

Board Development Topic: Legal and Ethical Responsibilities of the Board

Date of Board Meeting:

March 27, 2025

Strategic Priority:

- ☒ High Quality Teaching and Learning
- ☒ Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities
- ☒ Effective Policy and Procedures
- ☒ Healthy, Sustainable Physical & Social Environments

Quality Indicator(s):

- QI 7.9 - Providing recommendations regarding potential value-added Board involvement.
- QI 2.5 - Compliance with all regulatory requirements with the Ministry of Education and community expectations (i.e., annual report and community reports).
- QI 3.2 - Engaging in ongoing professional learning related to board governance.
- QI 3.3 - Providing recommendations and supports the Board in accessing governance training.

Information for the Board (10 fast facts):

1. **Accountability to Provincial Standards:** The Board must adhere strictly to provincial educational standards and statutory requirements (GSSD Policy 2).
2. **Community Engagement:** Decisions must reflect community values and interests, ensuring transparency and providing clear opportunities for community input (GSSD Policy 2).
3. **Ethical Standards:** Board members are expected to act ethically, prioritizing public interests and maintaining integrity to enhance public trust (GSSD Policy 4 Appendix A).
4. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** Board members must protect confidential information, ensuring the privacy of individuals and safeguarding sensitive data (GSSD Policy 4).
5. **Strategic Planning and Accountability:** The Board annually establishes strategic directions, priorities, and outcomes, ensuring continuous improvement in education (GSSD Policy 2).
6. **Educational Advocacy:** Board members must actively advocate for educational interests, communicate clearly with stakeholders, and engage with community partners (GSSD Policy 2).
7. **Recognition of Indigenous Governance:** Understanding and acknowledging that Indigenous Peoples have inherent rights and unique governance systems that coexist with federal, provincial, and municipal systems (SSBA, Who Governs Us? Educator's Guide).
8. **Civic Responsibility and Decision Making:** Board members must encourage informed community involvement in democratic processes, recognizing their role in shaping educational policy and governance structures (SSBA Educator's Guide: Governance & Decision Making).
9. **Board Solidarity:** Members must uphold and support collective Board decisions publicly, reinforcing unity and stability within governance (GSSD Policy 3).
10. **Continuous Improvement:** The Board should continuously evaluate its effectiveness, ensuring policies and decisions align with the evolving needs of the educational community (SSBA Educator's Guide: Governance Systems & Evaluation).

- **References:**

- GSSD Policy 2: Role of the Board
- GSSD Policy 3: Role of the Board Member.
- GSSD Policy 4: Board Member Code of Conduct, Appendix A.
- Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA). (n.d.). Who Governs Us? Who Governs the Land? Educator's Guide to Local Governments & Governance.

Respectfully submitted,

Quintin M. Robertson, Director/CEO
Good Spirit School Division