

**P21-XX**

## **Financial and Governance Accountability in Public Education**

**Sponsored by:** Ecole St Gerard, Grande Prairie Catholic School Division

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### **Background /Overview:**

The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) and Association of Catholic School Trustees of Alberta (ACSTA) which may or may not be funded through public funds, are not required to publish their meeting agenda's and minutes, preventing public access to understanding of any lobbying positions these organizations may undertake.

**Because** *"The Public School Board Association of Alberta has applied to the courts for intervener status, [...] stating non-Catholic students should not get public funding in Catholic Schools<sup>1</sup>"* in reference to the Theodore Case<sup>2</sup>.

**Because** the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) generated in excess of 100 labour hours of unnecessary administrative work for school officials during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic by requesting the province's Auditor General to conduct a full review of the educational, administrative, and financial benefits of charter schools<sup>3</sup>.

**Because** the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) considered the following resolution at their 2019 Fall General Meeting *"That the Provincial Government more rigorously enforce the regulations on Charter Schools and wind down Charter Schools once their learning style, working style, or pedagogy have been achieved"*<sup>4</sup>.

**Because** the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) does not publicly disclose the 2019 Fall General Meeting (or any other General Meeting) Agenda or Minutes.

**Because** The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA), and Association of Catholic School Trustees of Alberta (ACSTA) do not publish any meeting minutes, agendas, budgets, or financial statements.

**We request** that ASCA advocate to the Ministry of Education and all associated cross-ministries to review the mandates, funding sources, and stated advocacy positions of ASBA, PSBAA, and ACSTA and any other organization collecting memberships from publicly funded school boards.

**We further request** that ASCA advocate to the Ministry of Education for regulatory change, requiring ASBA, PSBAA, and ACSTA publish the agendas and minutes of their meetings.

**We further request** ASCA advocate to the Ministry of Education to register and identify as lobbyists those organizations that have access to Public Officials beyond what is typically granted to citizens, and to publish disclosures of the meetings granted to those stakeholder groups in the event these organizations object to transparency expected of publicly funded organizations involved in the administration of a public service.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://medicinehatnews.com/news/local-news/2017/06/23/pbsaa-wants-to-see-sask-ruling-over-funding-for-non-catholic-students-in-catholic-schools-extended-to-alberta/>

<sup>2</sup> Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan Dockets: CACV3075, CACV3076, CACV3201, and CACV3205  
[https://sasklawcourts.ca/images/documents/Appeal/CA\\_2020SKCA034.pdf](https://sasklawcourts.ca/images/documents/Appeal/CA_2020SKCA034.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Public School Boards' Association of Alberta: <http://www.public-schools.ab.ca/blog/2020/9/30/concerned-about-the-expansion-of-charter-schools-in-alberta-you-should-be>

<sup>4</sup> EPSB - Recommendation Report: <https://epsb.ca/media/epsb/ourdistrict/boardoftrustees/boardmeetings/2019-20/november52019/04-MotionsUnderConsiderationforthe2019ASBAFGM.pdf> (Page 26)