

## Board Development Topic: Role of the Trustee

### Date of Board Meeting:

November 21, 2024

### 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 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 6.1 Ensuring that Board policy is adhered to.
- QI 6.2 Demonstrating knowledge of and respect for the role of the Board in policy processes.
- QI 7.9 Providing recommendations regarding potential value-added Board involvement.

### Information for the Board (10 fast facts):

1. **Accountability to the Provincial Government:** Trustees must ensure that the school division meets provincial standards and policies as mandated by law, fulfilling roles and responsibilities outlined in the Education Act and Board policies.
2. **Community Representation and Accountability:** Trustees represent community values within board decisions, ensuring transparency and public engagement through structured processes, including opportunities for community input and appeals as required by statute.
3. **Strategic Planning and Division Direction:** Trustees play a critical role in setting and approving the division's foundational statements, strategic priorities, outcomes, and annual goals. They are also responsible for evaluating the division's success in achieving these outcomes.
4. **Policy Development and Oversight:** Trustees are responsible for developing, approving, and periodically reviewing board policies to ensure they align with divisional goals and create the intended impact. The board also delegates specific authorities to the Director.
5. **Director and Board Relations:** Trustees select and provide directions to the Director of Education, who oversees the division's daily operations. This relationship involves annual evaluations of the Director's performance based on defined goals and strategic priorities.
6. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Trustees must approve the division's annual budget, ensure resource allocation aligns with divisional priorities, and manage large expenditures and borrowing responsibly. They are accountable for the financial health and transparency of the division.
7. **Advocacy Role:** Trustees advocate for the division at the provincial level, building relationships with stakeholders, promoting public understanding of the board's role, and addressing broader educational issues that impact students and staff.
8. **Board Development and Trustee Orientation:** New trustees are encouraged to attend orientation sessions to understand their roles, the division's structures, current policies, and procedures. Continuous development sessions help all trustees stay informed on governance practices and educational trends.

9. **Board Member Duties and Ethical Standards:** Trustees must adhere to a code of ethics, maintain confidentiality, and demonstrate loyalty to the division. They are expected to uphold board decisions publicly, even if they personally disagreed during deliberations, under the principle of board solidarity.
10. **Legal Compliance and Decision-Making Authority:** Individual trustees do not have the authority to act independently on behalf of the board. Decisions must be made corporately during official meetings, with trustees acting collectively in the best interests of the division.

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.

## Shape the Future of Education: Become a Trustee with the Good Spirit School Division Board

**6,000  
STUDENTS**

**27 SCHOOLS**

**15 COMMUNITIES**

**11 ELECTED  
TRUSTEES**

**1000  
EMPLOYEES**

The Good Spirit School Division, situated in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, serves as an exemplary educational institution, catering to the needs of over 6,000 students across East Central Saskatchewan. The Division boasts an operating budget exceeding \$80 million dollars. This substantial investment underlines its dedication to providing high-quality educational opportunities. Remarkably, the Division consistently meets or surpasses nearly all educational benchmarks set by the Ministry of Education and the Province of Saskatchewan. Renowned for its inclusive and nurturing approach, the Good Spirit School Division stands as a beacon of caring and excellence in education. Its foundational values of belonging, diversity, learning, perseverance, and responsibility are evident, ensuring that "Students Come First" is not just a motto, but a lived reality in all its public schools.

### Role of the Board/Trustee:

<p><b>Accountability to Provincial Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring compliance with provincial educational standards and policies.</li> <li>Performing Board functions as per governing legislation and Board policy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policy Oversight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating and approving policies that align with the Board's vision and mission.</li> <li>Regularly reviewing policy impacts and effectiveness.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making decisions that reflect community values and the interests of the Division.</li> <li>Engaging in dialogue and respecting diverse perspectives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Board Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing on ongoing learning and effectiveness of Board members.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fiscal Responsibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseeing budgeting and fiscal management to ensure resource allocation aligns with priorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Planning and Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting strategic priorities and outcomes, aligning with the Division's vision.</li> <li>Evaluating and reporting on the Division's achievements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Director of Education/Board Relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selecting and evaluating the Director, providing clear corporate direction.</li> <li>Delegating administrative authority while respecting the Director's executive role.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Political Advocacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and reviewing advocacy plans to promote the Board's mission.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building relationships to support the Division's goals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Respectfully submitted,

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