Jubilee School. The Board wants to get input and so the topic for the ASCA portion will be determined through feedback for school council members and in consultation with the ASCA. There are a wide variety of topics available and you can view them on the ASCA website at <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/> .

On behalf of the BTPS Board of Trustees, I want to invite you and the members of your school council to attend these important learning sessions. We see great value in supporting our school councils and look forward to the opportunity to work closely with all of you to do all we can to support our children. To accommodate planning for each of the sessions, we would ask you to send an email message to Board Secretary, Faye Dunne, indicating if you are planning to attend and how many of your school council members will be attending. We would ask that you contact her at least 1 week prior to the session date. Her email address is faye.dunne@btps.ca . If you require any further information, please contact me at (780) 842-6144.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Allen', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bob Allen
Superintendent

BTPS Board of Trustees
Council of School Councils (COSC) Engagement Sessions
2016-2017

BTPS is hosting four evening sessions throughout the 2016-2017 school year that provides opportunities for School Councils to come together as learners. The events will be hosted in different schools across BTPS to allow visitors to see other schools. The events will be attended by two or three board members and one senior administration team member. The intent will be to build the capacity of members present through Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) sessions and the provide time for the Board members to engage parents in conversations around the BTPS Mission.

The initial session is fundamental to School Council operations and will be provided at two separate venues to promote attendance. Subsequent sessions will be held at single sites during the year.

Schools hosting the events will be asked to provide coffee and light snacks for the meetings. Hosting schools are encouraged to provide tours of their schools for attendees from 6:30p.m. to 7:00 p.m. prior to the meeting start time.

Date	Time	Location	Topic
October 25 th	7:00 – 9:00p.m.	Provost Public School	ASCA – 1.5 hours School Council Purpose Board - .5 hr Engagement Session (Safe and Caring)
October 25 th	7:00 – 9:00p.m.	Mannville School	ASCA – 1.5 hours School Council Purpose Board - .5 hr Engagement Session (Safe and Caring)
November 29 th	7:00 – 9:00p.m.	E.H. Walter School	ASCA – 1.5 hours Meeting Management Board - .5 hr Engagement Session (Maximized Student Learning)
February 28 th	7:00 – 9:00p.m.	Irma School	ASCA – 1.5 hours (TBD) Board - .5 hr Engagement Session (Highly Effective Team)
May 2 nd	7:00 – 9:00p.m.	Marwayne Jubilee School	ASCA – 1.5 Hours (TBD) Board – Board Initiatives

Webinar Wednesdays



Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is pleased to present **Webinars on Wednesdays** with scheduled training, instructional sharing, partner connections and focus group sessions for the 2016/2017 school year.

ASCA utilizes the online platform of Blackboard Collaborate™ to present the webinars - accessible through home computers, laptops or mobile devices.

Morning (9:30 am) and Evening (8:30 pm) 1 hour sessions are offered. Information and online registration is available on the website. Check often for updates as **schedule is subject to change**.

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 7 School Council Purpose
- 14 Chair Basics
- 21 Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose
- 28 Meeting Management

NOVEMBER 2016

- 2 Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose
- 9 Meeting Management
- 16 Masterful Minutes
- 23 Tools for Effective School Councils
- 30 Competencies: Who, What, When, Where & Why

FEBRUARY 2017

- 1 Welcoming Refugees and Newcomers
- 8 Engaging FNMI Families
- 15 Supporting Families Coping with FASD
- 22 Benefits of Inquiry/Project Based Learning

APRIL 2017

- 5 Masterful Minutes
- 12 CAREERS: Supporting Youth Exploring

OCTOBER 2016

- 5 CAREERS: Choosing a Direction
- 12 Masterful Minutes
- 19 School Council Purpose
- 26 Chair Basics

JANUARY 2017

- 11 CAREERS: Helping Youth Choose
- 18 Competencies: Supporting Your Child's Development
- 25 Focus on Inclusion

MARCH 2017

- 1 School Council Purpose
- 8 Chair Basics
- 15 Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose
- 22 Meeting Management

MAY 2017

TBA

JUNE 2017

TBA



Alberta
School Councils' Association
www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca



*Promoting parent
engagement in public education.*

AWARDS OF RECOGNITION



Alberta
School Councils' Association

Alberta School Councils' Association is proud to present the following awards of recognition in support of school council efforts in Alberta.

SCHOOL COUNCIL Award of MERIT

The School Council Award of Merit recognizes effective school council practices that have an identifiable impact on supporting student learning and school improvement at the school level, the district level or the provincial level.

EXCELLENCE in LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS Award

The Excellence in Learning Partnerships Award recognizes partnerships that include the school council, and support parent and community involvement in education to benefit the community and enhance the learning experience of students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT of DISTINCTION Award

The School Council Parent of Distinction Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates ability to promote parental engagement and involvement in the public education system. Truly exceptional in their dedication and initiative, this individual has dynamic leadership qualities and encourages opportunity to influence student learning success in the school community.

Guidelines

1. The nomination should include completed page(s) outlining specific indicators that warrant recognition and information to support the criteria of each award.
2. Nominations must be received in the ASCA office by February 28th to be considered by the review committee and recommended for approval to the ASCA Board of Directors.
3. All nominees will be recognized with a certificate and public postings (including potential photos).
4. Recipients will be announced at the ASCA Annual Conference. Award presentations will take place in the school community.

Please download nomination forms at <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/?page=Awards> and submit to the ASCA Awards Committee by Email to parents@albertaschoolcouncils.ca