

Board Development Topic: Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships

Date of Board Meeting:

August 14, 2025

Strategic Priority:

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

Quality Indicator(s):

- QI 2.6 - Championing the Calls to Action by promoting reconciliation events and initiatives.
- QI 7.5 - Providing support to the Board regarding advocacy and lobby efforts on behalf of the Division.
- QI 7.9 - Providing recommendations regarding potential value-added Board involvement.
- QI 10.1 - Representing the Division in a positive, professional manner.
- QI 11.3 - Establishing and maintaining positive, professional working relationships with staff and community.
- QI 11.4 - Uniting people toward achieving the Board's goals.

Information for the Board (10 fast facts):

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.

Respectfully submitted,

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Good Spirit School Division