ASCA Member Engagement Discussion Guide: Locally Elected School Boards

Background*

On April 1, 2018, the Nova Scotia provincial government dissolved all seven of its English-language school boards, planning instead to replace them with a new Provincial Advisory Council of Education composed of 15 members representing all regions of the province. The government says the local voice lost with the dissolution of school boards will be replaced by school advisory councils (SAC) for every school, noting there is work to be done to get more people engaged in their SAC, as not every school currently has one.

The role of trustees and school boards has come under the microscope in recent years, especially as provincial governments have taken more control over curriculum, budgets and teacher contracts. Trustee boardrooms, meanwhile, have been plagued by ideological battles and personality conflicts and, sometimes, governments have had to intervene. Still, others argue that trustees are strong advocates for their communities, hold governments accountable and are the link between school boards and families.

ASCA Member Perspectives
(Please submit your written responses to an ASCA staff member at any time before leaving the AGM.)

1) **What value does your locally elected School Board contribute to student learning?**

2) **What changes to the existing structure of locally elected School Boards may help to improve student learning?**

3) **What message(s) would you like ASCA to provide to the Minister of Education with respect to locally elected School Boards?**

*Sources: CBC.ca March 7; Globalnews.ca March 8; The Globe and Mail, March 29;