

# BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION FOR BOARDS

JUNE 12, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

STRATEGIC  
PRIORITY

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL  
STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND  
COMMUNITIES

## Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

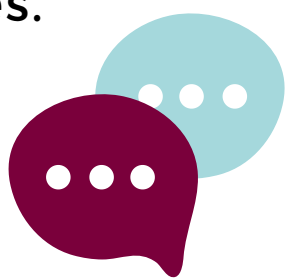
*These fast facts provide a foundation for trustees, particularly new ones, to understand their responsibilities, ethical expectations, and the scope of their role within the Good Spirit School Division.*

**1 Engagement is not an event, it's a relationship.** Dr. Deb Pushor emphasizes that authentic engagement is not about hosting meetings or collecting surveys. It's about cultivating ongoing relationships where families and communities are co-constructors of school experiences, not passive recipients.

**2 Local voice matters—and must be invited.** The SSBA Governance Handbook reminds Boards that legitimacy comes from responsiveness. Community engagement should be structured to amplify local voices, especially those historically marginalized or underrepresented.



**3 Communication is a leadership function, not a task.** Effective Boards set the tone for transparent, two-way communication. This means modelling openness, setting expectations for timely updates, and being visible and accessible in community spaces.



**4 Trust is earned through consistency.** Dr. Pushor highlights that families watch closely for alignment between what school leaders say and do. Boards must align values with practice, ensuring decisions reflect both stated priorities and community needs.



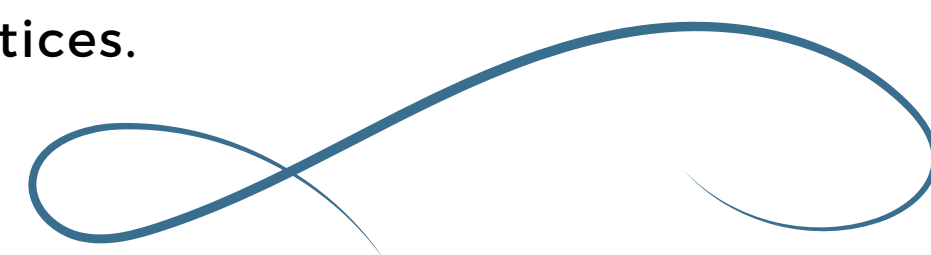
**5 Parents are partners, not patrons.** True engagement moves beyond volunteering or attending events. Parents and caregivers should be seen as knowledge-holders and decision-makers, invited into meaningful collaboration on school priorities and improvement planning.

**6 Governance is grounded in the community.** According to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), school boards exist because communities value local decision-making. Boards are stewards of that trust—and must nurture it through regular, inclusive, and honest dialogue.

**7 Every contact communicates a culture.** Whether it's a newsletter, a trustee conversation in the grocery store, or a board meeting livestream—each interaction shapes public perception. Boards should lead with empathy, clarity, and integrity.



**8 Engagement is equity in action.** Dr. Pushor stresses that inclusive engagement demands intentional outreach. Boards should consider whose voices are missing—and build strategies to reach them through diverse channels, accessible formats, and culturally responsive practices.



**9 Shared stories build shared purpose.** The SSBA Handbook encourages Boards to use storytelling to connect decisions to real-life impact. When the community sees how a policy helps their child, support deepens.

**10 Feedback is not a threat—it's a gift.** Boards must embrace criticism and questions as signs of an engaged public. Creating channels for safe, respectful feedback (and visibly acting on it) enhances credibility and strengthens relationships.

