



Envisioning *our* FUTURE

Zone World Cafes

Fall 2016

Compilation of Input

DISCOVER

DREAM

DESIGN

DELIVER

Purple Question 1

How would you describe ASBA's purpose to a newcomer?

Zone 1

Support School Boards through educational services and trustee development.

Advocacy group for education to boards.

Wonderful assistance to trustees.

Provincial entity that provides all kinds of support to school boards.

We are struggling right now (ASBA).

Organization that advocates for all of the boards to the government.

Policies and procedures (sub-committee).

Collective voice to the Minister (Public/Catholic)

Provincial association that supports trustees and their work.

An organization that facilitates the (*undecipherable*) the issue.

Member services that pertain to education (cost effective).

Zone 2/3

Governance

Member Services

Legal

Advocacy

Liaison role

Covered by legislation.

Corporate board (not a School Board)

The connector of all school boards across Alberta.

Service provider to boards and individual trustees.

Perceived as a provincial voice of school boards.

Advocates to higher level government.

Support to individual boards.

Professional development to new and existing trustees.

Offer support to trustees and boards.

To represent, advocate on behalf of Alberta students, communities and stakeholders through locally elected trustees.

Trustees gather to share wisdom.

They are a collective provincial voice.

Professional organization and a voice of education for all children (representing their diversity).

Provides a forum for us to come together and share views and understand each other.

Purple Question 1

How would you describe ASBA's purpose to a newcomer?

Zone 2/3 continued

Allows us to understand one another and unite and become a loud powerful voice.
Its purpose is to represent, advocate on behalf of Alberta students, communities and stakeholders through locally elected trustees.
It provides a forum for trustees to share wisdom and diversity and be a collective provincial voice for our students.
Professional development opportunities for all trustees including new.
Meeting place for member boards to have their voices heard in a stronger capacity.
Professional development opportunity – larger group provides this opportunity.
Opportunity for resource networking.
Possible mentorship for new trustees.
Looking and understanding a larger picture of what or who ASBA's role is.
The number of boards (opportunity for ongoing support).
Larger representative group for advocacy, initiatives and MLA events.
Education value – rural vs urban.
Brings all boards together as one.
Brings services to school boards (small boards use these).
Recognize and supports the big picture within education.
Is a support to all students.
Representation for publically funded boards within the province.
Provides services.
Unified voice of all boards.
Spokesperson for boards.
Liaison between boards and government.
Same number of issues brought forward by government.
Forum to discuss issues.
Get provincial perspective.
Association that represents public through elected officials.
Association that recognizes the public voice of education.
Communicates to Alberta Education on our behalf.
Provides education from other boards (e.g. forums, transportation in different districts).
Services – legal, forums to gather, negotiations, curriculum and professional development workshops.
To support trustees in their work.

Purple Question 1

How would you describe ASBA's purpose to a newcomer?

Zone 2/3 continued

To better represent parents.

To access information to do our job.

To be front and centre to Alberta government.

Governance body.

Voice to government.

Liaison between boards and government.

Unified voice of school boards.

Advocacy role.

Services: legal, consultations, negotiations, workshops.

Provide expertise especially in education matters.

Training and trustee role description.

Forum – networking/issues.

Zone 4

Support group for trustees.

P.D. (x2)

Allows boards to advocate as a group to the Alberta government.

One voice.

Unites school boards' visions, concerns and commonality – compliments.

Plays a role as a mentor (mentorship).

Represents trustees with the government.

Conduit between Alberta Education and local boards.

Informer.

P.D. on how to negotiate and new trustee orientation.

Provides services.

They are our voice.

Have one united voice to speak at a provincial level.

Opportunity to hash out the one voice at SGM and FGM.

Coalition of boards providing support and services to locally elected school boards.

United voice.

Provincial voice for all publically elected boards.

Advocate for school boards.

Share ideas among boards.

Common voice.

Purple Question 1

How would you describe ASBA's purpose to a newcomer?

Zone 4 continued

Provides services – P.D., Legal, Facilitators.

Election kits for people and encourages people to get involved.

Orientation.

Zone 5

Funding equity for all children.

Ensuring good educational opportunities for all children.

Our purpose is to represent all school boards, but we are fractured and finding it challenging to fulfill that purpose. To be strong we have to be united.

Our strength lies in our ability to come to government with a united voice.

We have good people, but our organization feels old and staid and we aren't getting the traction we should be getting.

A provincial organization advocating to government with one voice.

We are the voice of school boards in the province representing the interests of school boards to government and outside agencies.

We advocate on behalf of all students and parents and communities in the province.

A source of information, expertise and advise on public education.

A personal network for members.

A support system for school boards.

We provide professional learning opportunities.

Our services are adaptable to the needs of individual boards.

It's been difficult to deal with all the personalities and still have the purpose come through. Personalities can get in the way of meeting members' needs.

Our purpose is different at different levels – from the 30,000 foot level we are here to advocate for school boards.

We should be stronger than we are, given our numbers.

We could have a lot of influence but we don't seem to use it. We would be more powerful if we could speak with one voice.

There is a perception that we are reacting to things when we could be in the driver's seat.

We don't have conversations like this World Café. Face-to-face conversations where we have a chance to get to know one another.

ASBA develops positions on provincial issues affecting education.

From the outside looking in, we don't appear to be united.

Purple Question 1

How would you describe ASBA's purpose to a newcomer?

Zone 5 continued

The SGM is scary for newcomers because it's so formal and we don't know the procedures.

Our FGM and SGM processes are formal and don't allow time for conversation.

We can't have a united voice unless boards are willing to surrender some of their autonomy.

ASBA has the potential to speak with one voice, but we are hindered by some boards not supporting ASBA.

ASBA plays the top advocacy role on public education issues.

Zone 6

Represents 61 boards.

Advocate for unity.

Voice for public education.

Resources for boards.

61 boards who are fragmented on rural/urban – how do we achieve unity?

Boards trying to work together on common ground to unify.

Government lobby on behalf of students.

General meetings and other conferences are a great opportunity for boards to showcase best practices/presentations.

Facilitate growth and professional development of boards and trustees.

Support boards.

Two years ago as a new trustee: divided/floundering/an annoyance. Now: have a direction but it may not be well known by public.

Provincial Issues Forums to share ideas.

A voice and venue for all boards to have a common voice. (x 2)

Gain insight.

Share information.

Share creative ideas to come to new solutions.

Think tank.

Understanding of common elements and differences between school boards – broader perspectives.

Shared vision and shared advocacy to achieve vision.

Networking opportunity.

Sense of unity – family.

Purple Question 1

How would you describe ASBA's purpose to a newcomer?

Zone 6 continued

United 95% / 5% fragmented.

Like a sifter – generative opportunity for ideas, especially at zones.

Forum to share ideas and brainstorm.

Professional development.

National representation.

Provide services and advocacy for school boards.

Go between local school division/zones/government (especially the Department of Education).

Allows for different perspectives – experience to create understanding.

Purple Question 2

What currently makes you proud and passionate about ASBA?

Zone 1

Represents all school boards – Catholic, Private, Francophone

All members matter.

Fresh vision with new Executive Director.

We came together as a group to focus on our common issues when we saw the agenda being monopolized by one person's/board's issue.

Passion for trusteeship is recognized by ASBA.

Accountability in the leadership to the membership.

Proud of Chair who exhibits grace under fire.

On our side fighting for students.

There to help with any and all questions we have.

Provincial representative at the zone meetings (appreciate this).

Same level on issues (can come to that conclusion).

The President has passion in her voice when she speaks.

Follow through/support issues to the Minister.

Great support to trustees on orientation, legal issues, P.D. of Trustees.

Service provider.

Interpretation of government Act.

Minister's ear.

Long proven history.

Everyone is equal and can speak at microphone – no judgement.

Zone 2/3

Advocates of public education with kids at heart.

Strong voice for all school boards.

The work at zones which allows us to speak freely and well as disagree.

We are more efficient/functional at zones than provincial level.

The legacy of 125 years in Alberta.

Because of zone 2/3 being large in size, we have the opportunity for diversity and learning from each other (perspectives/views, variety in geography, demographics).

We need a mechanism to address the elephant in the room.

Proud that the zone is united.

Boards don't respect ASBA.

Boards don't respect each other.

ASBA is a legislated body.

Purple Question 2

What currently makes you proud and passionate about ASBA?

Zone 2/3 continued

Our diverse voices come together to take one voice to the province.

At zones there is good diversity.

Provincially diverse.

Advocates for all students.

Supports all boards.

Not proud that it hasn't been able to be a unifying or effective voice for all boards. If it was I would be proud of it.

We are now in competition with TEBA.

We have to be big enough to accept the final decisions and then move on.

ASBA's support for public education – every child should have equal opportunity for education and learning.

The focus relates to all students – equal opportunities for all students.

Personable personnel. President and others weather the storm.

Remind us of working together for students.

Always professional.

Relationships developed.

Networking.

The work and the wisdom of trustees throughout the province.

Opportunity to speak to other elected government professional people/very democratic.

Fair

ASBA keeps things firm and solid.

Strength in numbers.

Professional organization.

Represents diversity.

Proud that we influence change.

Promotes relationships.

Agree and come together for what's best for our kids.

Professional in depth analysis of issues, ramifications and expertise on issues.

The zone structure allows us to be able to connect, network and speak freely – allowed to disagree and be efficient and functional.

Purple Question 2

What currently makes you proud and passionate about ASBA?

Zone 4

Strong foundation and the current staff.

Direct voice to the government. (x2)

ASBA has stood the test of time.

Help boards to advocate for children.

Keep us up to speed on issues.

Grass roots oriented.

Information conduit.

Increases our understanding of other boards as our challenges and differences are recognized when we share them and support each other.

ASBA does too much. They spread themselves too thin.

Serves as a communication vehicle with the Alberta government.

It is grass roots oriented.

Long standing.

Inclusive.

Dedicated people (trustees) who take their role seriously and do the “work” and make us proud.

Recognize the local autonomy of boards.

Structure works: Zone, Director, President, Vice-President.

President (must) keep their cool!

ASBA is professional.

Common voice.

“Passionate” was a poor choice of word – how do you get “passionate” about an organization?

Am “passionate” to have my voice heard at a provincial level through ASBA.

Zone 5

I’m passionate about the fact that we are an organization with skills and knowledge and that we work on behalf of boards.

Our ability to have a local voice and bring it together into a provincial voice.

Zone meetings have helped me connect with a lot of people and understand different points of view.

Opportunities for these kinds of conversations – the generative piece.

Our ability to reach out and support one another.

Our readiness to look at ourselves and face our issues.

Purple Question 2

What currently makes you proud and passionate about ASBA?

Zone 5 continued

Today is the first time we've done something like this – we need more time for conversation in our meetings.

Our desire to always to better.

I'm proud of the passion we bring to our meetings and our ability to work through issues and sometimes find solutions.

Zones face challenges engaging all of their boards so that they can represent everyone's position.

Zone 6

Trying to understand 61 board issues.

Allow opportunity to understand each other.

Chance to connect.

Spring and Fall Issues Forums have contributed to great conversation, change of perspectives and unity.

How we handled the last SGM business session – boards came together to form a united front.

Proactivity – continue P.D. which helps trustees understand their role.

Help the public understand.

After last provincial election had difficulty being passionate as ASBA was silent – ASBA needs to proactively speak up.

Learn so much from attending meetings, conferences – educational component.

Collection of locally elected voices who speak on behalf of communities and students.

When at General Meeting – dignitaries piped in.... proud we represent school boards.

Advocate for all school boards in Alberta.

Good set of staff with expertise in fields which are valuable to school boards – can help. Quality staff.

Would be more passionate if we can focus more on being more proactive rather than reactive.

Student focus.

What is best for students?

School boards have ear to constituents, students, parents – we inform government.

Purple Question 3

What aspects of ASBA do you want to preserve as we move through this renewal process?

Zone 1

Board representation, not individual trustees.
Trustee development.
Communication with the Ministry.
Accountability
Be proactive.
Preserve relationships that have been built with all key stakeholders.
Preserve their ability to serve us.
Staffing approachability.
Special aids they provide us with – legal/evaluation (cost effective).
Francophone, Catholic, Public – all together to face issues as a whole.
Bring issues to us in a timely manner.
Maintain P.D. for trustees.
Common voice advocate together.
Develop a policy position on private school funding.
Education Act proclaimed.
More transparency with Board of Directors and follow through and up and down and all around.
This exercise is useful and helpful and should be done regularly.
High quality services.
ASBA doesn't wrestle in the mud.
Trouble times still can get to task at hand.
New trustee orientation.
Preserve structure
Ongoing P.D. for trustees.
Preserve networking time at conferences.

Zone 2/3

That the unifying factor is our students (so we will make it work).
Preserve mutual respect of each other in agreements, disagreements and support.
That it brings us together to discuss and explore.
Access to expertise and resources.
Ongoing advocacy/initiatives.
Keep FGM and SGM.

Purple Question 3

What aspects of ASBA do you want to preserve as we move through this renewal process?

Zone 2/3 continued

Conversations with provincial representatives (e.g. Minister of Education, MLAs, others).

Preserve the ability to elect – President, Vice President and Board of Directors.

Open and constructive communications.

Cutting edge and relevant ongoing professional development.

Services to small boards.

The government wants us fractured so that they can control us.

Preserve and increase transparency and accountability.

We need a reset not a renewal.

Preserve us as a unit.

We are clunky and fractured.

We are not respectful of each other and ASBA.

The Zone structure (x2).

Representation of all students (e.g. loss of participation on one board).

Bringing us together to discuss and explore issues.

Access to expertise and resources for all boards, but especially small boards.

Preserve that we have one voice.

ASBA has the ability to serve all the boards, which requires cooperation of all boards.

Preserve mutual respect of all boards in agreement and disagreement as well as be supportive.

That our unifying factor is our students.

ASBA needs to speak to both sides, or all sides of an issue, which would honour our diversity.

What an association would preserve for boards.

Professional development – relevant.

Appreciate ASBA senior executives attend zone meetings.

An opportunity to connect with all.

Benefit of attending provincial ASBA and Zone meetings, Fall General Meetings, Spring General Meetings or other forums.

Urban caucus meetings.

Rural caucus meetings.

Metro caucus meetings.

Collaborative work.

Purple Question 3

What aspects of ASBA do you want to preserve as we move through this renewal process?

Zone 2/3 continued

- Keep unified voice through diversity.
- Focus on common anomalies.
- Keep minority voice in mind (e.g. Francophone school boards).
- Preserve voice at the table.
- Preserve the little power we have left.
- Ground foundation: professionalism, expertise, governance.
- Keep unity of Association.
- Focus on grass roots – why we exist.
- Keep resolution process, policy and advocacy.

Zone 4

- ASBA meets our needs.
- Flexible.
- Continue to offer Provincial Issues Forum, P.D. and governance sessions.
- Listen to all, but respect the differences.
- Preserve the formal structure: Zones, Board of Directors, President, Vice-President.
- Unity is a necessary piece for ASBA success.
- Some issues are taboo and never will be addressed because we have two systems.
 - Rural-Metro and Public-Separate. These should at least be discussed.
- Preserve: Edwin Parr tradition and Friends of Education.
- Legal aspects/services, facilitators, P.D. and more – all services.
- Change the terms for Chair and Vice-Chair to two years.
- Democratic.
- Preserve strengthen our local autonomy.
- Advocate for local autonomy.
- Keep all services provided by ASBA.

Zone 5

- We tend to focus on our differences, not our similarities. If we can listen to one another, learn from one another and focus on the right things, we can have impact.
- Continue to act as a clearing house for information for smaller boards.
- We have the right organizational skeleton – we have to put more meat on the bones.
- Continuing to act as a united voice provincially.

Purple Question 3

What aspects of ASBA do you want to preserve as we move through this renewal process?

Zone 6

Democracy

Transparency

New member orientation.

Collaboration and sharing model.

Believe in best education we can provide for students.

Student focus.

Collaborate with government.

Nimbleness – ability to respond in a timely fashion on behalf of kids.

Unity.

Engagement of school boards to inform strategy, advocacy, priorities and direction.

Having zone representation at Board of Directors' table to be communication link.

President and Vice President attend zone meetings – maintain relationships, connections, and builds trust.

Issues Forums. (x 3)

Ensure great P.D. continues. (x3)

Staff with corporate history and knowledge of the history of issues while scanning for trends and responding to changes.

Service valued by boards.

Retain professional knowledgeable staff.

Green Question 1

What words or phrases best describe your preferred future for ASBA?

Zone 1

Student centered (x2)

Proactive

Collaborative with other education stakeholders.

Provincially focused for students.

Grassroots

Advocacy (x3)

Bring any issue to decision together.

Opportunity exists for all partners and are all one voice.

Responsive

Respected

United

Rely on information gathered by ASBA (legal, negotiating, facilitator (library of knowledge)).

Support: Members support ASBA and vice versa – two way street.

Decisive

Agile

Zone 2/3

Perceptive, responsive, visionary.

ASBA to be nimble.

Does ASBA need to be the contributor or the facilitator? – Is the structure set up for it?

Zones versus Board of Directors.

Need an advocate to bring forward movement.

ASBA needs to be able to show both sides of the argument/diversity and allow for board autonomy.

Accept our diversity and use to our benefit instead of feeding our diversity.

Verbalize all positions if needed.

Sometimes by composite, membership is not an advocate due to different needs of all boards.

More effective as service needs versus advocate.

Develop structure of ASBA that respects diversity and equips us to put forth provincial matters – don't think this currently exists.

Relevant.

Green Question 1

What words or phrases best describe your preferred future for ASBA?

Zone 2/3 continued

ASBA needs to be the enabler – the servant leader of boards, then President will always be able to verbalize at any time.

Inclusive – Are we inclusive for all boards (rep for every student)?

Listen to the masses.

Transparent.

Non-existent.

To be an attentive listener.

Advocacy.

ASBA would respect all boards.

In the media – need to serve as an education opportunity for all boards.

Silent as a provincial association which deteriorates the value of the association.

Respected alignment.

First line of conversation to the Minister.

Once nimble ASBA will be viewed by education partners as more effective.

Be in alignment.

Need to be proactive instead of reactive.

A united front.

Member driven.

Avoid watered policy as it is useful for no one.

If we all thought the same, we would not think at all.

Advocacy.

Attentive and responsive.

ASBA needs to be a voice for boards not a leader for boards.

Nimble and clunky – otherwise there is adversity.

No support for important decisions.

Responsive because we don't know how things will change.

Service organization.

Provide tools to boards to operate effectively.

P.D., legal, training

Serve students not systems.

Voice of students.

Student centered.

Correct understanding of Constitutional Act on publicly funded and public education.

To help provide education for all students.

Green Question 1

What words or phrases best describe your preferred future for ASBA?

Zone 2/3 continued

Working as one voice.

Relationship building at all government levels and with the membership.

Advocate

Grassroots have a say.

Respect

Trustee support.

Issues Forum

Resources for trustees and boards (legal, professional development).

Trustworthy

Process not being followed creates mistrust within membership.

Need for more defined process.

Collaborative

Give ASBA more power.

ASBA needs a stronger provincial voice.

United

Passionate

Transparent

Good communicators.

Needs to be best for students.

Zone 4

Represent all.

One voice with diversity within.

Representing all.

Speaking with one voice.

Represents all school boards to the government (and back from government to all member boards).

Strong.

Inclusive.

Promoting local autonomy.

One publicly funded system.

All school boards would be part of ASBA.

No boundaries.

Subsidiarity.

Green Question 1

What words or phrases best describe your preferred future for ASBA?

Zone 4 continued

Take us seriously.

Lobbyist.

Is the only organization with no PSBAA or ACSTA.

People can work out differences.

Work better together.

Be more powerful in the eyes of government.

Sustainable.

Ways to allow for diversity while still accommodating what we have.

“Diversity” with one voice.

Ability to look at issues specific to one group and deal with them in a fair way.

Zone 5

Real voice of school boards in the province.

Relevant

Provincial

Inclusive

Strong

Diverse/diversity

Responsive

Representative

Current with best practices

“A game”

Informed communication.

One Board unified.

Strength in unity

Authentic

Committed Boards

Issues affect all of us.

One voice to advocate and provide direction.

Open to learn how to hear our members, especially with difficult conversations.

Diversity of members.

Divergent views.

Common understanding.

Autonomy

Green Question 1

What words or phrases best describe your preferred future for ASBA?

Zone 5 continued

Respect
Inclusive
Students first – parents are important.
Liaison
Involved
Consult
Compromise
Balance
Autonomy
Elected representatives – our voice.
Communities with a shared understanding.
United with goal.
Goal driven
Equity
Look after one another.
We are all in this together.
Shared responsibility.
Mutual respect and understanding.
Build respect and engage.
ASBA is there to gain influence and meet needs.

Zone 6

Proactive (x2)
United
Advocate
Respected organization
Progressive
Collaboration (x2)
Communication
Representative
Clear roles for each stakeholder.
Enhance local role in developing education of students.
Bottom-up not top-down.
Effective

Green Question 1

What words or phrases best describe your preferred future for ASBA?

Zone 6 continued

Communication with audiences.

Build, celebrate, diversity

Celebration

Respecting differences.

Support teachers.

Socialization – respectful relationships.

Students first.

Innovative

Serve and protect public schools/elected boards.

Engage

Advocacy

Partner

Proactive

Nimble

Celebrating

Unified

Best practices

Best possible education for all students.

Nimbleness

Adaptive

Leaders of change.

Attentive to our constituents regarding change.

What is best for our organization?

Green Question 2

What could be ASBA's unique contribution to education in Alberta? What's possible here?

Zone 1

Possible assurance model for the public that school boards really are providing the best education for their students.

The importance of local democracy.

Nimble responses when any questions are asked from any quarter.

Facilitate dialogue and not necessarily develop a position. It's about having the conversation and understanding that not one size fits all.

Unique contribution of community voice to other local representative.

Government needs see board representatives as officials.

ASBA to get feedback from Albertans.

Give ASBA respect to have the time to properly engage with the community.

Guidelines

Policy

Mediation

Legal aspect/knowledge

Information available to school boards to assist with teachers.

Expertise

What's available to boards – evaluations.

Do people really know the value of ASBA? – Sometimes.

Proactive not reactive.

Providing interest.

Could we be a driver not passenger.

Forward thinking.

ASBA can use technology to be more responsive.

How many initiatives have come from the bottom up?

Future: In 20 years will there be schools?

Technology has changed our way of thinking and the knowledge and information we can pull.

How many boards have open seats? Couldn't be filled.

Zone 2/3

Nuances of the decisions.

The voice of the decisions.

The complexity of the decisions.

Green Question 2

What could be ASBA's unique contribution to education in Alberta? What's possible here?

Zone 2/3 continued

Members will buy into ASBA more if they felt heard (even if they were voted against).

One transportation issue is similar – but different.

Urban vs rural.

Servant leaders.

Do we need Positional Statements? How do they differ per board?

Service providing organization.

Contributor (Boards) vs Communicator (ASBA)

All boards should respect other boards.

We need to build trust as it has been lost.

Trust comes with knowledge.

It's not what ASBA can do for us but what we can do for ASBA.

What is best for children? All policy needs to be in alignment with this.

It could demonstrate relevance of boards and trustees.

To be able to easily talk about what all/or most boards would like to see without worrying about offending any one board.

Professional

Come back to what is best for students.

Get rid of political gains of boards.

Support and respect different cultures of our diverse boards.

United support of diverse students.

Provide a unique voice of school boards (stronger).

Become equal partners.

Consultation on curriculum, MGA Act.

Pre-consultation

Promote an organizational structure that supports and respects diversity of boards.

Could be a strong united voice.

To be a resource for all kids regardless of what system they are in.

ASBA to become a major driver in the change in education.

More involvement.

Green Question 2

What could be ASBA's unique contribution to education in Alberta? What's possible here?

Zone 4

Lobbyist.

Services – P.D., legal

Sounding board.

Strong organization that truly has a voice throughout the province with government, parents and students.

Structure may need tweaking but works well.

Grass roots.

Services to boards very important and makes us stronger (i.e. legal etc.).

Don't govern within a bubble – hear other issues from other boards.

Becoming aware of other issues to increase understanding.

Bigger perspective.

Education and training of trustees.

Equal representation – no public or Catholic.

All boards have a voice.

Come together.

To be recognized as a true partnership with the government and to have a meaningful relationship.

ASBA's unique connection between public at school level and government.

Our voices represent schools.

Through the voices of parents.

If the government doesn't treat us as a partner, then the rest doesn't matter.

To be the voice of the "public" back to the government.

Elected to speak on behalf of the people.

Get elected same as other government officials.

We are the filter/buffer from parental groups to the government.

Communication – not getting it.

Conduit between boards and government.

To ensure a worthwhile education that is relevant, meaningful and current.

Sounding board which goes with communication and efficiencies in communication techniques.

No divisiveness.

Services provided by ASBA assist us in arriving at preferred future.

Professional development for trustees.

Green Question 2

What could be ASBA's unique contribution to education in Alberta? What's possible here?

Zone 5

ASBA is the provincial voice.
Provide expertise.
Lift up another level.
Bring it up a level.
Focus on similarities.
All issues would have funding.
Provide the link and glue – a conduit for connection.
Knowledge to small boards.
Advocacy
Advocacy works.
Expertise and advice.
Information
Legal expertise.
Share wealth of knowledge around the province.
Networking
Social responsibility.
One voice – what is best for all our kids.
Provide experience for our students.

Zone 6

Proactive, generative discussions to advocate to government.
Progressive and proactive not reactive.
Visionary organization that out lasts changes in provincial government.
Advocacy at post-secondary institutions to support appropriate staffing of board offices.
Celebrate diversity.
Grassroots
Meaningful vote for locally elected trustees.
Responsible and accountable.
Advocacy with provincial government.
Being proactive in putting ASBA's agenda into the public space.
Ensure education critics understand ASBA's position on local bargaining.
Assertive – focus on solutions.

Green Question 2

What could be ASBA's unique contribution to education in Alberta? What's possible here?

Zone 6 continued

Visionary – education in the future.

Utilize zone structure better.

Stronger together.

Provide opportunities for boards to see and hear what other boards are thinking.

Build common understanding to be effective.

Diverse system to provide choice.

One system in the province that provides choice.

Believes in what might be impossible.

Represent 61 boards to government to create class education.

ASBA strong enough to survive the rumblings and emerge stronger.

Help boards work together.

Be stronger.

Meet challenges.

We have to work together even if we have different opinions.

Unique attributes – not part of parliamentary system.

Never silent on things that are important.

Bring locally elected trustees together to become productive.

Stress the importance of trustees.

Finds unity on our diversity.

Believe in local boards.

Believe in each other.

Believe in diversity.

Making local voices strong.

Green Question 3

What would ASBA look like if the best were to happen?

Zone 1

It would have full membership of all publicly funded Alberta boards including Federal First Nations.

More conversation and less decision-making.

More dialogue and listening.

We would be able to flesh out the commonalities and share best practices.

Representing every student by pulling together – common goal – commonality.

ASBA would represent all school boards and every student in the province.

Having all partners together (The Umbrella).

We as boards have to stop looking at ASBA for answers – numbers game.

No student should be left behind.

Timely responses.

Respected voice – they need to get out there and be acknowledged as a respected voice.

The direction of the topic they are looking at.

Invite trustees and get out there so they can be recognized.

Be quick to react. ASBA has to look at responding in a timely manner.

Parents don't want to wait days for a response. They want answers now!

ASBA has to be updated to model today/tomorrows agendas.

Zone 2/3

Student driven – child centered always.

Representation of all students (metro, urban and rural).

Revise the voice of rural boards.

Rural recognition.

Membership of all boards.

Include Yellowknife and Lloydminster.

Married to TEBA and ASBA

Maximize all dollars.

Totally shaking up.

Look at Saskatchewan structure.

Others feed up to provincial board.

The boards that make up ASBA are the ones with the power.

Networking.

Recognition and maintain zones.

Green Question 3

What would ASBA look like if the best were to happen?

Zone 2/3 continued

FGM and SGM

ASBA could be more defined and powerful.

Trustees would give more.

ASBA promote the value of all trustees and local boards.

The community would recognize the important role of the trustees.

Everyone would stay to the end of the meeting.

Show commitment.

If ASBA is ever able to speak it is mandated.

All boards in Alberta would respect ASBA.

ASBA be the voice of the investment of education to create a better future.

ASBA is the voice for all.

Success for all students.

Be respected as a provincial association.

Major influences on provincial issues.

ASBA to be there before decisions are made.

Being an influential voice to the public that doesn't have students in the school system.

Strong provincial united front for all boards.

Recognized as elected officials by ATA and by all government and public.

Visionary – to be a step ahead for our students.

Know the needs and communicate it.

Zone 4

To be heard.

Same level with government.

Organization with great influence.

Strong organization that has a voice through the province and government.

ASBA would become the “Association” that the government would come to first.

Most credible and reliable resource for government – look to us for answers.

To be recognized as a united voice. The voice for children in our province.

A place for trustees to go to for information and professional development.

An organization of great influence – historically bypassed.

One public education voice not multiple associations.

More dollars to the classroom.

Choices that include faith and specialty programs.

Green Question 3

What would ASBA look like if the best were to happen?

Zone 4 continued

Powerful voice.

Cohesive education leadership.

We would be a real partner with more influence than we currently have.

One unified group of boards.

Successful students that contribute to society.

Giving the best education system to our kids.

Not always about power – about mission.

Mission to provide best education possible on provincial level – lead school boards on this mission and towards a goal.

Should be an addition to Alberta Education and an ally.

More complex society becomes more local and out of control.

Communities and issues are different.

Zone 5

Government would listen and respect ASBA.

One, strong powerful body.

Deep understanding and mutual respect.

Best for our kids.

Voice that speaks as one.

Respect for one another.

Conversation with mutual respect.

Code of Conduct

Best for all children for all funding infrastructure.

Big picture stuff.

Support boards in achieving best practices.

Respect diversity of the boards.

Depth of one voice.

Honor diversity and local autonomy and uniqueness.

Respecting autonomy with the real voice of public education in Alberta.

ASBA would act responsibly and timely.

Represent our diversity.

Green Question 3

What would ASBA look like if the best were to happen?

Zone 6

A respected voice to be reckoned with.

Government comes to ASBA.

We would be leading conversations.

A protection of student interests.

Move away from the Carver model of governance.

One united organization that respects differences.

Discussion without judgement.

Convey – seek to understand – talking stick – respect each other.

Respect in disagreements.

Common shared advocacy.

All celebrate.

Strongly advocating for all Alberta boards and therefore students.

Blue Question 1

What core beliefs and guiding principles should guide ASBA as it moves towards its future?

Zone 1

School board members are crucial to the educational system – make that known to the public and parents.

School boards are responsive to stakeholders.

Stronger together.

ASBA represents boards because all boards are important. Can't discount some boards because of size, location etc.

Students are number one in everything we do and we (boards) must make ASBA aware of the issues.

Guided by student needs.

Student centered.

All positions brought forward considered through the lens of what is the benefit to students.

Is it realistic to say that ASBA speaks with one voice?

Boards differ in their vision, points (e.g. bargaining, LGBTQ, taxation).

ATA moves forward without consensus of all teachers. Should ASBA do this as well?

Needs to be based on our commonalities.

Doing things in the best interest of all students.

Need increased advocacy for kids.

Clearly connect the benefit to kids to all of our advocacy.

Zone 2/3

Enhancing student learning. (x2)

What's best for kids.

Focus on what's good for kids.

Honour diversity and local autonomy.

Strength not a deficiency.

ASBA is here to serve boards (and not boards serve ASBA).

Educate the public.

Focus on governance (what's governance/administration).

What is best for students?

Ensuring that it is known that boards are elected.

Role of trustees.

ASBA should support our local autonomy as boards.

Blue Question 1

What core beliefs and guiding principles should guide ASBA as it moves towards its future?

Zone 2/3 continued

To strengthen individual boards and give them the ability to be their best.

Core belief.

Our work has to be beneficial for kids.

ASBA is a grassroots organization enabling members to serve kids.

Open and transparent in ASBA governance.

ASBA must be inclusive unto itself as a unit.

Can't splinter ASBA.

Look at all children in the province of Alberta and not just what is in our community.

Good, sound and best possible education we can provide in a safe environment.

Provide best education we can to the children.

Safe environment.

Kids first.

Make sure children are ready for the world.

Advocating and advocacy in relation to kids and education.

Advocating to and for government, parents and communities.

Kids, Kids – education – graduation.

We are here for the students.

ASBA is the political arm to carry 61 boards, the children and facilities throughout the province.

Faith in ASBA. Been trying for years for a united front and never succeeded – but must.

Do we want to be perceived by people in government that we don't know what we are doing?

Students are the centre of all of our work.

We are publicly accountable for all of our words and actions.

Integrity.

Need to be more nimble and current.

Local autonomy of school boards.

Collaborative as we work with stakeholders and members.

The closer to the students the better the decisions are.

Advocate while representing diversity so ASBA can have a voice. (e.g. These boards believe this...because of this...../These boards believe differently because.....).

Have a voice despite diversity.

Blue Question 1

What core beliefs and guiding principles should guide ASBA as it moves towards its future?

Zone 2/3 continued

Do what is best for kids.

United. Strength in numbers.

Transparency.

Respect diverse cultures that come through the doors – staff or students.

ASBA will always provide P.D., training and legal services to members.

Collaboration of all the members.

Although diverse background, come with a united front.

We are a group of elected officials that should have a provincial voice.

Every child should be educated and publicly funded.

Helping boards across the province come together on those things that we can unite and advocate on.

ASBA's core beliefs around serving all children in good facilities has served us well.

Already on the right track for the future.

Zone 4

Keeping sound educational system.

Represents all boards.

Rural is as important as urban.

Metro is as important as northern and southern schools.

Educational leadership.

Wellbeing of students.

What's best for kids.

"All" children deserve a good education – Alberta students.

Keep local elected school boards.

Be an advocate for local autonomy for local school boards.

Represent all member boards.

Continue to have public support for local boards.

Believe the more complicated the world gets, the more local the problems become.

Local boards and autonomy are important.

Serve to aid in development of future education.

Keeping a sound educational system.

Serves to aid in developing equitable education.

Success for all students.

Blue Question 1

What core beliefs and guiding principles should guide ASBA as it moves towards its future?

Zone 4 continued

Children come first.

We are stronger together.

Zone 5

One voice speaking for all students.

Disincentive voices makes it seem there is division and less credible.

When we have a policy on issues, ASBA needs to be leaders.

Dialogue with Government to: challenge – encourage.

Policy should empower the President and Board of Directors to proactively advocate on behalf of all boards and students.

Boards have different levels of comfort with advocacy.

How do boards support ASBA advocacy? There is strength in numbers – many students represented.

We believe in the value of public education and publically funded education.

Believe in a choice in education.

We respect the privacy of parents to determine what is best for their children.

Look at all we do through the lens of what is best for students.

We are representatives of parents looking after students.

While speaking with one voice and respecting diversity.

As a provincial association, speak with one voice.

If it is a local issue – leave it to the local voice to tell the story – provide local context.

Speak with one voice while respecting local autonomy.

We care about each other – our brother's keeper.

Best interest of all students in entire province. Hasn't changed in all our history.

Look at foundational policy to determine if they are still what we want today.

Speak with one common voice (we don't now – elephant in the room).

Boards must give ASBA mandate and some autonomy to represent and speak on behalf of all boards and students.

Speak provincially on matters which impact all students.

Do not focus on interest groups.

Big picture – all the kids.

Blue Question 1

What core beliefs and guiding principles should guide ASBA as it moves towards its future?

Zone 6

What is best for students? (x2)
Firm belief in locally elected boards.
Firm belief in public education.
Advocating for new learning and better education on behalf of students to the Minister.
Lifelong learning – we want our children to keep up the level of education.
Alberta should have best education system in world.
Bring all school boards together.
Find core things that we should all do together.
Welcome all school boards.
No group forgotten.
Do well.
ASBA bringing all groups together.
What's best for kids is overused.
Accountable in guiding what's best for kids.
If we didn't have taxpayers and staff we wouldn't have a school division.
Represent all working in the field.
Serve and protect.
Inclusive.
Strength is building bridges and including people – today and today's kids.
Grassroots and follow-up on different opinions but leave as one voice.
ASBA listen to staff as well as kids.
Perspective good and bad in schools.
Similar on some level but different on some level – teachers are busy.
Honesty and transparency.
Let school boards free but unified on somethings.
Grassroots – messy at times but powerful.
Powerful but slow.
Clear focus on education for kids.
Transparency.
React to see what is happening to kids but also be proactive.

Blue Question 2

How can ASBA best engage and empower its members?

Zone 1

- By providing relevant information in a timely manner and a venue for dialogue.
- Word-smithing shouldn't be the focus of the work on resolutions. There are people in the audience who tend to hijack the meetings.
- World Café, FGM and SGM are good venues to engage and empower boards. You hear a wider perspective by being all together.
- Be on the cutting edge of technology to engage member boards.
- Timely and consistent contact.
- Use existing structure to engage smaller group work, such as World Café.
- Working as a team.
- Parents are first educators of their children.
- Boards must take the voice of parents and take it forward to ASBA.
- Empowering by advocating.
- Keeping members informed.
- Two way communication.

Zone 2/3

- Help boards strengthen their voice.
- Education to speak on themselves.
- Be a service organization not an advocacy organization.
- Determine the purpose of the ASBA organization.
- Create issues about education.
- Take a stand.
- Help boards understand the diverse issues of other boards.
- Bringing together boards that have common concerns/interests (e.g. rural).
- Provide relevancy.
- Sell trusteeship.
- Trustees are under paid/valued.
- Advocate for more compensation – subsequently more valued/recognition/visibility/respect.
- Embrace and partner (e.g. ACSTA, PSBAA, Francophone).
- Educate public about grassroots diversity.
- Honour diversity.
- Focus on education issues vs speaking to policy only.
- Show united force – united voice.

Blue Question 2

How can ASBA best engage and empower its members?

Zone 2/3 continued

Nimble, responsive, flexible to the needs of its members.
Make it so processes are more nimble not such a clunky process.
Putting into action things in #1 and #2.
Be visionaries – one step ahead of the game.
Proactive not reactive.
Be proactive especially with technology.
Like Superintendents, if they are doing their job well, no one notices the Superintendent because schools are running smoothly and effectively.
If ASBA does its job, boards will run smoothly.
We have lost the ability to be up front, political and influential. We have become almost irrelevant.
We are the voice of the community.
ASBA will only be as relevant as the relevance of school boards.

Zone 4

Promote a strong, unified voice. (x2)
Communicate with internal and external groups.
Continue providing services for members.
Open dialogue and communication amongst members and externally.
Be a strong advocate for public education.
Provide mandatory training for trustees.
Education is empowering.
Continue P.D. and Issues Forums (x2)
When you have a group of people coming together you have to value everyone.
See things through a great lens.
Should there be weighted votes etc.?
Continue new trustees negotiation teams etc.
Networking is important at ASBA functions.
Good working relationship with government.
Make extensive use of support services from ASBA.
Continue using ASBA resources.
Through communication from other boards – it helps all boards. It takes you out of your local bubble.
Middle man communications with internal groups.

Blue Question 2

How can ASBA best engage and empower its members?

Zone 5

Communication so important to engagement.

Board Chair emails could be sent to all trustees.

Communication most important.

Education before forming opinions.

Larger boards may not use services valued by small boards.

Value?

Every board should have an equal vote – all represent a board and are elected equally.

Smaller boards need their voice and vote valued.

Double majority may provide a good balance to ensure perspectives are shared.

Be open to having continuous discussions where different perspectives can be shared to create relationships and understand – lead to solutions to make it better.

Empower members by facilitating conversations and relationship building to share perspectives (provincial issues forums, other mechanisms). Perhaps also a role of the zones.

Provincial Issues Forum was well done – allowed for sharing of perspectives.

Would appreciate discussion opportunities on policies with other boards at zone and with sponsoring board before FGM.

Authentic vs directed engagement.

Ask without a defined end in mind/pre-determined.

Premise that when you join an association you want to be in an association and therefore engaged.

Members must commit to being engaged for the benefit of all students.

When members don't engage and provide ASBA with authority to speak on behalf of all boards, government doesn't view ASBA's voice as relevant.

For ASBA to be effective, all boards must be engaged to inform the broader perspective.

Zone 6

Using zones is better.

Coming to meetings.

Government level.

Open door and being proactive to Government.

Boards can bring ASBA together to help with advocacy.

New introduction for ASBA.

Blue Question 2

How can ASBA best engage and empower its members?

Zone 6 continued

Trust happens between ASBA and government.

We have a prescribed card that we can give saying thank you for the invite – I'm your board election.

We need to empower ourselves.

Issues Forums

Spring and Fall General Meetings

Director who reports back.

Recognition of ASBA – stand up and do it.

Make sure we are staying on top of legislation and what's coming.

Have we described what ASBA is on a board level?

Zone meetings.

Engage in issues that can engage us all together.

Resources for current issues.

More of a presence at AGM maybe.

ASBA could help with governance.

Use of internet, website, social media – use lots not little.

Sad when parents have more power.

Timely matter – more information coming.

Increase mailing list.

Can't be afraid of government.

Stand united in fashion – don't be afraid to stand up together.

Doing well on education issues.

ASBA needs to not tell us what to do, but we need to tell ASBA what to do.

President and Vice President get together with Chairs to give direction on a problem.

Provide resources.

ASBA leader.

Serves especially in the south not just Edmonton – engage.

Knowledge needed – key professional organization.

Connect boards.

Need to know that we are being listened to.

Blue Question 3

How can ASBA continue to add value, increase its influence and demonstrate its relevance in a changing world?

Zone 1

Be more proactive than reactive.

Stay focused on a narrow group. Focus on a particular group of issues.

Be relevant.

Make sure it relates back to kids.

How would we (or ASBA) assure the public that we have a role and we make a difference.

Common services – membership has its privileges.

Continue to provide core services (legal, educational etc.).

Bring the commonalities together – not just rural or metro.

ASBA must support all boards.

Speak with one voice in support of children.

Using technology to inform the public.

Communication.

Inform the general public about ASBA and other organizations in the educational system.

Look at other countries and see how they function. Many don't have school boards.

Other models – appointed boards.

Because of the changing world ASBA needs to change its structure and business model.

Role of Board of Directors, zones is this working?

Bargaining model was assigned to us. We need to be proactive in deciding how we should organize ourselves.

Use technology to put ASBA in the public spotlight.

Advocating for children.

Raise the profile of the members to gain respect.

Communicate what you do!

We are seen as an arm of the Department of Education rather than an instrument of the people.

Lack of understanding of the role of trustees.

Bring all stakeholders together including ATA to advocate for initiatives.

ATA has a bargaining arm, but also a professional arm. Professional has the same goals.

Student success.

Blue Question 3

How can ASBA continue to add value, increase its influence and demonstrate its relevance in a changing world?

Zone 2/3

Promote structure that respects and acknowledges diversity of boards and allows us to put our best ideas forward.

Engage with individual boards equitably.

Zones work well to engage local boards.

Support increased communication between zones.

Help boards.

Find issues, concerns in common or provincial in nature.

ASBA Board of Directors – listen to understand.

Find common relevant issues to advocate on.

Problem with statement: We Are ASBA.

Ask what members can do for ASBA to be engaged.

Respect diversity.

ASBA should put more emphasis into uniting itself as a strong united force rather than just 61 separate entities so we are a powerful voice for government.

Ensuring everyone has information they need to make sound decisions (e.g. Issues Forum).

Communication – fast, timely, open transparent and visible.

Communicate ASBA's plans and enlist the power of its members to get government to do what they want.

Be up front and prepared with issues so we can come together and advocate to the government.

Communication.

Create a sense of trust that members are valued.

Two way communication

Transparency.

Nimble to address current issues (e.g. Issues Forum - urgent and current).

Allow people to discuss things with integrity.

Through the work of the zones.

Attaching greater respect and relevance to the work done at zones.

Foster and model a culture of respect for all opinions.

Flexible – not bogged down in a cumbersome process.

Sticking to policy, but having nimbleness to be relevant.

Responsive to what boards have requested and demonstrate the action taken.

Blue Question 3

How can ASBA continue to add value, increase its influence and demonstrate its relevance in a changing world?

Zone 2/3 continued

Strong voice.

Represent ALL voices at the table.

Communication x2

Continue with meetings, forums and P.D.

If there is conflict, face it and resolve it through better and clearer conflict resolution process.

Process is slow, so not relevant.

Business process does not allow us to deal with the elephant in the room.

How do we add things to the agenda to address issues at the General Meetings?

Create space to turn off livestream, shut the doors so the elephant can be dealt with.

Become more flexible.

Follow the process of policies and allow ourselves to make mistakes, then make it better.

Financial transparent.

ASBA to show influence to the government.

Everyone should find a piece to give away – give something to ASBA.

Zone 4

Forward thinking.

Strong leaders.

Education – MLAs

Hold a MLA boot camp.

Understand policies and government party platform.

While debate can be valuable it can be fractured.

Solution is to focus on cooperation.

Have an ASBA lobbyist.

Have a key person who's job is lobbying.

Should be one association – no PSBAA and ACSTA.

ASBA services adds value to members.

Stay relevant providing relevant P.D.

Forward thinking – move with time.

Look at boards as partners.

Educate government to be partners and trustee roles.

Blue Question 3

How can ASBA continue to add value, increase its influence and demonstrate its relevance in a changing world?

Zone 4 continued

Be strong leaders.

Need trustees to help stay empowered.

Reach out to other groups – CASS, ASBOA, ASCA

Provide trustees with more effective P.D. about trusteeship.

How can school boards work better with councils?

Best thing is contact through meeting with our MLAs.

MLA nights are good.

Remain creditable and united.

Offer solutions – not just complain.

Have the government respect boards.

Continue to have public support for local boards.

Stay relevant by including well thought out professional development.

Zone 5

Find balance between strong provincial advocacy voice and providing opportunities for a local voice to provide context.

Informed.

Communication – learn from each other.

Timely responses to speak with one voice.

If we want ASBA to be more nimble, we as boards must be willing to share information and work together.

Government of Alberta must respect boards and allow appropriate, adequate timelines.

Communication is key.

Elected by parents, but also accountable to government.

Be aware of matters which would be best suited to local vs provincial advocacy and voice.

A very small minority of boards are detracting from good work and focus – hijacking agendas/meetings.

Boards need to empower ASBA to speak on their behalf on those things which impact all boards and students.

Is there a model/structure which differentiates between provincial and local issues and how to respect boards and ASBA's role in each?

Blue Question 3

How can ASBA continue to add value, increase its influence and demonstrate its relevance in a changing world?

Zone 6

Relevance in changing world.

Increase influence and be aware of what has changed.

Communication – ASBA and social media.

Empower – telling MLAs.

Educate

Have to be careful to not react to social media.

We haven't been silent. We haven't changed our opinion.

Instead of huge book we should only have three then we can push until it's done but not just three at a time.

We have to budget for P.R.

Proactive.

More P.R. – all we do – what we do and provide.

Like the officials – meet an MLA.

What could ASBA do to be proficient?

We could do ads like ATA.

Hard to be proactive because we are reacting to government.

We are elected officials as well.

Focus on what we can do (students, leadership conference).

Instead of being reactive be proactive.

Best engage and have a Chairs meeting twice a year.