



Sharing Best Practices

Below is a summary of discussions from the fall general school council meeting held on October 25, 2016 around sharing best practice.

1. What does your school council do/want to do to contribute to your school's culture?

- Sounding Board, Nominate volunteers
- Support the Recharge fridge, share info
- Bring snacks (meals for PTI)
- Parent voice back to (Admin/Trustee), Middle person
- Parent PD
- Input to mission and vision statements
- Brought ideas forward and gave feed-back on change (ie. Report cards)
- Community base
- Increase communication
- Brings ASCA into the school
- Invite others to school events - helps to connect different schools and divisions together
- Provide input to designing spaces to be more welcoming
- They want to be more visible and more a part of the community team

2. Why do you attend your school council's meetings?

- To hear parents ideas
- To share information with parents
- To share new ideas
- To be informed
- To mine of volunteers
- To help support staff
- Problem solving
- Co-ordinate community groups/events
- To know what is happening in school
- To have face to face conversations
- Engage parents
- An opportunity to influence Alberta Education
- My responsibility as a parent
- To hear alternate points of view
- To educate myself on education matters
- To stay connected to staff
- To stay informed about my school
- To be involved
- To make a difference
- To have a voice
- To get support on issues
- To build a sense of community
- To get a sense of community perspective
- To be a role model for children – it's important to give back to the community

- To communicate between municipality and school
- To speak and be and advocate for children
- To network and gather feedback
- To deal with issues proactively

3. What do you expect to happen at your school council's meetings?

- Receive pertinent information
- Updates on programs and student progress
- Help principal on making decisions
- Budget
- Timely reports and discussions
- Parents have great ideas
- Problem solving
- Resource sharing
- Team building
- Brain storming
- Socializing
- Strategize
- Networking
- Communication with the community
- Discuss concerns
- School improvements
- Get a feel for how parents initiate and receive new initiatives
- Trustee reports
- Round table discussion
- Set priorities for fund raisers

4. What does your school council do to attract members to their meetings?

- Bribery – meet the teacher (prizes), Annual General Meeting (school fees)
- Food – supper, pizza
- Family movie night
- Publish agenda
- Inform what school council is... social media, newsletters, meeting, word of mouth, facebook
- Offered an opportunity to contribute to their child's education
- Survey to ask what parents want to discuss
- Free babysitting
- Have booster meeting first
- Personal invitations
- Encourage students to ask parents to attend
- Student presentations
- Change time... from evening to afternoon or vice versa
- Liaisons from feeder schools
- Community night – meet the teacher BBQ in September, mini trade fair
- Controversial issues
- Subsidize school fees for attendance
- Consistency of time, dates and set time limits