

# BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PARTNERSHIPS

AUGUST 14, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

STRATEGIC  
PRIORITY

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND  
LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS,  
FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL &  
SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

## 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 Purpose Anchored in Priority

Every partnership must echo the Board's core pillars – Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance, and Responsibility – or it risks becoming noise rather than harmony.

### 2 Mapping the Landscape

GSSD currently engages in over 30 formal and informal partnerships ranging from mental health supports to cultural engagement initiatives.

### 3 Rural Realities, Local Leverage

In a division serving 15 rural communities, local partnerships (libraries, health regions, Indigenous organizations, municipalities) are vital for bringing services closer to students.

### 4 Student-First Metrics

Partnerships are not just goodwill exercises. Effective ones measurably improve attendance, well-being, achievement, or access to learning opportunities.

### 5 Clarity is Currency

Clear expectations, roles, and responsibilities are essential. Partnerships with fuzzy boundaries often fizzle or fail.

### 6 Relationships Over Transactions

Long-term partnerships thrive on trust, shared goals, and consistent communication – not just on funding or outcomes.

### 7 Cultural Bridges, Not Gaps

Partnerships with Indigenous communities must be built on respect, reciprocity, and recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

### 8 Data-Driven Direction

Regular review of partnership effectiveness (through surveys, usage stats, student feedback) ensures alignment and accountability.

### 9 Board as Connector and Catalyst

Trustees play a key role in championing partnerships – opening doors, advocating in the community, and asking the hard questions about impact.

### 10 Sustainable Over Spectacular

While high-profile partnerships get attention, the quiet, enduring ones often deliver the deepest impact over time.

