



Alberta
School Councils' Association

OPEN SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

HANDOUTS

School Council:

A group of people who work together to **advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school.**

A means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning. *Alberta School Council Resource Manual, 2006*

Intro 1



Role of School Councils:

- Foster, develop, maintain and reflect the culture of the school
- Create the forum and opportunity for participation in school-based decision making.
- Seek and represent school community views.

Intro 2



School Council Membership:

- Principal
- Teacher
- Student (if senior high)
- Parents of children enrolled in the school must be the majority
- Others as decided

School Councils Regulation

Intro 3



School Council Functions:

- Advise principal and board on any matter relating to the school
- Decide operating procedures for itself
- Carry out activities related to its advisory role
- Handle monies
- Submit annual report of activities and financial statements to school board

Intro 4



School Councils are NOT:

- **School governance bodies** (see school board)
- **Employers** (see school board)
- **School managers** (see principal)
- **Primarily fundraisers**
- **Primarily lobbyists**
- **Complaint sessions**

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Intro 5



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Alberta Education's Ministry Business Plan:

- Aligns their business plan to the Government of Alberta's Strategic Business Plan and fiscal plans
- Goals
 - High quality learning opportunities for all
 - Excellence in student learning outcomes
 - Highly responsive and responsible education system
- Sets direction and focus for all jurisdictions in the province
- Alberta Education goals have strategies and performance measures
- Alberta School Councils' Association is the vehicle for input at this level of planning

School Board's Three-year Education Plan:

- Aligns their three-year plan with Alberta Education's Ministry Business Plan
- Sets direction and focus for all of the schools in their jurisdiction
- Includes schools' proposed Three-year Education Plans and budgets (mid January – early February)
- Accountability results

School's Three-year Education Plan:

- Aligns the School's Three-year Education Plan with School Board's Three-year Education Plan
- Begins planning process with staff and School Council (late February – mid March)
- Considers 'identified priorities' and 'budget planning' documents from previous year
- Considers the year of the three-year term and the following:
 1. Changes in school community demographics
 2. Programming needs
 3. School district/division focus and priorities
 4. School Council input
 5. Fiscal realities
 6. Accountability results

