

Joined on October 25, 2011 at 11:04 AM

carol meindl: Hi, I'm carol Meindl from Quebec federation of Home and School Associations in Montreal

Moderator (Jann Edney): Bonjour Carol! :)

Moderator (Chantal Sargent): Bienvenue Carol :)

Randy LaBonte: If you can't see the whiteboard well enough when time comes, switch back to Default View

Moderator (Chantal Sargent): Handouts & Resources: <http://erlc.wikispaces.com/ASCA+Webinar>

Moderator (Karla): Intro <http://www.erlc.ca/>

Moderator (Karla): Wiki link: <http://erlc.wikispaces.com/ASCA+Webinar>

Moderator (Karla): <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>

Moderator (Karla): ASCA Resource Manual:  
[http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/resource/resmgr/PDFs/Alberta\\_School\\_Council\\_Resou.pdf](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/resource/resmgr/PDFs/Alberta_School_Council_Resou.pdf)

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Bienvenue!

larissa bissett 1: It sometimes takes quite a bit of effort to do this but it is definately worth it!

Shannon Wiebe: SOMETimes loses focus, we need more equitable representation of a wider range of parents.

Moderator (Karla): I agree completely

Maureen Fothergill: Lisa - can you elaborate on different examples of how to solicit further discussion

Moderator (Karla): Great!

Susan K: Perhaps using survey monkey?

Moderator (Karla): Email forum, questionnaire (online)

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: The roving school council meeting was very successful during our PTI's

Moderator (Karla): super!

Maureen Fothergill: Thanks you

Barbara Kreller: and language barriers too..

Heather from Mother Teresa School: what is a roving school council meeting

Michelle Janousek: excellent ideas...

Amanda C.: what is the roving school council meeting? different dates & times?

Lorna: Has anyone got any comment on how effective facebook might be at linking with people?

Katherine Harmsworth: I would like to know more about the roving school council meetings as well.

Stacey Walker: what is a survey monkey

Michele Fraser: I'd also like to hear more about "roving s.c. mtgs"

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: For roving school council meetings contact [rschumm@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:rschumm@psd70.ab.ca)

larissa bissett 1: Would love to hear about Ecole Broxtons info about the roving meeting - how did you do it.... not now but later after the session

Amanda C.: survey monkey is a website that makes easy surveys, collects the results

Shannon Wiebe: We are looking into facebook presence, a professional presence for meetings, surveys only, nothing personal

Moderator (Karla): Survey Monkey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/>

chris acton: survey monkey is a on line survey site that is free of charge

Leah Leadbeater: Holy Spirit has a Parent Council Newsletter. in it we often mention parents who help. We are also on Facebook.

Maureen Fothergill: We have tried coffee mornings to get parents to meet in an informal way

Moderator (Karla): Broxton Park-Can you elaborate later on?

davidb@shaw.ca #2: Shannon--use a FB page as opposed to a profile or group

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Certainly

Moderator (Karla): Thanks - Remind me and I'll build it in.

Shannon Wiebe: Yes thank you David, Rockyview is developing guidelines.

michele: You can also use the ASCA website to set up your group page -- better than facebook

Moderator (Karla): Great idea Michelle

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Splitting our monthly meetings between a.m. and p.m. times has allowed a more varied group of parents to participate

michele: can uploade minutes, questions, agendas, start a forum for discussion

Wendy Noble 1: will have to type

Leah Leadbeater: But ASCA is not as easy for the general population.

chris acton: I find that it is always the same parents that do all the work - how do you engage more parents

michele: Anyone can join the ASCA community!

Lesli Solomon: it is now Leah!

Susan K: Each school can give the council a google share site as well, same as what the teachers and kids use... check ours out at [bit.ly/dsc139](http://bit.ly/dsc139)

Michele Fraser: Within LRSD, the superintendent and board hav said that minutes posted on the school website can substitute for annual report

Wendy Noble 1: in regards to the annual report, is this something that every school council should be doing. As far as the financial does that have to be provided to the board also. The financial aspect should be thru a society should it not?

Moderator (Karla): Annual report - Sept 30th

Wendy Noble 1: is this new

Leah Leadbeater: I know what you are saying Lesli, but parent and children are already on Facebook. It is more than easy with out having to have people shuffle around and check different pages.

Lorna: I thought the gov was moving away from School Councils handling money?

Susan K: the report is mega simplified from previous years.. IMHO

Michele Fraser: I thought School Councils weren't allowed to be fund-raising or otherwise handling money

larissa bissett 1: Ther may be needs that council has separate from society - for example, may require finances to pay for child care to support meeting attendance

Lorna: thanks

Warren Bridge: lif we were funded adequately we wouldn't need to handle money

Wendy Noble 1: Ok thanks wasnt aware of that and In all my years on 3 different boards that annual report has never been issued to the board.. is there a form for this report

Stacey Walker: True Warren

Trina Boymook: They are liimited to the type of fundraisers that school councils can conduct. they can't do anything that requires a gaming license

Jeff Pieper: woops

Janice Hoover: Beside LRSD, does posting minutes on the school website substitute for annual report

Lesli Solomon: I hear that Leah, but the sheer amount of dedicated info for School Councils, makes it SO worthwhile to develop the habit of using the aSCA page

Jeff Pieper: Have my private and public chats mixed up

Robert H: RT Warren Bridge: if we were funded adequately we wouldn't need to handle money

Moderator (Wendy) to Wendy Noble 1: Wendy, check with your trustee. He/She should be aware of the legislated requirement, and may have a template they would like you to use

Michelle Janousek: Our school doesn't have school council but action club instead...

Wendy Noble 1: thank you will do that

Robert H: Jeff: me too

Susan K: Michelle J ...sounds interesting! Love the idea of 'action'...

lavonne leeson: what is lrsd?

larissa bissett 1: AB Ed legislates School Councils

Michele Fraser: LRSD = Livingstone Range School Division (Nanton through Crowsnest Pass)

Robert H: What's the difference between "advising" and "governance"?

Jeff Pieper: governance has teeth

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Often a fine line between complaining and genuine concerns that require council input

Kyla Nuttall: is school council required to have an account or can your fundraising committee have the only account?

Lorna: Fundraising committee can be the only ones with an account

Robert H: Thanks. I liked Jeff's answer

Susan K: we have 2 accounts - a general and casino account and both are managed through our fundraising society.

Jeff Pieper: Our school council has no account for money.. that is left to Friends of...

Moderator (Wendy) to Kyla Nuttall: many school councils don't handle monies...they leave that to their sister society.

Kyla Nuttall: thanks

Trina Boymook: Both the council and the fundraising society can have a bank account.

chris acton: ours as well Susan K

lavonne leeson: are catholic schools continuing with casinos?

Moderator (Karla): Thanks for sharing-great to know what others are doing.

Heather from Mother Teresa School: our catholic district is no-go with casinos

Cheryl Low: The term 'action' is a great word for the mission statement of school councils. As Larissa indicated School councils are legislated and all schools must have a council or advisory committee

Wendy Noble 1: Is there not a limit though Trina that the parent council can have?

Susan K: for me this chat room is clear evidence that a session on best practice sharing would have been a great session Nov 7 at EPSB training

Trina Boymook: The fundraising society isn't part of the school council. they are separate identities

Karen Mroczek: We have a line in our school's budget with a balance of \$1000 that we can use, but it then has to be replaced. So if we pay for childcare at meetings, any fundraising we do has to replace this amount.

Warren Bridge: Medicine Hat Catholic has barred us from holding anymore casino's. This has really put us at a disadvantage to the other local schools.

Kyla Nuttall: our catholic school is a no

Susan K: About childcare at meetings - we use our G6 kids - they line up for the opportunity.

Moderator (Karla): Great idea!

larissa bissett 1: I know tht there are a lot of questions and need for discussion about fundraising but let's lok at the focus of this session for now..perhaps at end can chat further about fundraising

Warren Bridge: ours as well. Daycare is used every meeting

St. Joseph School #2: Our Catholic school cannot do casinos either.

chris acton: We do the same Susan K It works VERY well and the kids love it on both ends!!

Moderator (Karla): They were on your email and on the wiki.

larissa bissett 1: Don't wait for the perfect time to chat about school council activities - perfect never happens - take advantage of Tramac Talk

Susan K: What is Tramac Talk?

larissa bissett 1: Make that Tarmac or playground talk - I can't spell

Moderator (Wendy) to Susan K: Great suggestion about best practice sharing, Susan. maybe we can ask Janice to organize that type of event for January?

Moderator (Karla): :-)

Susan K: :)

Katherine Harmsworth to Karla, Lisa, Wendy, Denise Kay, Dauna-Rae Wright, Jann Edney, Randy LaBonte, Val Olekshy: It would be nice to have the slides to this presentation for our notetaking. The handouts don't match your presentation.

Robert H: Starting and finishing on time is very important

Moderator (Karla): You can download the ppt from: <http://erlc.wikispaces.com/ASCA+Webinar>

Susan K: We wear name tags and it makes the team crazy! :0

Susan K: crazy in a good way!

Jeff Pieper: Do chairs out there do intros at each meeting?

larissa bissett 1: I tried the question of the month in addition to the basic intor and it made a big difference in the ambience in the room (question of the month was what is your favorite season)

Michele Fraser: yes - every mtg, rnd tble

Warren Bridge: I agree . You need to follow agenda and not get off topic. Big reason some parents don't attend

Cheryl Low: An icebreaker; unique way of introductions can also set the tone at the meeting.

chris acton: good idea

Michelle Janousek: we all know eachother - always the same faces!

Leah Leadbeater: We have a charette every 6 weeks or so. It is a chance for us to brainstorme out Agenda before the meeting. Not only that it is connecting and a really great chance for us all to get together and have fun with out time constraints.

Trina Boymook: Another thing that you can do is have members of the executive to be a meeting buddy. they sit with new attendees and they can help them through the protocols of the meeting

Susan K: Opening remarks but not 1x1 introductions.

chris acton: Good point Michelle

Wendy Noble 1: It may take a few meetings for people to remember each others name unless there are never any changes

Amanda C.: trina, that is a good orientation idea

Susan K: new parent orientation is important -

Lorna: We sit at a large group and make a point of staying separate so that there's rooms for new people to slip in beside those who are familiar with the group

Michele Fraser: charette?

Susan K: nice lorna - like that.

Lorna: We create a booklet to hand out to parents-handbook style

Terri Rolfson: Can you clarify - I thought that the School Council meant ALL of the parents at the school, and the School Council executive meant those elected - is this correct?

Stacey Walker: Are these chats going to be available for future reference once this session is over. I know you mentioned that the slide show will be available but what about a summary of the ideas and links that have been posted.

Trina Boymook: Instruct the executive not to sit together. Have them spread out so it doesn't feel like an inclusive group that isn't open for others to attend

Tammy Suteau: We never get new faces at our meetings.

Shannon Wiebe: Thank you idea of intro meeting for K, 1 on my list for next year.

chris acton: Very good idea Trina!!

Moderator (Jann Edney): Yes Stacey we can do that and post to the wiki afterwards

Stacey Walker: Thanks

Terri Rolfson: thank you

Lorna: I create handwritten cards inviting K and gr 1 parents to our meetings

Susan K: Lorna - how nice! how can they say no?

Shannon Wiebe: We have gone to a town hall format this year, anyone present may vote, encourages varied participation.

Lorna: My thoughts exactly! :)

Berna: Because Room Reps are appointed, does that make them part of the Executive?

michele to Karla, Lisa, Wendy, Denise Kay, Dauna-Rae Wright, Jann Edney, Randy LaBonte: will we be able to capture all these good ideas to share later?

Ailsa Flynne: We've found encouraging "classroom reps" gives parents a reason to get (and stay) involved. Specific invites seem to be more effective than general requests.

Susan K: Shannone W - did you change your bylaws to reflect the change in governance?

Moderator (Wendy) to Berna: those details should be explained in your school council bylaws, Berna. Are you familiar with those?

Heather from Mother Teresa School: fundraising :(

carol meindl: the kids welfare

Shannon Wiebe: Yes, voted on new bylaws last year.

Michelle Janousek: link between parents and school

michele: student success and school improvement

Nancy Bliss: To advise the principal and the board

Robert H: School culture

Lorna: I don't think so, but ultimately, if you've got active members, the Exec is just a leadership group

Shannon Wiebe: improving student learning is our goal always

Ailsa Flynne: link between parents, school and community

Westgate: coordinating volunteers

Sherry: communication between admin and parents

Lesli Solomon: build relationships to foster student learning\

Laurie McIntosh: advising, communicating, advocating

Janice Hoover: engaging parents in the school

Michele Fraser: advise and help the school principal/staff/teachers

Wendy Noble 1: parent involvement to help secure the learning of all of our student

Stacey Green: not sure, the last school I was with never asked for input from their council members

Maureen Fothergill: To support student success using our school values - three pillars of care in our school

Moderator (Karla): Hi Bunny-Can you hear us?

myrna macmillan: Building community spirit and involvement for a greater cause

Leah Leadbeater: To be active in our childrens lives. Fundraising.....providing oppertunities that otherwise would not be avaiable.

davidb@shaw.ca #2: Buying equipment for the school

Berna to Karla, Lisa, Wendy, Denise Kay, Dauna-Rae Wright, Jann Edney: Yes. I was just wondering because the executive was describd as elected and apointed

Sage Karras: find a way to afford things that the school cant afford in the budget. For us it is breakfast, school supplies

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Ensuring parents have an informed and audible voice in education

carol meindl: Sometimes it is agood idea to have a Mission statement and review it at each meeting.

Heather from Mother Teresa School: Carol: I like that idea

St. Joseph School #2: Glue between Parish, school, parents , teachers and studnets.

Re: 1st Case study

michele: issue is: traffic concern

Phil Williams: confidentiality is an issue here

Moderator (Wendy) to Berna: Most often, the executive are elected, and then other "officers" are appointed, but again, it depends on what your specific bylaws state. Each SC is different.

Linda Charlton: safety of children during pick up and drop off times

Lynne Kaiser: real issue is student safety

larissa bissett 1: EGAD!

Shannon Wiebe: THE real issue us that this way of problem solving is inappropriate and will alienate others.

Nancy Bliss: student safety

Leah Leadbeater: Blaaa! Looks like policing to me

Maureen Fothergill: Mr Seargeant sounds like a lost policeman

Jeff Pieper: Make Mr S heard then he will take it down a notch

chris acton: sounds like Mr Sargeant is a bully

Stacey Walker: children's safety regarding traffic

sara torsius: Sudent safety

Donna Leo Nickerson School: student safety

Lesli Solomon: although the cause is important, it really doesn't impact student learning

Karen Mroczek: safety

Stacey Green: safety of our children

Sherry: student safety

Janis McLaren: Yes, student safety, but as council wouldn't we need to contact police re: that issue?

Kyla Nuttall: Safety

Janice Hoover: parking & access to school

Maureen Fothergill: student safety

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: children's safety

Heather Kovach: this shouldn't be a Council Issue

Warren Bridge: You want to be able to work with the community not alienate them. We are not there to enforce rules or bylaws.

chris acton: student safety

Alison Normand: safety and flow of traffic

Jeff Pieper: real issue: should one person have control

Maureen Fothergill: cannot hear you

Berna to Karla, Lisa, Wendy, Denise Kay, Dauna-Rae Wright, Jann Edney: Thank you, Wendy. I am finding it hard to follow the presentation and do this as well...

carol meindl: Perhaps create some material to re- educate the parents as to road safety for the kids

Janis McLaren: no sound here either

Katherine Harmsworth: Issue is student safety but also a multiplicity of viewpoints need to be heard and recognized

Leah Leadbeater: But it is not about student safety. It's about control for "this guy"

chris acton: I have lost audio

Sage Karras: safety and need to contact RCMP

Sherry: no sound

Lana deBoon #2: I have lost audio as well.

Michele Fraser: are moderators still talking?

Lorna: if there are real infringements, the parents don't handle that, the school needs to contact law enforcement

Michele Fraser: ahh ... audio is back

Chris Acton: I'm back

Sherry: sound back

Jeff Pieper: one person doesn't make an issue

Warren Bridge: awareness

Maureen Fothergill: WE have introduced a Kiss and Drop from our school

DavidB@shaw.ca #2: Assign Mr S the job of looking into what would be required to make this happen

Larissa Bissett 1: Student safety should be the issue but how you handle it is the valiant struggle

Susan K: We have parking 'tickets' we 'issue' as a tool to educate.

St. Joseph School #2: Safety, but larger issue that is that school council needs to work together to solve the problem.

Wendy Noble 1: the town and the law enforcement need to be involved

Moderator (Jann Edney): Maureen that sounds interesting what is that policy?

chris acton: Put it in the monthly news letter to begin with

michele: we worked with the municipality to resolve the drop off issue

Katherine Harmsworth: allow different perspectives to be heard, seek consensus, motion a vote and go with a majority opinion

Lorna: we brainstorm ideas for how to proactively deal with the issue. Then, create an action plan that may involve him in a "moderate" response

Nancy Bliss: Invite the local authorities to observe the problem and offer solutions

Janice Hoover: identify when, where and why there is an issue

Ailsa Flynnne: Communication to parents: newsletters, special notices. Reminder of the cost of traffic offence ticket

Shannon Wiebe: École Edwards, this issue is dealt with by admin. with input from parents. Our admin. is very proactive but takes the heat on larger issues, we appreciate this.

Sage Karras: contact RCMP

Phil Williams: 1) Identify that this is beyond the scope of the School Council?

Jeff Pieper: Have Mr S air his views in council

Maureen Fothergill: We have moved the school bus stops from the front of the school to allow space for parents to drop their children safely without getting out of their cars

Susan K: Edmonton Police Services presence makes a difference.

Leah Leadbeater: Ask your town for a "presants" during high trafic times

Michele Fraser to Karla, Lisa, Wendy, Denise Kay, Dauna-Rae Wright, Jann Edney: when you turn off your mikes, will you tell us in advance, pls.

Erin Gilbert: set up a group of volunteers to brainstorm solutions as part of traffic committee that reports back to school council

erla anderson: Encourage parents to form a committee to come up with a viable solution to present to school council meeting and principal.

Warren Bridge: Communicate personally

Westgate: i think this is more of a school admin issue

Amanda C.: allow different perspectives to be heard, seek consensus, motion a vote and go with a majority opionion (sounds good to me!) from katherine H

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Identify the core of the conflict (student safety) and brainstorm potential solutions without rendering an opinion on them. Then group solutions and try to come to concensus.

Karen Mroczek: Put it in the monthly newsletter first, involve bylaw/RCMP from education standpoint.

Laurie McIntosh: talk to offending drivers, give info. tickets under windshields, call in by-law enforcement

Heather Kovach: This beyond the scope of the School Council - not our job to police other parents

larissa bissett 1: We have been working on a relationship with our police and parking control as well as AB transportation and are trying to battle the mindset that "every school has this problem" with no real solutions given

Lesli Solomon: liase with local authorities get kids involved with safety poster campaign... newsletter blurb

Sherry: provide information to the parent population to remind them of traffic laws = ask local police for a presence near the school - helps to deter traffic problems

Maureen Fothergill: The Kiss&Drop has been recognised as a very successful solution

Lorna: If this is "school issue" it does involve SC in an advisory aspect

Warren Bridge: exhaust all pleasant avenues first then turn over to those who can deal with it

Janis McLaren: we have a police officer who works with the schools and he will come and stand by the parking lot once in awhile and tell parents why they can't park in the lot...other than that we repeatedly put it in our newsletters and announcements.

Erin Gilbert: ongoing reminder e-mails to parents about appropriate parking/drop off areas

Sherry: creating a drop off lane is often helpful

Shannon Wiebe: Good point, parents should not police parents.

myrna macmillan: We are a high school. The students themselves also add to the dangerous driving. The school administration brought a solution to school council. We added three barriers to regulate the traffice flow. The assistant principals stand outside after school and kindly help direct and supervise traffic. It has worked great.

Maureen Fothergill: WE have a team of parnet volunteers who operate the K&D

tasha schindel: We have done the parent patrollers, email reminders, every classroom had a safety talk with regards to their role in the parking lot, there have been meetings at the beginning of the year and we have sent out weekly reminders for parents to do the right thing.

Terri Rolfson: Does this go beyond School Council's "advisory role"?

Lorna: We actually met with the city employees to come up with some solutions and are still banging our heads against that brick wall

Erin Gilbert: lobbied town to institute a 'school zone' re: speed limits

Wendy Noble 1: we have the area for buses a bylaw and lights have been put in place no traffic is allowed thru on the street going by the front of the school during school hours

Alison Normand: investigate who best to handle by law infringements, reinforcement to all parties affected by this issue the importance of adhering to the rules and regulations in place. in place.

Jeff Pieper: kidding aside, our school directs traffic on its property, but not off

larissa bissett 1: we need to still keep TRYING to find solutions

Tannas Webb: Research issues and advise administration

Karen Mroczek: I like the police liaison - ours is a K-9 school, so it also gives the younger kids a positive view of police/bylaw.

larissa bissett 1: While we haven't tried it yet, paint the pavement programs have met with some success

Alana Sala: parent volunteers with traffic vests monitoring the area helps reduce violators.

michele: some great ideas here!

Phil Williams: How, in this case, would you operate as an advisory committee without being involved in governance, if there is already a bylaw / policy about school parking?

Phil Williams: If there is, do you still proceed with recommendations though?

Lorna: Advising is brainstorming and volunteering with implementation but the actual game plan would be the governance

Warren Bridge: Only if it is private property. If not it is up to Town, Village or City to inform on current bylaws

Re: 2nd Case Study

Lorna: We have to look at the "big picture" not individual issue

davidb@shaw.ca #2: Been there

Jeff Pieper: Tutors are not normally within bounds of school

Nancy Bliss: When you sit on school council you are representing ALL of the children in the school, Not just your own....

michele: issue: how to advise on appropriate fund allocation...prioritizing use of funds?

lavonne leeson: lack of funding

Stacey Walker: where to allocate funds available

Erin Gilbert: priorities

Karen Mroczek: VARIOUS needs in the school

Lesli Solomon: I might begin by forming a committee of principal, chair, Ms, Eyesntein and look into all the possibilities before making this an open discussion

Janis McLaren: I agree with Nancy...have to listen to all needs...

Michelle Janousek: no priorities given

Maureen Fothergill: A very poorly funded school

Moderator (Dauna-Rae Wright): Bunny if you could follow the Audio setup wizard located in Tools

Janice Hoover: prioritization of spending

Lorna: The whole decision about spending the money, it should reflect the action items on School Growth plan

Susan K: lack of funding and inability to set priorities

Heather from Mother Teresa School: i second lack of funding

Sherry: the issue is that there are many things that each school needs, so you need direction to identify where funds should go

davidb@shaw.ca #2: Best interests of the school as a whole

Michele Fraser: process for allocating funds - for setting priorities

carol meindl: proper use of money that is fundraised to benefit ALL the children

myrna macmillan: There seem to be more needs than money

Wendy Noble 1: the parent council is not there to benefit 1 student but to benefit all, money is not necessarily there for 1 specific subject

Warren Bridge: Our School council and parent council are one in the same, everyone has a vote and we try our best to spread the funds around evenly. Everyone has a say

Alison Normand: What would be the use of monies available.

Stacey Walker: ongoing needs of the school that are not being met with provincial funding

Stacey Green: the school has many requests but no clear path as to what should be looked at first

Maureen Fothergill: The principal should have the best advice on the prioritisation

Jeff Pieper: Priority of school council: provide full rounded experience in class and out

Moderator (Wendy): student achievement? Some are struggling...

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: The issue for the school council is how to best advise the parent association. The principal and staff have a different issue to look at ....perhaps the school council will play a supportive role in that.

Alison Normand: Where it should be allocated

Phil Williams: appropriateness of allocating monies for the purchase of instructional supplies?

Sage Karras: money should go where most benefit, and can be split up

Karen Mroczek: start with looking at the school's 3yr plan, discuss with the principal where they feel the priorities are that would benefit the majority of the kids.

larissa bissett 1: Need to remember that the school council is advising the Association - not directing them

carol meindl: Designated fundraising in the first place is important

Jeff Pieper: achievement not part of school council per se

Sherry: administration and council need to discuss where best to allocate funds

carol meindl: Have a plan of action at the start of the year.

Lynne Kaiser: this council would have to remember that they are just making recommendations, they do not hold the cheque

Wendy Noble 1: I like the comment made about parent council being there to help with costs beyond the budget

Janice Hoover: but vote 'no' to tutors

Janis McLaren: some of each...science related field trip, one or two instruments...a little bit at a time...

Warren Bridge: We definitely ask our teachers and principal for input on where they think it should go because we can't see everything

Barbara Kreller: gathering information to make informed priority list

Leah Leadbeater: Have each department pitch what it is they need. And collectively decide.

Leah Leadbeater: Vote

Lorna: Being part of the development of the three year plan also helps because the parents and admin are already aligned

michele: survey parents

sara torsius: Discussion followed by vote

Alison Normand: Parent Association should consider school priorities as well as "nice to have's" which enriches the school but not necessarily a need.

michele: consult with principal

Janis McLaren: group meeting with vote

Stacey Walker: Open discussion to allow all the needs to be heard

Tammy Suteau: Parents need to take some responsibility for their kids learning

Linda Charlton: Discuss at the meeting and perhaps have a majority vote and advise the principal and let her/him make the final decision

Phil Williams: Identify needs, prioritize, evaluate using a needs-based approach

myrna macmillan: We should use the money where the most students can benefit and raise their ability to succeed academically.

Susan K: I heard an EPSB trustee say that councils do not spend on 'land/labour/law' which is an easy way to direct, for me.

Terri Rolfson: consult with principal and staff - how to best support science education in the school

Ailsa Flynnne: brainstorm, evaluate, prioritize.

davidb@shaw.ca #2: Think longer term in Council based funding

Lesli Solomon: gather more input... get broader base of responses (survey) after whittling down ideas between exec and principal and parent advisor

Lorna: our school presents the fundraising society with "wishlist" ideas created by teachers and vetted by Admin

Shannon Wiebe: Three year plan, good for year, we always try to align with district and school 3YP, very important to focus on the goals.

Laurie McIntosh: Vote, in person or survey. Each request should come with a cost and rationale.

Jeff Pieper: curriculum def out of scope of council

Andrea M: Research what is allowed to be purchased by a Parent Council/Society. Curriculum needs are to be purchased by the school.

larissa bissett 1: Ready , Fire, aim

Sage Karras: I think that if the kids are doing bad in science, there might be a prob with the teacher and that is a different issue. Have had this prob in the past and a whole class was behind on everything.

Arlene Fieldhouse: interface with principal, to align priorities

Warren Bridge: In the end we need to follow our own budget, we try the best

Moderator (Karla): Totally

Phil Williams: "kids struggling in science" is definitely not necessarily an issue with the teacher. No supplies to support inquiry-based learning ties the hands of teachers.

Lesli Solomon: yes warren unlikely to please 100% of the people 100% of the time

Wendy Noble 1: when the fundraising was done it should have been identified what the money was going to go for at that time

larissa bissett 1: This kind of topic could help drive attendance to a meeting - if you are prepared to tackle it

michele: can we collect all of these ideas and share later?

Heather from Mother Teresa School: agree with phil, and how many kids are in this "struggling" classroom?

Shannon Wiebe: At least 2-3 action items listed after each meeting, action, deadline, person responsible  
ie: district survey will be sent to parents by e-mail by the end of the month by Miss Barton

Moderator (Karla): Great idea. :-)

Susan K: We have a great workroom rep who does a work room orientation every year. She is amazing!

Michele Fraser: work room?

Phil Williams: I guess the legislation is different here, but school councils are strongly discouraged from contributing to instructional supplies for schools because this is what tax dollars are for... public education should not require private funding in order to operate efficiently and lead to student achievement.

Tammy Suteau: What do you mean work room rep?

Shannon Wiebe: School Council has a page in the school newsletter, monthly focuses are highlighted, September, elections, October is fundraising, November is training and parenting seminars ect.

larissa bissett 1: Dont use the minutes to be your only follow tool

Karen Mroczek: I like that idea, Shannon.

Susan K: Our work room is where all the 'magic' happens - copying, laminating, binding, repairing etc

Michele Fraser: so parents use the workroom??

lavonne leeson: (phil) i agree! if we never run a deficit how will the need be identified?

Susan K: we use the work room as much as the teachers - if not more some days!

Michele Fraser: what sorts of things do you work on?

Phil Williams: Seems like parents are being coerced into paying more for public education on an annual basis here in Alberta...

larissa bissett 1: Important to touch base with others because sometimes we chairs are too hard on ourselves

Robert H: nod

Maureen Fothergill: WE are currently working on our goals for the year

Janis McLaren: LOL, love that!!

Susan K: Anythin a teacher asks us to do. We have a request form they complete identifying their requirements. Anything that we can do to help them so that they can be face to face with the kids...

larissa bissett 1: Find out what people are interested in and when you know topics of interest are coming up you can ask them specifically

Lorna: We set our goals as the School works on their school growth plan because we sit in and participate in the meeting, we review this briefly at each meeting to ensure that we are following through on our plan

Phil Williams: Good idea!

larissa bissett 1: We have a Kudos & Thanks on our agenda

Wendy Noble 1: some schools will have speakers come in for part of the meeting to garner more interest

Scott Warris: We do that too- we call them School Council working sessions and teachers are very appreciative

Shannon Wiebe: Good job Lorna.

Michele Fraser: susan k: great idea to use request forms from teachers

Lorna: thanks

larissa bissett 1: Its worth the effort!

Tammy Suteau: ok

Susan K: email me at dovercourtschoolcouncil@gmail.com and I will send the request form to you.

michele: awesome job Lisa!

Arlene Fieldhouse: easy to feel crippled by the immensity of our role

Michele Fraser: ty susank

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: Yes we do

Susan K: my pleasure Michele ..

Tammy Suteau: Some great ideas today!

Tammy Suteau: thank you to all of you!

Vince Byfield: Great webinar! ... Can we have one on fundraising ideas?

Amanda C.: I would love to see more presentations like this with a strong chat component, to gather ideas of what works well for other councils

Susan K: Go Dovercourt Alum!

Lesli Solomon: me too Amanda!

Tammy Suteau: Would love one on fundraising too.

Trina Boymook: Really enjoyed the activity in the chat box! Very valueable

Moderator (Jann Edney): :)

Warren Bridge: We have tried to decrease the number of requests coming in for all grades. Example - field trips we allow the school so much money each year and let them decide where to take the students. We only receive back the feedback after excursions. Saves alot of council time

Alana Sala: I agree with Amanda C.

Terri Rolfson: I agree Amanda - it's very helpful to get ideas from other school councils

Linda Charlton: any tips if the Minutes aren't being prepared in a way that the Chair isn't happy with? Narrative instead of summarizing. Don't want to offend the minute taker.

Iarissa bissett 1: Looks like fundraising societies and school councils might be a good webinar topic for the next one

Moderator (Karla): <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>

Shannon Wiebe: Question for at the end I am on the Association site but would like to see pages posted by each council or a link to their school site and parent council page so that we can share best practices. Networking is a rich resource.

Moderator (Jann Edney): People can grav that window that showed up and move it around

Karen Mroczek: I like this chat - what about setting up a chat forum on the ASCA website, so we can ask these types of questions there?

Tammy Suteau: Good idea Karen!

Linda Charlton: yes that would be helpful Karen

Amanda C.: I agree with a chat forum, we can post questions and others can answer what worked for them

Susan K: For me - education on fundraising, funding sources, & grant application process.

michele: ASCA will look into the chat forum function on the home page for networking and sharing

chris acton: Susan K - I would be in for that!!

Shannon Wiebe: Thank you Michele

Moderator (Karla): You need at least one number for your P/W

Susan K: Is ASCA up for that? ;)

michele: you bet!

michele: we are here to assist and support school councils and parents in any way we can

Amanda C.: what is ECS?

Janis McLaren: kindergarten

Lorna: kindergarten

Moderator (Karla): Early Childhood Services

michele: We can create a forum when this webinar is finished -- we'll call it webinar/best practices and you can log on and post comments and share

Moderator (Karla): Thanks Michelle! :-)

Amanda C.: that sounds great, thanks

Tannas Webb: Is your website part of the school website or separate? Who tends to it?

Shannon Wiebe: We keep this kind of information on the school website, rather than on the ACCA site. Our chair has editing capabilities on that site and we get tech support from the school.

larissa bissett 1: Like this form

Heather from Mother Teresa School: can we view these eastglen documents without being members of the eastglen group? there are some examples here that i would like to be able to view again

Michele Fraser: I'm trying to register on ASCA as we're going here. Lots of little frustrations. Eg., need exact date of AGM? exact date I got involved in ASCA?

chris acton: what is the min number of meetings that must be held in a school year for parent council?

Michelle Janousek: How are you making these pages? I am not seeing it on the page...

School Council Leaders Webinair: how do you get parents to visit this page frequently?

Heather from Mother Teresa School: thank you for the answer! :)

Moderator (Lisa): Chris - no min numbers for meetings - or whatever is in your operating procedures or bylaws.

michele: Many school councils have their website space within their school's site, however ASCA's site enables chat, blogs and sharing within the group, which I think may be different from teh school's or school district's website.

Shannon Wiebe: Yes Michele that is an important difference, thanks.

Trina Boymook: The other plus with the ASCA site is that you receive email notification when there are updates when they are made.

larissa bissett 1: My experience is that the school's website information must be done by someone on staff so using the ASCA site would give more "independence" (for lack of a better word)

Heather from Mother Teresa School: I made a Weebly site that is linked to from the school website for that reason, Larissa. Weebly.com makes very user friendly (and free!) websites

DavidB@shaw.ca #2: Is there a way to browse all the groups that have been created (rather than searching schools individually)?

Susan K: We actually had/have blog forums, and email alerts are sent when there are amendments on our Google+ share. It is actually NOT within our school website, all its own URL. Complete and utter independence...

Shannon Wiebe: We have a private and public function, additions are by default private, admin. proofs and clicks public, good second look for council.

Lesli Solomon: we are not allowed to touch the school's stuff, although we are welcome to submit

DavidB@shaw.ca #2: Thx

Susan K: some public school websites are managed by parents versus admin.

Shannon Wiebe: The mini videos on the ASCA site are professionally done, short, very well done, we have used those (i.e. roles and so on videos).

Linda Charlton: fantastic webinar, thanks for doing this for us.

Amanda C.: how long have the school council pages been operational?

Michelle Janousek: Thanks for this...

Amanda C.: they look fantastic, but I am wondering if the parents utilize the website

Scott Warris: is there cost to join?

École Broxton Park School 1: For the roving school council meeting, we have a presence on the ASCA site and would be pleased to post all the details there so everyone can access them should they wish.

Lynne Kaiser: I have roamed teh site and it works for me :)

Shannon Wiebe: Our school newsletter provides live links to these kinds of resources.

Iarissa bissett 1: Thanks Broxton Park

Lesli Solomon: Amanda. I think its a learned behaviour.... keep encouraging and it will happen :-)

Alison Normand: Looks to be a necessary and helpful resource. Thanks.

Moderator (Karla): pretty reasonable!!!

Shannon Wiebe: Merci École Broxton Park

Michele Fraser: Our school division covers the fee

Michele Fraser: great to hear more about the roving school councils

Amanda C.: we can hear you

Shannon Wiebe: yes thanks

Lesli Solomon: hi rhonda!

Amanda C.: brilliant

Shannon Wiebe: You are so clever, this is a fun idea.

Lesli Solomon: love this!

Trina Boymook: That is a great idea!

Tammy Suteau: Rhonda, I'm going to get more info from you on this. Thanks.

Moderator (Jann Edney): :)

Janis McLaren: I would love more info too, can I give you my email address?

Susan K: am hopeful the chat room will be available to download as well?

larissa bissett 1: Look for each other on the ASCA website networking portion

How to save chat:

Ailsa Flynne: <File> <Save> <...ChatConversation>

Amanda C.: thanks ailsa

Ecole Broxton Park School 1: For those who want to contact Rhonda from Broxton Park, her email address is also on the ASCA site under the Board of Directors tab.

Warren Bridge: Thanks all for your contributions, I am sure your work loads will continue to grow as ours is. But we do what we do for our kids. Thanks

Moderator (Jann Edney): Thanks Ailsa, we are also saving to the wiki that Karla is showing with all the other session resources