



The Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Suite #92, 305 – 4625 Varsity Dr. N.W. Calgary, AB T3A0Z9

November 27, 2014

Member of The Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC)
Report from November 19 Special General Meeting
School Council Executive

Dear School Council CAPSC member:

Thank you very much for the work that you do to support education at your schools! As a parent, I really appreciate all of the volunteers that make sure my kids have good things happening at their schools. Your work is critical and it is not easy. Thank you for taking the time to help us all by doing that!

Last week the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) had a Special General Meeting (SGM) to determine direction for the organization. Well over half of the school councils who are members of CAPSC sent delegates to vote on their behalf.

The motions were all passed. We are rolling forward as democratically decided by our membership in compliance with the bylaws for our organization.

Thank you for your support. Please remember that CAPSC memberships need to be renewed before January 31, 2015. If you are unsure where you stand on renewal, please [contact me](#).

One of the questions that was raised at the SGM was how CAPSC can claim to speak for Calgary School Parents. I am pleased to let you know that we have done extensive work to ensure that we are well informed of the Calgary school parent perspectives. This is not based, as some have incorrectly assumed, on our membership pool. Even in this past school year we collected feedback and parent input directly from well over 1000 school parents in Calgary. They came to our various events and meetings and shared opinions, filled out feedback forms, or responded on questionnaires or surveys. The events targeted different groups, so the sampling of the population was fairly reliable. Participants were not limited to the public school board, either, since several events were well attended by parents from other school boards.

In addition to this feedback, there is the networking that we do as an executive. As President, I was able to attend the ASCA Annual General Meeting last spring and network with many parents from around the province and Calgary there. In addition, I personally have the opportunity to visit various city school councils when I facilitate ASCA workshops and have been able to learn much about the concerns of the parents there and their perspectives. That is just the networking that I've personally done. Our executive team work to be well connected and informed and we are also



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spread around the city and involved in our own schools (I'm personally on 3 school councils and I chair of one of those.) Finally, our CAPSC membership has already grown past the 50 school councils of this September and is continuing to grow steadily. We represent at least a 5th of the CBE school councils. Many school councils would love to have a 5th of their community represented in their councils. I think that we can say we are doing very well at this point.

Moving forward, we are working to grow our membership: school council and individual memberships too. One of the reasons that we would like to add more individual memberships to CAPSC (in addition to the school council memberships) is that it will make it even easier to know the grass roots opinions of school parents in our city. Please consider becoming an individual member of CAPSC. It costs the same as 4 cups of coffee (\$15) and it can make a huge impact for education when parents are able to quickly share their collective opinions. Of course we don't all have the same opinion. When I speak for CAPSC as its President, I voice the majority opinion of members and feedback participants (and I always let the media know that although they may not include that point in their edits). If there is not a clear majority opinion, I let them know and then share both sides and the reasons for each. If there has been no school parent opinion gleaned or shared on a matter or if it is unclear, I will not comment or I will poll school councils in the city for clarification. We think it is better to have some voice for school parents rather than no voice at all. Apparently so did the strong majority of CAPSC membership last week.

CAPSC continues to exist to give city school parents voice, allow them to take collective action, and share their input with appropriate groups regarding education and our children. True, you can never know everything that everyone thinks, but we are doing our best to find it out. We have no other objective than to serve the school families of Calgary. We will continue to work to bring as much of your collective voice to Calgary as we can and organize events and actions that will support and help you and education. Please help us out by [letting us know what you think](#) and by spreading the word to other school parents. We're all in this together and we just want the best possible future for our kids.

Website is capsc.ca

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President

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P.S.

We are hosting a Trade Show Fair for school council executives on January 21 (7pm – 8:30pm at A.E.Cross Jr. High 3445 37St. S.W) Your “one stop shop” for services and helpful groups. Mark your calendars. No cost to you at all!