

Board Development Topic: Working with Other Elected Officials & Stakeholders

Date of Board Meeting:

April 24, 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 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.
- QI 6.2 - Demonstrating knowledge of and respect for the role of the Board in policy processes.
- QI 7.5 - Providing support to the Board regarding advocacy and lobby efforts on behalf of the Division.

Information for the Board (10 fast facts):

1. The Board is a Corporate Body, Not Individual Voices

- Trustees represent the Board collectively. When working with MLAs, MPs, Chief & Council, or SCCs, speak from Board-approved direction, not personal opinion.

2. Build Relationships with Purpose

- Regular communication with MLAs, MPs, Chiefs, and SSBA Executives helps shape educational policy and funding. Be seen as solution-focused, respectful, and proactive.

3. Engagement ≠ Endorsement

- Engaging stakeholders—especially SCCs and Indigenous leadership—means listening and learning, not always agreeing. It's about dialogue over division.

4. Advocacy is a Board Responsibility

- The Board must review and approve an annual advocacy plan: Who will we speak to, about what, and how will we measure progress?

5. Support the Director as Spokesperson

- While the Director leads public communications, trustees may engage when appropriate—but should do so in alignment with the division's messaging and protocols.

6. Community Trust Is Earned Through Transparency

- Model respectful dialogue, be honest, and clearly explain complex decisions in plain language. Honour confidentiality but communicate with clarity.

7. Leverage SSBA as a Strategic Partner

- The SSBA Executive and staff are not just advocates—they're resources for messaging, media support, governance advice, and navigating provincial discussions.

8. SCCs Are Your Front Line for Public Voice

- SCCs represent the heartbeat of school communities. Consult with them early, often, and meaningfully.

9. Engagement Isn't Optional—It's Your Job

- The Board must establish, monitor, and model processes for public participation, collaboration, and co-creation of solutions—especially during times of tension or change.

10. Boards Guide, Others Govern

- MPs and MLAs legislate. Chiefs lead their Nations. Trustees govern public education in their division. Stay in your lane, but collaborate to improve outcomes for all learners.

Respectfully submitted,

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