



School council coalitions

ASBA Fall General Meeting
2014

What would **change** if
more school councils and
parents.....



Shared **accurate information** about your school district/division with others?

Were **well informed** about education and were willing to run for school board?

Effectively engaged other citizens on issues related to education?

Research/studies...

- Canadian Education Association (2004)
- On Ramp to community engagement in public education Alberta School Boards Assoc. (2012)
- *Inspired Partnerships: School Council Contributions to Student Success in Alberta*

Alberta School councils' Assoc. (2013)



Canadian Education Association

'... evidence suggests that when parents assume leadership roles on school councils, in close partnership with principals, their influence on both the content and processes of school improvement is considerable.'

Source: Parents' Participation in School Improvement Processes
Canadian Education Association, 2004

Inspired Partnerships

- Connect
- Educate
- Communicate

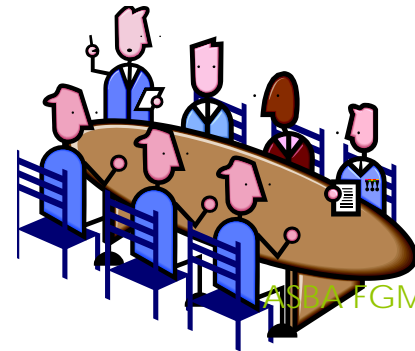


Source: *Inspired Partnerships: School Council Contributions to Student Success in Alberta* (page 41)

Inspired Partnerships...

Councils of school councils are viewed as important mechanisms for system-level planning, navigating change and ongoing community dialogue on important and emerging education initiatives and issues.

Inspired Partnerships page 42



ASBA Community Engagement Task Force

- “School council meetings were the most popular engagement vehicle...” (page 13)



Source: On-ramp to community engagement in public education, 2012

Here & Now

Other considerations

The importance of:

- the role of the principal
- division policy

Louis, Leithwood, Wahlstrom and Anderson (2010)



What are you currently doing?

- Formal and informal mechanisms
- Regular, intentional connections
- Two-way communication



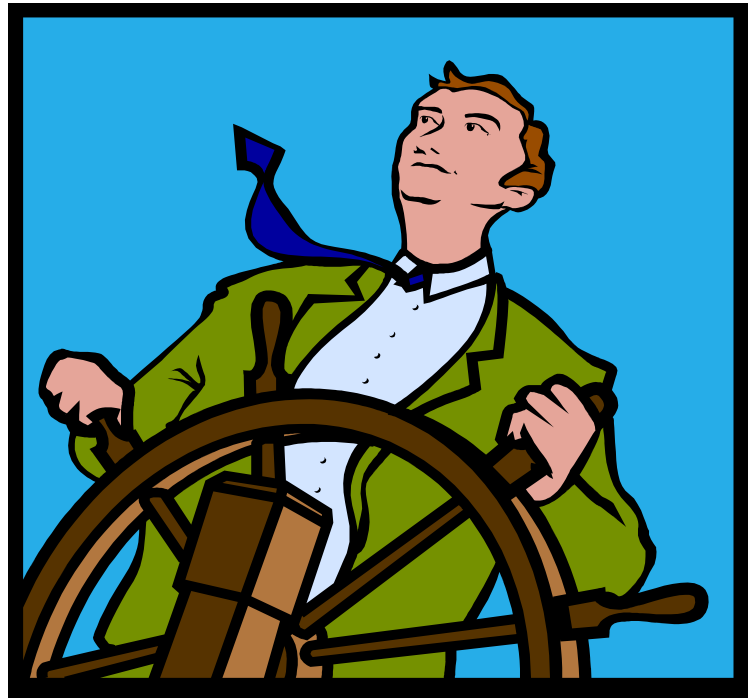
Advocacy

Grassroots St. Vrain

MISSION

To raise awareness about education, encourage St. Vrain communities to make informed decisions and inspire community members to create a cumulative impact on the future of our schools.

St. Vrain Valley School District



One Alberta approach...

HEADLINE:

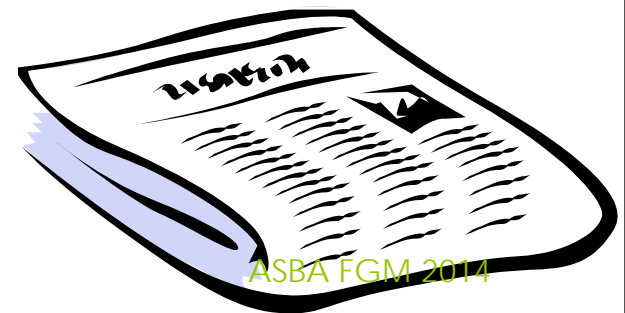
“Calgary-Elbow parents take political action”

Calgary Herald, Darcy Henton reporting, October 29, 2014

HEADLINE:

“How parent power won political action”

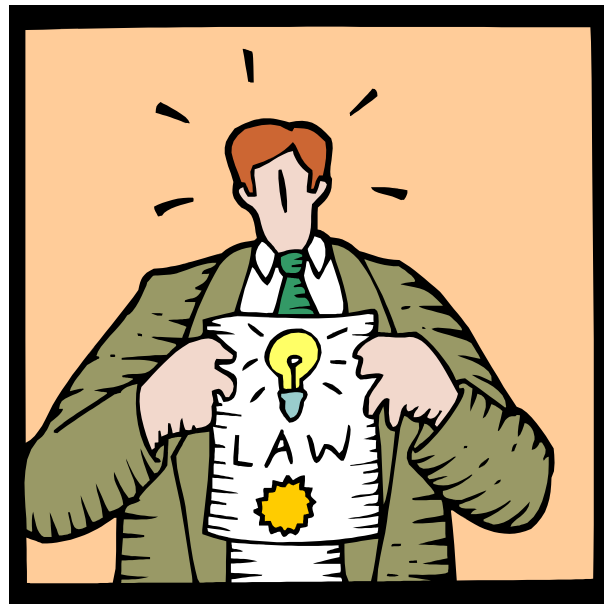
Calgary Herald, Trevor Howell reporting, November 3, 2014



ASBA FGM 2014

School board delegation

School Act, section 22



School board led approach...



The challenge!



Share...



Educate, inspire, grow

- Educate ~ to build awareness and understanding
- Inspire ~ school councils to know they can make a positive difference
- Grow ~ support for your issues

Involvement

- Start small
- Be intentional and focused
- Be consistent (messaging)

Questions, comments?



Thank you; Merci...

- www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca
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- Twitter @Abschoolcouncil
- 1.800.661.3470