

## P21-XX

### Respect for ASCA's Bylaws, Values, and Members

**Sponsored by:** Foundations for the Future Charter Academy, Southwest Elementary

**Co-sponsored by:** Valhalla Community School Council

**Contact:** Tanya Borthwick, FFCA Southwest Elementary, ffcaswe.council@gmail.com

#### **Background / Overview:**

The following 3 Advocacy Resolutions were passed at the October 17th, 2020 ASCA Regular General Meeting<sup>1</sup>:

#### **P20-04A – Carried**

##### **Minister of Education Definition of Public Education**

**We request** that the Minister of Education define public education as the public, francophone ~~and separate, and charter~~ school systems.

#### **P20-04B – Carried**

##### **ASCA Definition of Public Education**

**We request** that ASCA define public education as the public, francophone, ~~and charter~~ ~~and~~ separate, and charter school systems and use this definition when interpreting existing and new resolution statements such as “all schools” and “school boards”.

#### **P20-04C – Carried**

##### **Integration and oversight of Charter Schools**

**We request** that the Minister of Education integrate charter schools into the public education systems making them accountable to locally elected trustees and school boards and ensuring access to all students.

126 of 1300 ASCA members were represented at the Regular General Meeting.

**Because** ASCA states “We represent parents on school council to engage with Alberta’s Education Ministry”<sup>2</sup>.

**Because** Alberta Public Charter Schools are legally legislated<sup>3</sup> to have a School Council which makes them eligible to be Voting Members of ASCA according to ASCA Bylaw 4.1<sup>4</sup>.

**Because** Resolutions P20-04A, P20-04B, and P20-04C effectively removes parents on Charter School Councils from representation by ASCA when engaging with Alberta’s Education Ministry.

---

<sup>1</sup> 2020 ASCA Resolution Results: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/files/156366>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>

<sup>3</sup> Education Act, Section 55: <https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/e00p3.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> ASCA Bylaws: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/40772>

**Because** Resolutions P20-04A and P20-04B contravene ASCA Bylaw 3.27 which already defines the term “Public Education” for ASCA as “any school in Alberta that is publicly funded including public, separate, francophone and charter school systems”.

**Because** ASCA also has a Charter<sup>5</sup>, and excerpts of it state that (emphasis added):

Core elements of the mission:

1. **Parents have a voice** through their school council and at general meetings of the ASCA. **Their collective voice** creates a larger, politically important provincial consensus on education issues.

Values

**Respect:**

- **For all individuals within the Association**
- **For diverse views and beliefs**
- **For education partnerships**

**Integrity:**

- **In all endeavours, to operate above reproach in actions and in words**
- **In building trust and trustworthiness**

**Teamwork:**

- **In working together for common good**
- Within and between ASCA Board of Directors and staff
- **With the membership**
- **With education partners**

**Because** ASCA Advocacy Resolutions P20-04A, P20-04B, and P20-04C are contrary to the above emphasized sections of ASCA’s charter. Removing recognition of a school system does not show respect for diverse views and education partnerships. Removing recognition of a school system directly contravenes working together for common good, with membership and with education partners. Removing recognition of a school system does not show integrity in all endeavours and does not build trust and trustworthiness.

**Because** Robert’s Rules of Order states “*No matter what, no rules of order or standing rules can ever be enforced if they conflict in any way with your bylaws.*”<sup>6</sup> ASCA Advocacy Resolutions P20-04A and P20-04B are improper motions that violate Robert’s Rules.

**We request** that ASCA Advocacy Resolutions P20-04A, P20-04B, and P20-04C be rescinded.

---

<sup>5</sup> ASCA Charter of the Association: <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/40773>

<sup>6</sup> RONR (11th ed.), p. 343, l. 15.